

The floor, as before, slides soundlessly back. As we emerge, an elderly gentleman, trying on trousers, stares at us in open-jawed astonishment. The sound of laughter drifts across the room, and we join in.

Appropriately, there are no travel brochures for the Underground City. If there were, however, they could offer a secret world far from the ever-present maddening crowd. It is one of China's most extraordinary hidden assets.

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ONE MORE DEAL

Recently newspaper headlines have crowed about negotiations with the Soviets for the complete removal of American and (they would promise) Soviet nuclear weapons from Europe. This removal, if it is allowed to occur, will be one of America's final suicidal deals with the Soviets.

We are often led to believe that war with the Soviets is more probable, because of the "tensions" in Europe or Middle Eastern Asia. A conventional Soviet attack on Europe is portrayed as "escalating" into a nuclear war. During days and weeks of increasing tensions, each of us and our government bureaucrats are portrayed as scurrying around to prepare for survival from this attack which is, against everyone's hopes, escalating out of control.

We have large numbers of troops still deployed in Germany over 40 years after the end of World War II. We are told that they provide a credible conventional resistance which would slow the escalation to nuclear war in case of Soviet attack. This deployment of troops alone drains us of more resources than would be required to build and maintain a civil and strategic defense for America.

Now, to "diminish the danger of escalation" still further, it is proposed that nuclear weapons be eliminated from Europe itself.

This is nonsense.

Would the Soviets prefer to flatten Europe and then occupy the United States or to flatten the United States and then occupy Europe?