



VIEWPOINT



THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 1979

Foreign nations — children with guns

Reflections

Scott Penellito

Does being an American make you feel guilty? Are you frustrated that foreign nations mistreat us? Two Texas journalists are.

Houston Post columnist Lynn Ashby griped Thursday that America is criticized by foreign governments no matter what it does, even if those governments are doing it, too. Two things seem to be true about world events: they are bad and they are our fault.

The reason, Ashby said, is that we like to feel guilty, and the rest of the world obliges us.

We're not only guilty, we're frustrated. "Indecision and self-doubt have led to disastrous foreign policies," Rusty Cawley wrote in Wednesday's Eagle.

"Our ineffectiveness in Vietnam, our empty threats in the face of Russian expansionism in Eastern Europe, and our abandonment of strategic allies have cost us our status as the great defender of the free world."

Frustration and guilt: those have been the dominant American feelings about foreign affairs since the Korean War. Unfortunately, as the two columnists demonstrated, our dominant reactions to those feelings have been belligerence and self-righteousness.

Yes, Cawley said, America has problems, but look at the good it has done the world. "It was the United States that resurrected England, France, West Germany, and Japan from the ruins of the European and Pacific battlefields."

These countries should help America with its present problems because they need America more than it needs them, Cawley concluded.

"If there were no U.S.," Ashby agreed, "a goodly chunk of the world would get down on its knees and pray for one."

Ashby decided it was time to stop feeling guilty. He even promised to punch in the nose the next person who tries to blame him for the world's problems.

He's right. Americans shouldn't feel guilty. We sometimes do because we're utopians. We want a perfect America in a perfect world, and blame ourselves for not achieving what can't be achieved.

What we are achieving, and should be proud of, is our constant striving to improve. In America, a problem perceived is a problem admitted is a problem worked on.

Public opinion has weight here. The CIA doesn't try to assassinate foreign heads of state anymore because the American public won't stand for it. We no longer tolerate identifiable discrimination. We were even able to cope with the fearfully disillusioning revelations of Watergate.

If anything, we should feel smug. But we don't, simply because we are more concerned about what there is still to be achieved rather than with resting on our laurels.

We don't need to remind our allies that we saved their economies after World War II, as Cawley suggested. We know and they know that we did. Reminding them would only make them begrudge the fact.

Nor should we go around punching our critics in the nose.

Foreign nations are like children with guns. They are dangerous, irrational and hard to deal with. Belligerence and self-righteousness will get us into situations leading to more guilt and frustration at best, annihilation at worst.

That doesn't mean America has to feed a bunch of hand biters.

We should reward cooperation and punish mischievousness decisively and consistently. That's what an adult would expect. Why raise children to expect something else?

The move into the new library
can't help but leave some students
Every which way but pleased!



Critics hit Carter for foreign policy

By HELEN THOMAS
UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON — President Carter won his most applause at Georgia Tech in Atlanta this week when he spoke of the United States as a peacemaker.

The occasion was the major foreign policy address in which Carter explained what he believes is the necessary United States ambivalence in dealing with the Soviets.

But the applause was untypical of the response Carter has been getting from political columnists and other pundits around the country who believe the president has led the United States down the path to becoming a second-rate power.

His critics want him to "do" something, if only to give the appearance of a super-power acting when challenged.

In Washington's Georgetown circles where diplomats, politicians and socialites gather, and Henry Kissinger is lionized, there is a growing frustration at what is

viewed as U.S. impotence on the international front.

Carter does not see it that way. "The United States cannot control events within other nations," he said, referring to the Vietnam War which cost so many lives and billions of dollars. "A few years ago we tried and failed."

But the president's laid-back style is neither always understood nor totally admired.

In the case of Iran, the all-out support of the shah even when the handwriting on the wall was so clear, was not enough for the critics. They still maintain that more should have been done to keep the shah on the throne.

As it is, the United States kept up the facade of a pro-shah policy as long as it was possible, even when his days were numbered. The shah himself bitterly feels the United States could have done more to save his regime.

On another front, there also is a strong and growing lobby among former government officials and diplomats to block ratification of the strategic arms agreement with the Soviets. Not only are these ex-officials against a SALT II treaty, they also believe that Russian-backed "adventurism" in other parts of the world should play a part in the acceptance or defeat of an arms pact.

Carter would like to keep an arms agreement with the Soviets separate from the adversary relationship between the superpowers in other political arenas. But it remains to be seen whether he will be able to do so.

He believes that a parity of nuclear arms with the Soviets and independent verification of cheating will go a long way to reduce the risk of a nuclear war.

There have been instances in reverse when the Russians decided that linkage would not be in their best interests. When President Richard Nixon decided to bomb Haiphong harbor where Russian ships were anchored during the Vietnam war, there was an uproar that his action might blow up the SALT I negotiations. But that did not happen. Nixon made his Moscow summit journey and the treaty was signed.

So, each nation is acting in its best interests. Carter's peacemaking pursuits are on two tracks — to achieve a strategic arms accord with the Russians, and to keep them from intervening directly or indirectly in world troublespots.

Letters to the Editor

Change in library move unfair, 'mess'

Editor:
All of us who have a research paper to do this semester were told to get all of our library work finished before March 12 because the library was going to start its big move.

I felt it was going to be an inconvenience, but one that I could work around since I had been warned early in the semester. Later the library announced that it would not be moving until May 14 because of a delayed shelving delivery. I felt relieved and revised my library work schedule. My professor also changed my schedule and delayed the due date for the different parts of our project.

Now I am aware that the library has once again changed the date of "the big move" back to March 12.

I feel that the policy makers at the library are inconsiderate and quite rude. It appears that they expect the students and faculty at Texas A&M to organize their library work around some floating deadline.

I would like to know why there is an air of urgency around this move? Wouldn't it be easier for everyone concerned to wait until May to move. I feel we can suffer one more semester with our old and tiny library better than with a big new disorganized mess.

—Les Schlain, '80

in history, with regard to the civil rights of its enslaved subjects.

And to support this government through trade — even trade on a cash basis, if we can be bold enough to assume our government won and extended credit to them — is to support enslavement of innocent people. That, Mr. Gramm is morally wrong.

—Karen Tooley, '78
506B Dogwood
College Station

Pay due respect

Editor:

It was a little disturbing Tuesday evening to watch a person ride his bicycle down the middle of the Corps quad as retreat was being blown and the entire Corps stood saluting the American flag.

This is to ask anyone that might be in

the quad area and hear a bugle being played early in the morning, evening, or late at night to please stop whatever you may be doing and stand quietly until the call is finished.

Thank you.

— Chuck Schmitt, '81

Readers' Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Plant team places third at meet

Texas A&M University's Range Plant Identification Team placed third at an annual meeting of the Society of Range Management in Casper, Wyo. Senior Tim Berry placed as third high individual among competition with 107 other contestants. Team members include Berry, Robert Ball, Henry Hinesley, Charlie Brown, Karen Kaag, Patricia Dorward, Judy Fairchild and M. Vance Mitchell. The coach is Dr. Marshall Haferkamp, a Texas A&M assistant professor in the Range Science Department.

Child program registration set

Registration for the Department of Health and Physical Education's Child Movement Program will be held Monday from 1 to 2 p.m. on the third floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum. Classes begin Wednesday and will meet on Monday and Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. for 10 weeks. Classes are open to everyone. For information, contact Dr. Carl Gabbard, Department of Health and Physical Education at 845-6841.

LOCAL

Fund-raising fashion show set

The Brazos Valley unit of the American Diabetes Association will sponsor a fund-raising fashion show Sunday at 4 p.m. in the Ramada Inn ballroom. Professional models and Texas A&M University students will present dance, music, lights and fashions from local merchants. Tickets cost \$4. Refreshments will be served.

STATE

Clements pushes energy plan

Texas Gov. Bill Clements will try to persuade the National Governors' Conference in Washington, D.C. next week to denounce the national energy program and adopt a plan geared toward production, he said. The plan is similar to resolutions passed by the Texas Energy Advisory Council and the Legislature calling for deregulation of oil and gas prices and full scale production of U.S. energy resources.

More gang members arrested

Corpus Christi Sheriff Solomon Ortiz confirmed Thursday that three more members of the Bandidos motorcycle club have been arrested in Nueces County. Seven Bandidos have been taken into custody in the past two weeks in an apparent crackdown on the gang. "There's a rumor they may be trying to set up a headquarters in South Texas," Ortiz said.

3rd appeal filed in Torres case

The Justice Department has, for the third time, asked a federal appeals court to overturn light prison sentences given three former Houston police officers convicted in the death of Joe Campos Torres Jr. In a brief filed Wednesday, the government asked the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn a three-member appeals panel which refused to alter the one-year sentences in the controversial case. The officers were convicted of felony civil rights violations carrying maximum life sentences for depriving Torres of his civil rights.

NATION

5 indicted for racketeering

Five union officials, including four questioned in connection with the disappearance of former Teamsters Union President James R. Hoffa, were indicted on racketeering charges Thursday. The officials were indicted in New Jersey in connection with a scheme to accept funds from trucking firms to ensure labor peace.

Wyoming approves coal pipeline

The Wyoming Legislature has passed a bill authorizing a coal slurry pipeline to Texas. The measure has been sent to Gov. Ed Herschler, who has not said whether he will sign it. The bill would permit Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. to divert 3,500 acre-feet of water per year from the Little Big Horn River in northern Wyoming for use in the pipeline. Water would be necessary to push crushed coal through the slurry line to its destination on the Texas Gulf Coast.

WORLD

Iran tries to extradite shah

Iran's deputy premier for revolutionary affairs, Ibrahim Yazdi, said the new Tehran regime will ask any government harboring the shah to return him to Iran. Yazdi also said that revolutionary courts similar to the one in Tehran that has sentenced eight generals to death are to be set up in all Iranian provincial capitals.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with a chance of thundershowers through the weekend. High today 70 and a low of 50. Winds are moving from the Northwest at 7-10 mph.

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.

Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday from September through May except during exam and holiday periods and the summer, when it is published on Tuesday through Thursday.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

MEMBER

Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor Kim Tye
Managing Editor Liz New
Assistant Managing Editor Andy Williams
Sports Editor David Rogers
City Editor Scott Penellito
Campus Editor Steve Lee
News Editors Debbie Parsons
Beth Calhoun
Staff Writers Karen Rogers, Mar
Patterson, Sean Petty, Dan
Blake, Dillard Stone, Dan
Bragg, Lyle Lovett
Cartoonist Doug Gahan
Photo Editor Lee Roy Lescher
Photographer Lynn Blum
Focus section editor Gary West

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of

Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.



Support immoral

Editor:

To Congressman Phil Gramm:
In a recent letter to my husband you said you are 'not opposed to the recognition of Red China or any other nation with which we might exchange goods on a cash basis.' That sounds favorable economically, but morally it is more than lacking.

The government Carter wants to support is not even a legitimate government by any widest stretch of the imagination. Its power rests entirely on the past murder of some 30-60,000,000 of its fellow countrymen, largely through the use of 69 different kinds of horrible tortures, and on the visible readiness of the present regime to repeat that — much as needed during decades ahead.

The very nature of the Peiping government is shown by the thousands of its young people who risk their lives every year trying to make the long hard dangerous swim through shark-infested waters to freedom in Hong Kong. Here is brutal