"What do you think we could get from Mitchum for all of the remaining copies?'

### **OPINION** Peace isn't parity

The focus of the SALT II debate should focus on the underpinnings of the theory of nuclear arms limitation.

The focus should be on Mutual Assured Destruction, a concept invented by the people who brought us the Vietnam

The idea is that peace results because nations cannot fight a nuclear war without suffering mutual annihilation.

It is sometimes referred to as the "Balance of Terror." MAD supporters often point to "End of the World" results after an atomic war. Scientific American stated that such "On the Beach" scenarios are utter foolishness.

Somehow, the idea is that nuclear war is best prevented by parity with the Soviet Union, and endangered by superiority over it.

That is why past arms control experts hailed the Russian acquisition of MIRV (Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles) technology. Multiple-warhead missiles meant parity,

U.S. technology threatened to upset the balance. Thus, to keep the destruction mutual, the MAD thinkers have deliberately built U.S. weapons that cannot threaten Russian missiles. U.S. sub-launched Poseidon and Trident missiles are almost useless against Russian missiles safe inside hardened concrete silos. They are good only for wholesale

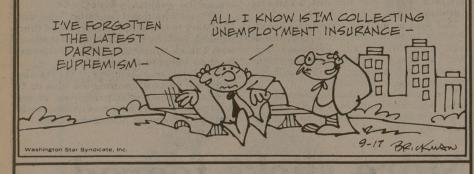
slaughter of unprotected civilians. Civil defense also upsets MAD doctrine. This is because it can save its people and industry from destruction. The Office of Technology Assessment and Boeing aircraft published two reports which affirmed that the United States, by using Russian techniques already in use, could drastically reduce the loss of lives and property in the event of nuclear war

Leaving the American population helpless is not conducive to peace; it is provocative, as would be leaving a wallet on a Houston park bench.

The U.S. should not make it easy for the USSR to take the money and run. It should concentrate on both defensive and offensive nuclear strategic superiority.

the small society

by Brickman



#### THE BATTALION

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## VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 17, 197 MC

# ANALYSIS Discovery of Russian troops in Cuba could qualify as 'most mismanaged crisis

By JIM ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — When the definitive work is written on "How to Mismanage a Crisis," there surely will be a chapter de-voted to the Carter administration for the way it has handled the discovery of Soviet combat forces in Cuba.

It began with Sen. Richard Stone, D-Fla., who kept telling the State Department there was such a contingent. On July 27, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance wrote him that there "had been no significant increase" in Soviet military capabilities in

Then, the U.S. intelligence community accidentally discovered Stone was right, there were 2,000 to 3,000 combat troops in

That was credibility gap No. 1. After that, there was an elementary breakdown of communications between the administration and one of its strongest supporters on Capitol Hill — Sen. Frank

Church, D-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

When Church was informed about the troops, he decided a public announcement was necessary and telephoned Vance to say he was going to make it. Church thought he had Vance's agreement — and although he did not — the news conference he held put the issue out in the open

Alarm ran quickly up the diplomatic scale. The State Department made an official announcement about the combat units and President Carter asked for nationwide television time to urge everyone to be

Until then, everyone had been pretty calm. But the presidential seal of importance on the issue guaranteed big headlines and lots of publicity

At that point, Vance tried to snuff the flames of panic by clamping a lid of secrecy over his talks with Anatoly Dobrynin, the veteran Soviet ambassador. He spent hours with Dobrynin in the privacy of the State

Department dining room, and almost as much time on Capitol Hill, urging senators to give quiet diplomacy a chance.

But, while Vance was heading off potential leaks from the Senate, the State Department itself was coming up with a

One of Vance's top deputies, Undersecretary of State David Newsom, held a background briefing for a group of newspaper reporters last Wednesday. He listed a series of State Department theories about the Soviet combat unit. One prominent idea he mentioned was that the unit was there as a demonstration or training unit, to show Cuban troops how a brigade-sized unit maneuvers.

That theory acknowledged for the first time that the Soviet party newspaper Pravda might have been correct in saying the Russian forces were in Cuba for training

At that stage, the crisis — which had

been an American-Soviet confronta a matter of principle — turned in legalistic argument. What makes a mi organization a combat unit. The def could determine whether the Sovie

are perceived as a threat. It would be a harmless and educate exercise in international politics excep

two things: -It comes while the administrat howing disarray in other areas, such Middle East negotiations. U.S. cred in foreign affairs took another until

-Some senators, such as Stone Church, who were prepared to vot ratification of the SALTII treaty, now the withdrawal of Soviet troops fro a precondition for their support. Other committed senators, such as Russell

D-La., have turned against the treat One U.S. official said, "SALT may just gone down the tube.



## DICKWEST Brown could up chances for nomination by changing his name to 'Alternative'

By DICK WEST United Press International

WASHINGTON — A new political phenomenon has appeared on the American scene. All over the country, we are seeing the formation of groups seeking "a Democratic alternative.

The latest, and typical of the genre, is the D.C. Committee for a Democratic Alternative. It joins similar organizations already created in 19 states.

The committee pledges itself to "work to provide a viable alternative to President Carter as the Democratic nominee in 1980." But some analysts believe there is

more to the movement than that.

The suspicion is that the alternative committees actually are Kennedy fronts

tion of the Massachusetts senator formally entering the race.

mediately endorse him.

Very well. What Brown should do with-

But at this point, that is only speculation. Go to their headquarters, bang on the door and ask to see Teddy Kennedy, and the only answer you will get is: "There ain't nobody in here-but us alternatives.

Whatever their motivation, the commit-tees offer a golden opportunity for Gov. Edmund Brown of California to advance his

The talk is that one reason Brown has not caught fire as a Carter challenger is because so many Democrats are waiting to see what Kennedy does

It further is speculated that the moment Kennedy announces, the groups now de-

setting up a campaign nucleus in anticipa- voted to seeking alternatives will im- latter. Brown should exploit that potentially

out delay is go into court and have his named legally changed to Edmund Alter-

Do you see the beauty of that ploy? First, it would give bodily form to the alternative movement, incarnating what now seems mainly some sort of vague longing on the part of many Democrats for 1980

In preference polls in which the names Brown and Carter appeared, there hasn't been a great deal of difference in the percentages. But if the polls offered a choice between Carter and Alternative, I'll warrant there would be a strong swing to the

mund Alternative, Brown quite would prevent Kennedy from preemp the alternative movement.

I mean, an organization that has published professed its desire for a lower case alter tive could hardly turn its back on an u case one. To do so would create an in sion of fickleness or perfidy. Kenned feel sure, would disassociate himself any group held in such repute.

In short, the alternative bandwagon rolling. Now is Brown's chance to daboard. If he waits too long, he may that President Jimmy Alternative has

### LETTERS MSC cafeteria luncher shocked and mad to find coffee refills are no longer free

While lunching in the MSC cafeteria I picked up my coffee cup to get it refilled and was shocked to discover that refills are no longer free, but are the same price as the first cup of coffee (19 cents).

I most strongly protest this cavalier treatment of Aggie coffee drinkers. The right of coffee drinker to refills as part of the purchase price of a cup of coffee is recognized by many restaurant chains, and is vital to those long discussions requiring

more than one cup.

If the MSC cafeteria needs to increase revenues, raise the price of a cup of coffee, double it if necessary, but leave us our free

—Gregory K. Taggart

#### Cyclists, take care

I would like to make a comment about the bicycle riders here on campus. I want to make it perfectly clear that I know that all bicycle riders are not the same and by no means do I want to make a general comment about all of them.

There are some bicycle riders who think that they are not pedestrians and they are not cars so they are going to make the best of the situation and take advantage of innocent people. I believe that a bicycle rider should be treated like a car. They should yield right of way to pedestrians and should

obey all of the rules that a car has to follow. I am a bicycle rider myself; as a matter of fact it used to be my only means of transportation, and believe me I know the anger and frustration of having a car pull out in front of you when it was your turn to go at a four way stop. You patiently waited your turn at the intersection, when all of a sudden some hotrod pulls out in front of you.

But there are always two sides to a story. There are bicycle riders who never stop at stop signs, they just cruise right through

them thinking that God is going to stop the traffic because they are riding a bicycle. I almost hit a man on a bicycle last Monday when he failed to even think about stopping at a busy intersection on campus. I would have been at fault even though he was the one who almost made the deadly mistake.

I have passed the point of defensive driving and reached the point where I have to watch out for the bicycle riders because they refuse to watch out for themselves. If the bicylce riders want to be treated like

cars then they should act like cars, at they want to be treated like pedestithen they should get off their bicycles

on their feet. As a closing point I would just like to that if you are fortunate enough to within riding distance of campus, and do ride your bike, please be careful. On these days there is going to be son who swears that they "JUST DIDN'TS

-Allyson Gail Truay,

#### THOTZ

by Doug Graham

