It's time for divine help

Sir. I cannot agree with Mrs Doris Clay when she states that the time has come when we should ask the Americans politely and firmly to go home. I do not agree, and am ignorant of the facts of the real world in which we have been engaged.

Without the large supplies of armaments, fear, and many thousands of American troops, we must have been defeated.

As to our hospitality being abused, I believe our national leaders are glad of their support at this time of enemy presence.

As for Mr Graham Jones, I disagree with his notion of the need for the next big move.

Russia has been taking over one country after another, and the Western excuse of liberating people who will not want to be 'liberated' after their manner.

Does Mr Graham Jones believe that the Russians fear an attack on them?

The truth is, Russia has been a threat and an annoyance.

We don’t want missiles at all

Sir. Thankfully, the war-mongering speech by Mr Eldon Griffiths reported in your front page last week, was neatly counter-balanced by the news that the group ‘Against Cruise Missiles in East Anglia’ is planning immediate action against the insatiable of nuclear weapon proliferation.

Public debate on nuclear weaponry has been muted for too long. Amazingly, last week was the first time for 15 years that MPs have had the opportunity to question and debate the limited role of nuclear weapons in Britain in any detail.

Mr’s intention to modernise its long-range nuclear weapons and the deployment of American Cruise missiles in the UK, coinciding with the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, has reawakened people to the awful implications of nuclear war.

Unfortunately, extreme Tory MPs like Mr Griffiths use the occasion to whip up cold war belligerency. His call in the House of Commons last week for the reintroduction of ‘selective nuclear service’ indicative of his belligerence stance.

Hysteria

Of course, the Russian government’s stance contradicts its own for its invasion of Afghanistan, and has been rightly pilloried by the international community, but we must beware of the over-reaction of politicians, who for dogmatic party political purposes, attempt to whip up public hysteria in a plot reminiscent of first world war propaganda.

However, Mr Griffiths is correct in stating in his letter of January 18th that regardless of whether or not US Cruise missiles are deployed here, East Anglia will still be a threat to the world in the event of nuclear war.

The real question that faces us is not where the missiles are to be based, but why they have been accepted by the British Government. The new nuclear stand is just a distraction.

The Defence Secretary, Mr John Nott, has promised a full consultation on where the missiles are to be based, but if we are to reject the cynical and political plots of people, like Mr Griffiths, we must make clear to the Government that we not only don’t want the missiles, but any nation that is not committed.

Mr Jones says no nation would actually use the nuclear weapons they possess. I do not think that the Russians would want to destroy their whole, but they might give us a note to bring under their heel.

If we have nuclear missiles, we can deter them, because we can hit back.

They are a menace to all the free nations with their large conventional forces and the terror of their nuclear weapons.

We will not support any movement that will play into the hands of a potential enemy. I remember that in the 1950s some of our MPs (Labour) urged us to disarm and show Hitler that we trusted him.

It is time to pray for divine help and guidance.

E. W. DURRANT

Westminster.