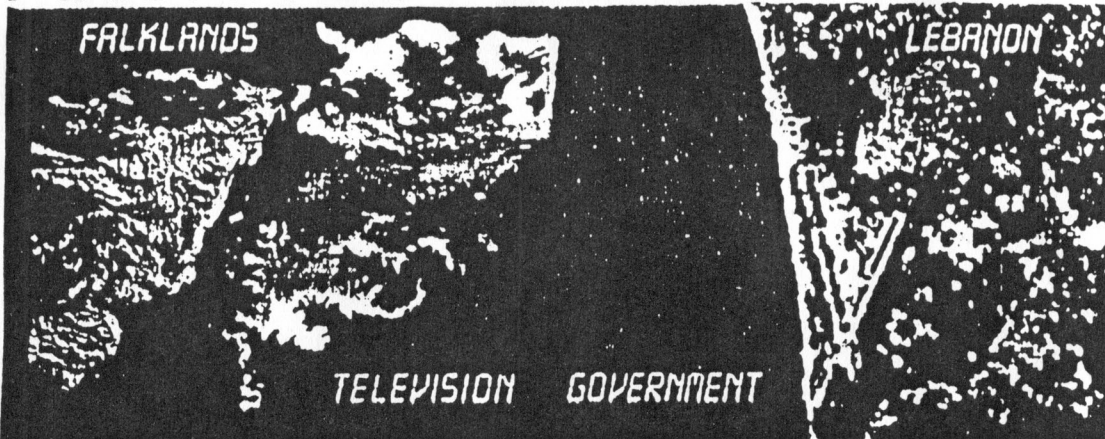


ARCHITECTURE FOR THE PLANET



SPACE FORCE IN ACTION, 1983. Monitoring disputed regions for world television viewing, assisting offshore development in the Malvinas and reconstruction in Lebanon. Tune in for more.

WORLD WAR IN STRATEGY

Part I. Space Force

Libya wants the Sudan. Russia wants Europe. Vietnam wants Cambodia. Argentina wants the Malvinas. Israel wants Lebanon. Iraq wants part of Iran and obedience from Syria. How are they going to get their way?

By art. By art joined with science to make architecture — to make a systematic organization of the planet and its resources; including the ocean, so that we can make a decent living.

A few weeks ago in Paris, French President Francois Mitterand invited several hundred celebrities — including Norman Mailer, Sophia Loren, and Francis Ford Coppola — to see if "the genius of artists might be just what the world needs to avoid economic depression and collapse." As economist John Kenneth Galbraith declared, "The clear implication is that the artist, the person concerned with artistic endeavors, must show an assertiveness in fields that are not his or her own." He continued: "Just as war is too important to be left to the generals, so is an economic crisis too important to be left to the economists." Though little was achieved, the aim was clear: France, a Socialist nation choosing a position between East and West, intended to recapture the role of a dynamic, international leader — with art.

"I'm not enamoured of France, but if they take over as world leaders, I'd sell my services to them like anyone else. And they would get their money's worth. Through an organization based in New York called OECD, upstaging a similar organization in Paris by the same name, I'd present an architecture program, a construction program, a territorial survey and management program, based on ideas of *Ordre, Raison* and *Fertilité: l'Etat de Nature*."

TELEVISION GOVERNMENT

Wars arise from the fear that some Other will never want enough. Given them Sudanland, and they seize Poland. Give them part of Vietnam, and they take the rest. Let them secure southern Lebanon, and they occupy Beirut.

Comprehensive military strategy rests on a sense of what's enough. *Attacking Moscow* was, for both Napoleon and Hitler, too much. To know what's enough, you have to see what's enough.

In 1984, the French will launch a civilian satellite that will show what's enough. It will scan every country in the world, every piece of soil, and it will show which way the soil slopes, which way the salts collect, which way the pollutants drain, which way particulates flow to salt marshes and the sea. It will show anyone who knows our dependence on soil what the respective regions of the planet are. It will do this once a week, with capabilities 300% better than ever before in an earth-monitoring satellite.

The Russians (THEM), like US, are in for a surprise. While our military satellites are snooping at one or two trouble spots and a bunch of sals in God-knows-where, civilian satellites will survey the entire planet on a regular basis to show every major change in construction, ecology, pollution and military movement. The countries with the best of these satellites will not be US or THEM. They will be FRANCE and JAPAN. The French satellite, slightly better than the Japanese counterpart, will be showing objects, for anyone to see, on TV or in print, located anywhere on the planet, as small as a Chris-Craft. The Japanese will back this up with their new supercomputers, which anyone hoping to win the next war will have to buy from them, and the French and Japanese will work out a way of getting these satellite images on the new, super-sharp Japanese 10,000-line TVs.

What if the Japanese and French got together? And what if the French brought along the rest of Europe and the Japanese increased their ties with China? While US and THEM glare at each other behind growing nuclear stockpiles, the Europeans and the Japanese develop the best computers, the best observation satellites and the best telecommunications delivery, for an end-run that makes US and THEM look like dinosaurs.

Before World War II, the biggest arms-spender per capita was not Germany or Japan, but France. The French figured they would out-tranche the Germans and built what was called the biggest construction project in the history of humanity — the Maginot Line. The Germans simply went around it. Now, the United States Defense Department reports that the MX project will be the biggest construction project in the history of humanity. Did US forget what the French learned in 1940? Television Government is around the corner.

You read 1984? This will happen in 1985. It will work, like everything else on TV, according to popular demand. Want to see the Libyans threatening the Sudan? Turn on the satellite channel. There they are, caught red-handed for all to see. If there was *Blitzkrieg*, now there's media *blitzkrieg*, backed up with military muscle.

The strategy rests on a coordinated campaign of five services: Space Force, Navy, Army, Marines and Air Force.

Suppose, for now, that the French adopt it.

FRENCH STRATEGY FOR WW III

The first task is resolution of the European Question. This question has been around long enough, and it has brought untold centuries of suffering on the planet. The present US-Soviet polarization merely continues the European tradition of British-Russian imperial competition. We inherit the mantle of the British Empire (witness those Exxon and Mobil TV shows celebrating British imperial values), and the Soviets put aside their internationalist ideology to mimic a Czarist Empire. Any diplomat knows that only balance of power can ease the stand-off. As long as the world stage is dominated by US and THEM, there will be a war between US and THEM as surely as there was a war between Rome and Carthage, between colonialist France and England. You can't tell US and THEM to stop it, behave peacefully and try mending their respective economies. The

public has a psychological need to know which system is better, just as it has to know who won the Super Bowl.

The stand-off cannot go on much longer. The world economy staggers. Mexico, Brazil and Argentina are about to go under, and the US economy will then face still greater deficits. Meantime, keeping up the military posture requires an unprecedented expenditure of \$1,600 billion in the next five years. Imperial Spain and Pre-Revolutionary France collapsed under such burdens. Why should we be any different? Why, particularly, when, according to Exxon, "the future of the energy industry — the basis of our economy today — lies in the Arctic," a veritable no-man's-land where most of the treasured oil is held, disputably, by THEM. A way out of the Soviet-American show-down is SOMETHING ELSE.

The Arctic need not be cut down the middle. Nor need Europe. French military policy can help establish more rational, more natural territorial divisions.

FRENCH MILITARY POLICY

An earth architecture program based on paradigms from earth art (developed by Oppenheim, Smithson, Nauman, Schneemann, Haacke and Beuys), from systems of drawing developed by LeWitt and Denes, and from video and film developed by Sharits, Sonnier, Brakhage and Hornbacher, constitute a systematic monitoring/survey and construction scheme combining these art paradigms with current military and civil technology. In the same manner, as outlined by architectural historian Vincent Scully in *Garden and Fortress: The Shape of France*, the art paradigms at Versailles were combined with military technologies in the seventeenth century to produce the first geometrically-ordered nation-state. Now, the principle of territorial organization, and the methods of military conquest will be based on Futurist-Constructivist rather than Renaissance breakthroughs. With the invention of perspective came improvements in firepower, ultimately manifested in ICBMs. With the invention of field painting, futurist *totodanisme* (video); systems art and earth art, come improvements in site definition and management which render ICBMs — and the empires that rely on them — obsolete. Instead of sprawling nations, there will be concise, gravity-defined basins.

Brand new architecture, derived from brand new visual and material habits of organization (art), effects changes so vast as to accomplish territorial realignments. It has military impact. For the military question, as ever, is: how do we survey, acquire and guarantee the security of territory?

I. SPACE FORCE

Through the European Space Agency, in conjunction with Japanese and other non-US or THEM space agencies, France develops the first SPACE FORCE. There's a Space Division at the US Air Force, and some counterpart for THEM; and both of them talk a lot about shooting down enemy ICBMs with lasers, or creating electronic storms, or colonizing the asteroids, but they forget about those upcoming "hermless" civilian earth-observation satellites which spot, for all to see, troop movements, oil spills, crop blights, airport construction — everything you want to know from outer space about someone else. Rather than resort to schemes for high-tech dogfights, SPACE FORCE concentrates on the prime question of war: who gets what on earth?

SPACE FORCE develops the new disciplines of satellite hydrology, satellite oceanography and systems ecology to comprehensively define and monitor the soil regions of the planet. It defines the basins of the planet — not nations, not geometric outlines, but concavities occurring in nature. The soil of the Amur River on the China-Soviet border has more to do with the Sea of Japan, into which it drains, than with Peking or Moscow. The runoff from Los Angeles affects Tijuana more than Washington. As Reagan suggested in his campaign kickoff call for a "North American compact," there is something bizarre about attempting to administer Planet Earth along Platonic straight lines inherited from formal gardens. The 49th Parallel makes no sense to the farmer in Manitoba suffering from North Dakota's excess fertilizer runoff. The Syria-Iraq border, created by European diplomats sixty years ago, makes no sense to a farmer in Iraq whose irrigation water disappears because of a Syrian dam upstream. Let us for now overlook the runoff from nuclear plants.

There's been a lot of concern in the US about Europe possibly swinging over to THEM. Through SPACE FORCE, a greater danger appears. The great threat to Europe, and to all the world, appears in satellite imagery not as THEM, or US, or any other military power. It is BIG OIL.

BIG OIL, the energy industry, mines the earth for deposits of coal, oil, natural gas and uranium, and in doing so it creates income. Not wealth, not a replenishable or even stable supply of goods, but something to use up, something to spend, something to burn. Big Oil stands for the entire system of integrated fossil hydrocarbon and uranium production, and it prevails in virtually all countries of the world. The chief executive of Big Oil hold forth as much in Moscow as in New York. What results?

In the Arctic, where the future of the energy lies, according to US and THEM, already the polluting of ice and air causes bizarre and massive clouds of ash (seen by satellite), with effects on the ice-cap and world weather. In Europe, where rising oil costs spur coal imports from US, the acid rain that results destroys entire forests, in turn polluting rivers and disrupting oxygen-rain cycles. In the Mediterranean, Black Sea and Baltic Sea, the accumulation of pollutants (mostly oil-based) increases the prospect of epidemics. A nuclear engagement may never be required to wipe out Europe. The Plague, after all, resulted from soil exhaustion.

Such man-made disasters constitute a direct threat, a form of tyranny, and war may be justified in response.

POPULAR APPEAL

There had better be a war. Because in any event there has to be a radical re-orientation of the means of production, of the industrial system, and such changes — which create new jobs and fresh economic expansion — take place in the wake of wars. The Industrial North went into high gear after the Civil War; the United States went into high gear with Big Oil, clearly in possession of most of world's mineral resources, after World War II; a new industrial order, based on ecological resources concentrated in basins as monitored by computers, satellites and TV, will go into high gear after World War III. Providing we don't let that war be US vs. THEM.

There's going to be World War III regardless. The present economic and industrial system just can't last. Nor can the buildup between US and THEM. Either you get ready for the war and figure out a way of winning, or you let it happen to you in a mushroom cloud.

The vulnerable spot for US and THEM, the crucial edge, lies in utilization of space technology. The French may have invented the tank, but look what good it did them in 1940.

First, to win a war, you need a following. SPACE is a popular thing, and you could find a lot of people who'd volunteer to join a SPACE FORCE. Not a Space Division of the US Air Force which figures out ways of shooting down enemy ICBMs and defending a few thousand US servicemen after everyone else (as they say) has "panicked." Not a Cosmonaut division of the Other Air Force which sends up "hunter-killer" satellites for the glamor of clearing away some of the garbage now in orbit. Not staring at video screens for that long-sought pull of heat indicating that yes, the War is finally over. Rather, something which almost everyone likes to do: spying on your neighbors, just to see how they're doing, and talking about it. To those who enlist, SPACE FORCE offers the opportunity to look at what's happening on the planet, in multiple-color monitors and photos, and to interpret and publicize what you see to some television public.

Wouldn't the Muslims in the USSR, now outnumbering the Russians, be interested to see how the Russians plan to sacrifice Arctic ecology — and therefore jeopardize world weather stability — by diverting waters heading for the Arctic back to the desert steppes to appease them? And wouldn't they be amused to see, with SPACE FORCE evidence on TV, that they could better maintain water supplies by seceding from Moscow and maintaining their steppes (including part of Afghanistan) as a self-contained state? Empires will lose out in the opinion polls.

In collaboration with the United Nations Regional Seas Program, part of the UN Environment Program and UN Development Program, SPACE FORCE appeals directly to the public. It shows how the world functions — as an evapotranspirative system maintained chiefly by the action of living organisms — and it shows that, while of course the world is a Whole, and while of course all parts relate to all other parts in a system, nonetheless the lands sloping into saltwater bodies, like currents or enclosed salt seas, comprise relatively distinct ecological entities. They comprise bodies of water and soil — and therefore of living resources, with their own accumulations of salts, residues, waters and pollutants. These bodies, these basins subject to gravity and contained by opposing currents and forces in the earth's crust, are suited for government. They can be managed separately, as coherent units. They can be managed for prosperity and self-reliance. They can be managed in a way intrinsic to the site, and therefore with a culture and style peculiar to that site. Invasion and seizure by outside forces would lead to reduced efficiency, so why try?

SPACE FORCE gives reason to natural borders, and it enforces retention of those borders with telecast and published displays of management within the borders of respective basins. All the world can see, with color data from SPACE FORCE satellites, how well or how badly a region is run. Is Soviet agriculture wasteful? See for yourself. Is another dust bowl building in Texas? Watch the videotape. To people living around the North Sea, the effluent from the main source to that sea, the Rhine, becomes strangely colored near the Exxon and Shell refineries at the mouth. The North Sea doesn't die because of a few oil spills or offshore rig slip-ups; it dies because the estuaries, the vital river-ocean meeting grounds, are "managed" by Big Oil.

All the world can see, further, whether some military force plans to attack. Simple civilian satellite data, when monitored and published even now (let alone the upcoming French-Japanese technologies) can show the public whether Argentine masses forces against the Falklands, or Israel prepares an attack on Lebanon, or Libyan armor treks towards the Sudan, or Russian war games in Poland take a curious direction. At dawn we would not sleep. We'd watch satellite surveillance on TODAY.

Peter Fend

Peter Fend is founder of OECD, an architecture venture based in New York which intends to better perform the task of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an international-government organization based in Paris. OECD has its own SPACE FORCE, which has exhibited at The Kitchen, the 1984 Show and Kunsthal Dusseldorf, and which will soon conduct a museum show and Olympics project in Los Angeles. OECD clients include CBS, NBC, the BBC, the UN Environment Program and certain governments. OECD image-processing will be shown at The Kitchen this April. At present, OECD and SPACE FORCE include six artists.



PROPOSED FRENCH GLOBAL POLICY. *Raison, Ordre et Fertilité*. Ocean/salt basins of the planet. Basin states instead of nation states, ideal for television governments.