



VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 1979



U.S. loss in Iran no gain for Soviets

The talk about "Who Lost Iran?" seems largely confined to Washington political columnists and politicians looking for an issue, any issue. What happened in Iran is that Iranians who disliked the shah's reign united and ousted him; if Iran was "lost," it was lost to Iranians.

Iranian groups of startling diversity simply wanted the shah out. The primary U.S. failure was tardiness in recognizing how widespread and determined the opposition to the shah was.

The United States has suffered a strategic loss, to be sure. Whatever else he was, the shah was a reliable military ally and a good customer for U.S. arms and technology. When a workable government emerges from the post-shah confusion, it certainly will be one with looser ties to Washington.

But the U.S. loss is not altogether a Soviet gain from the Soviet viewpoint, he (the shah) may have been preferable to the militant Moslem government that may eventually wield power.

The Soviet Union's Moslem population is about as great as that of all the Islamic states on the Persian Gulf. The resurgence of fundamentalist Islam that is sweeping the Mideast is a political as well as a religious force. If Soviet Moslems become caught up in it, the atheistic Marxism of the Soviet rulers will be in for hard times.

There will be turmoil and unrest for some time. But the overriding point is that Iran needs the United States to buy its oil, build its industry and help protect its long border with Russia. The best thing for the United States to do now is to be patient.

Charlotte, N.C., Observer

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"YOU COULDN'T GET ME ON A MOTORCYCLE IN WEATHER LIKE THIS!"

Papal trip stretches new policy muscles

By BARRY JAMES

United Press International

VATICAN CITY — After the years of drift that characterized the last part of Pope Paul VI's pontificate, the Roman Catholic Church again has a firm hand at the helm.

During his seven-day visit to Latin America, Pope John Paul II reached out to millions of people who gave him a welcome that no politician could ever dream of.

The pope used the occasion for the first major policy pronouncements of his three-month pontificate — restating the church's social policy in lively and unequivocal terms and ruling out any cooperation with Marxism in the fight against oppression and poverty.

THE POPE'S GREATEST success was

as a communicator — even though he was credited using a language he had been studying seriously for only a month.

He delivered 35 speeches and homilies in six days, some of them major policy pronouncements that will set the church's course for years ahead.

In the opinion of many observers, he fully lived up to the criteria that led to his election Oct. 16.

The cardinal electors looked for a pontiff who could provide firm spiritual leadership, and who could mount a church assault against encroaching materialism and atheism.

This the pope sought to do in the Dominican Republic and Mexico, injecting his own mortar between the bricks left by Pope Paul in his social teaching.

Constantly acknowledging his intellectual debt to Paul, the pontiff reminded his listeners that the church already has a so-

cial policy built up over the years, and has no need for alliances with the Left or any other temporal grouping.

HE FIRMLY STATED the age-old view that Jesus is a liberator through love rather than the revolutionary and political activist that some modern theologians have made him out to be.

And he repeatedly emphasized devotion to the virgin Mary as a way of learning the church's true message and coming closer to God.

Opening the general assembly of the Latin American Episcopal conference at Puebla, he warned bishops and priests to stay out of politics — a slap at some theologians who call for a Christian-Marxist alliance to improve human conditions.

The pope told priests they are "spiritual guides," not "social, political leaders nor functionaries of a temporal power."

In response to those churchmen who advocate revolution and violence to redress Latin America's social evils, the pope said the idea of Christ "as a political figure, a revolutionary, as the subversive man from Nazareth" was not in accordance with the church's teaching.

The pontiff said Jesus "unequivocally rejects recourse to violence" and sought the "liberation" of all men through "transforming, peacemaking, pardoning a reconciling love."

The pope offered the church's help to governments seeking to achieve balanced population growth, but he ruled out the use of artificial methods of contraception.

Had he gone no further, the pope might have been dismissed as a conservative by those clerics who are trying to give the church a revolutionary face in Latin America.

Letters to the Editor

Special 'Waggie' grass patrol new 'solution'

Editor: In a moment of intense concentration, an answer ... no, the answer came to me.

"The answer to what," you ask? Why the answer to the crises which have compelled so many of our fine students to cry out and to respond verbally or sarcastically. The answer to the issues which have practically controlled student life and the newspaper — the issues concerning the MSC grass and the one concerning the women in the Corps.

Let us create two special units and confine membership to women (perhaps one could be the Mounted Parsonettes, the other, as someone mentioned, the Ross Volunteerettes). Arm these two groups with submachine guns, train them to be fighters, vicious and efficient and then, yes, then give them the responsibility of patrolling the boundaries of the precious MSC grass. So well-trained will they be that even the strongest, most daring member of our football team would not survive an encounter with these units.

Voila, no more desecrating that "sacred region" which surrounds the shrine of gory, no more raging depression in the women's corps and, above all, an end to the verbal warfare which has grown tiresome to us all.

—Greg Fort, '81

Foreigner's friend

Editor: On Jan. 31, Corkey Sandel, who for several years has been the foreign students' adviser on campus, completed his final day in that position. Although for most Aggies it went by unnoticed, it was a sad day for more 1,000 international Aggies who have had the fortune of having him as their adviser.

Corkey was the first person to welcome a foreign student who arrived in College Station and would go out of his way to make one feel at home. Always available to the students throughout the semester, at his office as well as his home, he was known for his invaluable immigration paperwork assistance, student counseling, and help in finding housing for desperate students, and teaching us Texas and Aggie traditions.

But what really made Corkey popular was that he was a friend, someone one could depend on at all times. And for a foreign student being far away from his home, who is trying to adapt to a new culture as well as a new education system, this can be a real blessing.

Corkey is still working on campus in another challenging position which also requires working with foreign students, so in a sense he is still around. But he will be

missed by many as our adviser. I know I speak for the great majority of the international student community when I wish him all the best in his new job and thank him for all his work, patience, and kindness toward us.

—Anthony Gibson, '79

Editor's note: Sandel will be working now at the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Legal, moral rights

Editor: Regarding the renewed controversy about female members of the Corps:

It is time to examine this prolonged and obstructive argument realistically. It makes no sense to continue to debate the matter as if it were an issue yet to be resolved. Regardless of who realizes or does not realize it, the issue was resolved years ago.

The fundamental laws of the United States prohibit discrimination or persecution on the basis of sex, creed or origin. Period. All the personal animosity imaginable will not alter this simple fact. I pose these questions to those male cadets who insist on insulting and harassing their female colleagues: Doesn't the uniform

you wear represent a commitment to decency, order and respect for law? Can you, in good conscience, persist in words and actions so flagrantly contradictory of basic American principles?

Freedom of speech, like any freedom, can be abused. Those of you on contract will recall your oath to "protect, preserve and defend" the Constitution. Can you reconcile the prejudice you have shown to that solemn pledge?

Women have a legal and moral right to serve in the Corps. Their presence there is a reality. If the Corps is sincerely dedicated to serving its school and its country (as its creed states), doesn't it make more sense to compromise — to accept these ladies for the contributions they can make, rather than to cling to a tradition which offers no evident benefit? Times change. Inflexibility is not always a virtue.

Friendship and unity are the foundations of the Aggie Spirit. Surely then, the Aggie Corps, as the guardians of that spirit, should be the first to uphold these principles.

—Lanny R. Martindale, '82

Happy 82nd, Pinky

Editor: Monday, Feb. 12, will mark the 82nd birthday of a former student who left Texas A&M with one of its finest traditions.

J.V. "Pinky" Wilson served with the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. As this former student stood a lone vigil on the banks of the Rhine River, thoughts of Aggie land inspired him to write the famous "Aggie War Hymn." These words he long ago scribbled on a tattered piece of paper are today known worldwide by Aggies young and old.

Let us all remember this man who wrote the tune that binds all Aggies in times of victory and defeat. Be compelled, as we are, to send "Pinky" Wilson birthday greetings at the address below.

Mr. J.V. "Pinky" Wilson
605 N. Pierce
Burnet, Texas 77605

—Steve Manley, '79
Dean C. Murray, '80

Correction

A caption on a photo about groundhog's day in Friday's Feb. 2 Battalion inaccurately said the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural Science is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The museum is open 9-5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Sunday 1-5 p.m., and is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Battalion regrets the error.

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Art competition open for entries

Entries for the College Station 1978-79 Art Competition will be accepted Feb. 22-25 for exhibition on March 4-24. The competition is open to all contestants within a five-state area. Paintings and photographs must depict some aspect of life in College Station, and prizes will be awarded in the form of purchases by the city. The prizes will range from a \$1,500 grand prize to a maximum of 19 honorable mention awards of \$500 each. In addition, there will be awards of \$250 each presented by the six local businesses. For more information call the Arts Council of Brazos Valley at 693-2781.

League studies foreign trade

The League of Women Voters has started a study on International Trade and will host Dr. Ed Christian Wednesday at 11:15 a.m. at the Hong Kong Restaurant. Christian, of the International Export Division of Uncle Ben's Converted Rice, will talk about his experiences in foreign trade. For reservations and more information, call Judy Seed at 693-5506.

STATE

Drug trial jury selection begins

Jury selection began in Houston Wednesday in the trial of 13 persons accused of conspiring to push cocaine. A federal judge determined that the testimony of a convicted drug dealer will not be allowed because of evidence of threats against the convict's family. Andrew J. Inglet, 24, was convicted last fall and sentenced to 10 years in prison. However, U.S. District Judge Finis Cowan said Tuesday he will let prosecutors read previous testimony taken from Inglet. There have been 24 persons indicted in the case, including actress Linda Blair, star of the film, "The Exorcist." She is not on trial in Houston.

Youth's rape sentence dropped

A 50-year rape sentence against a Houston teen-ager has been dismissed by the Texas court of Criminal Appeals. In the aggravated rape case, the court ruled that juveniles tried as adults must be given examining trials. An examining trial gives defense attorneys an opportunity to seek a court ruling to transfer the case back to juvenile court and bar prosecution of the juvenile as an adult, said Justice Truman Roberts. The youth, Oliver James White, was 16 at the time of the charged offense but the Harris County Juvenile Court certified him for trial as an adult on March 25, 1976.

NATION

Oil shortage may mean long waits

Crude oil shortages, caused by the political turmoil in Iran, may force Americans to long wait at gas stations this year, said Charles J. DiBona, president of the American Petroleum Institute. DiBona said that the predicted shortages indicate the need for flexibility in U.S. energy supplies. He said this could be accomplished by relaxing environmental controls on crude oil refining, exploring for oil, burning of alternative fuels such as coal and bringing nuclear power structures into production. Before halting production, Iran was producing 10 percent, or 5.5 billion barrels, of the crude oil the western world uses per day, DiBona said.

Rosalynn asks better health care

Rosalynn Carter swept aside the health care debate between her husband and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Wednesday, to call for a new national commitment to the proper care and treatment of the mentally ill. "There are still millions of Americans who remain unserved, underserved or inappropriately served because of financial barriers, where they live, or because of their age, sex, race or cultural background," Mrs. Carter said during the first appearance of a first lady before a congressional committee since Eleanor Roosevelt's testimony in 1945.

WORLD

Iranian curfew relaxes an hour

Military authorities today reduced the overnight curfew in Tehran by an hour and maintained a low profile as hundreds of demonstrators marched to support the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's provisional government. The government-run radio announced the curfew would be in force for five hours rather than six hours beginning at midnight tonight. It was the second time that the ban on overnight movement and traffic had been eased since Premier Shahpour Bakhtiari took over Jan. 6.

14 die in German flour mill blast

An explosion ripped through a flour mill Tuesday in the West German port of Bremen, killing at least 14 people and injuring 17, Bremen firemen said. The explosion scattered debris for miles and reduced the mill to 60 feet of rubble. Fire officials said 11 were missing and doubt if any of them survived. West German soldiers joined 200 firemen in the search for the missing. The cause of the explosion was unknown, but firemen thought it might have been caused by flour dust.

WEATHER

Decreasing cloudiness and cool with a high of 64 and low tonight in the low 30s. The high for Friday will be 57.

THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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