

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 1980

Afghanistan invasion is typical Soviet strategy, says book

By JIM ANDERSON
United Press International

Afghanistan is the first country outside the Warsaw Pact countries to be invaded directly by Soviet troops since the early post-war days. Is it an indicator of a new and ominous era in Soviet foreign policy? One analysis, by Professor Donald R. Shanor of Columbia University in a forthcoming book on the Soviet Union and its relations with China and the West, shows that the Afghan invasion is not so different from past Soviet policies.

It fits in very well with the pattern and the qualifications for such Soviet operations and thus can be seen as an extension of recent history, and not an abrupt shift.

Shanor lays out four conditions which must be present before the Soviet Union will use its economic and military power openly to take over another country:

— First, "The situation must be so desperate that help from Moscow seems to be

an improvement. A good example would be a nation in which one military clique has just overthrown another."

Those words, written some six months in advance of the December invasion, fit Afghanistan's situation perfectly.

— Second, is a "great need for national reconstruction, which is to say that the country's economy must be in as disastrous a state as the political life, so that promises of aid can be coupled with promises and deliveries of Soviet arms."

Afghanistan fits right in with some other economic basket cases that have seen massive recent Soviet intervention or influence: South Yemen, Vietnam, Cambodia, Ethiopia and Laos.

— Third, the country involved must be isolated, politically, and not be in the sphere of influence of any other nation. Shanor writes, "The Soviet Union makes fun of the Monroe Doctrine, but by and large observes it."

— And fourth, while candidates for a takeover should be politically isolated, they should also be important enough, strategically, to make the operation worth the risk and cause some discomfort to the Western world. Thus, Afghanistan again fits the pattern, as do some of the other recent Soviet attempts in Africa, such as Angola and Mozambique.

Although the Carter administration says that the Afghan invasion is a dangerous departure from past Soviet policy, Shanor's four rules show that the Soviet invasion is consistent with their past operations in places around the Indian Ocean, Asia and Africa.

Obviously, the Soviets do not formally recognize the validity of Shanor's analysis, except that they seem to operate by his rules.

Although the means used in Afghanistan by the Soviet Union may have been more dramatic and direct than in earlier operations in Ethiopia or Angola, the result is the

same: another country under

control.

Does this then mean an invasion of red, washing over the world which has dozens of countries?

Apparently not, according to a Washington think tank, the Defense Information.

In a major study on the trend of influence around the world, it comes to several conclusions: — Although the Soviets increased their influence around the late 1940s, in the wake of their influence, especially in Europe, lacks staying power. — tries have dropped out of the than have dropped in.

— Soviet setbacks in China, Egypt, India and Iraq dwarf advances in other countries. Ethiopia or Cambodia, where remain unstable and unreliable.



OPINION

New oil fee is too much

Since OPEC got its monopoly act together back in 1973, oil exporting countries have been thinking up more and more new ways to boost their prices.

Algeria came up with an imaginative one recently when it added an "exploration fee" of \$3 to its price per barrel. That makes the price \$37.21, highest in OPEC, and it is encouraging to see that some of the Algerians' biggest customers have finally had enough: they are refusing to buy either the "exploration fee" or the oil to which it is attached.

The Algerian oil minister has hastily explained that the payment of the new fee is merely a temporary "token of good will." We doubt the customers will buy that, either.

OPEC ought to be more than satisfied that its victims hand over their wallets. Expecting them to respond with "good will" is asking more than even the oil traffic will bear.

Dallas Morning News

the small society by Brickman



LETTERS Chivalry lives at Texas A&M

Editor: Who said chivalry is dead? I think whoever made that statement was mistaken, or at least wrong about it here at A&M. Lately I have noticed more of the men opening doors, etc. for the women, and when riding on a sardine-packed shuttlebus, it is a very rare occurrence for me to see any of the guys sitting while there are women standing. I just wanted to write in, and tell you guys out there, that your "gentlemanly"

efforts are noticed, and are appreciated; at least by this female Ag! Mimi Renz '82

Sharing is nice

Editor: A recent letter from a Commons area resident, criticizing Corps of Cadets mem-

bers use of Commons facilities, prompts me to relate an incident which occurred last night.

As I was walking back from the library, I came upon an act in progress that both offended and humiliated me. At the north end of the Corps Area Quad, behind a waist-high shrub, next to a female dorm, stood a proud Commons resident answering Mother Nature's call. It seems trite to me for someone to complain about sharing

a television or pool table when I had to share my scenic toilet facilities. The letter is not intended to be a complaint of this good Ag's act. Instead, I am in opinion as to why I should have available facilities located in the dorm where I live. Indeed it is pleasant to perform natural functions in a setting, but I get quite annoyed when forced to stand in line for my favorite

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360

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 Tuesdays through Thursdays.

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.

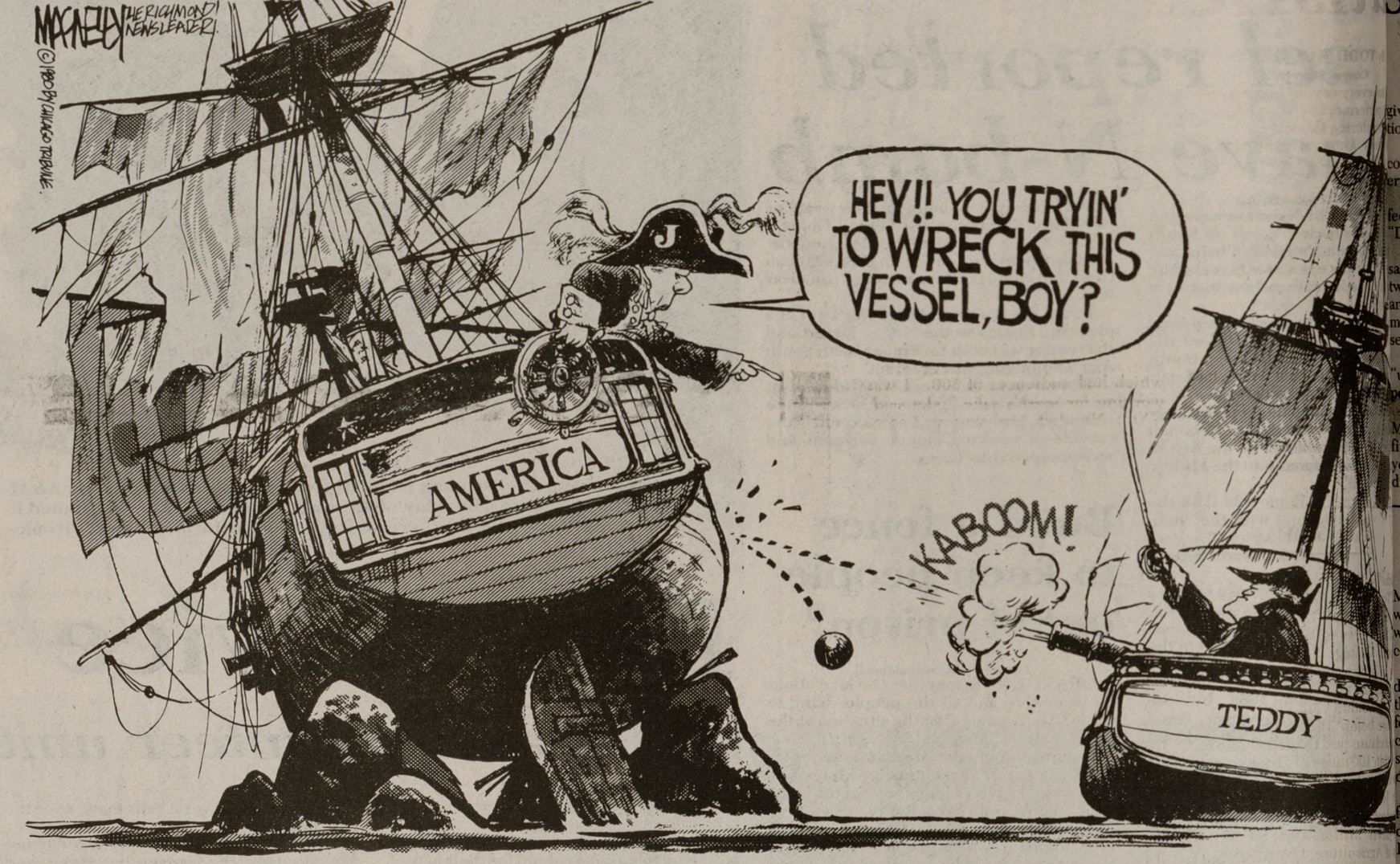
United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

MEMBER

- Texas Press Association
- Southwest Journalism Congress
- Editor: Roy Bragg
- Associate Editor: Keith Taylor
- News Editor: Rusty Cawley
- Asst. News Editor: Karen Cornelison
- Copy Editor: Dillard Stone
- Sports Editor: Mike Burrichter
- Focus Editor: Rhonda Watters
- City Editor: Louie Arthur
- Campus Editor: Diane Blake
- Staff Writers: Nancy Andersen, Tricia Brunhart, Angeli Copeland, Laura Cortez, Meril Edwards, Carol Hancock, Kathleen McElroy, Debbie Nelson, Richard Oliver, Tim Sager, Steve Sisney, Becky Swanson, Andy Williams
- Chief Photographer: Lynn Blanco
- Photographers: Lee Roy Leschper, Paul Childress, Ed Cunniff, Steve Clark

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.

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



THOTZ

