

Ambassador covers worldwide issues

U.S. relations facing critical tests

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff

The United States is facing problems on several fronts and is at a critical point in history, General Vernon Walters said Tuesday night.

Walters, ambassador-at-large and senior adviser to Secretary of State George Schulz, spoke on "The State of American Foreign Policy." The program was sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Great Issues Committee.

Walters said U.S. relations with the Soviet Union and nuclear arms control were of paramount importance to the United States, but that a nuclear freeze would be inappropriate at this time because the United States' nuclear arsenal is inferior.

"We seek to restore the erosion of the nuclear balance that has kept peace for nearly 40 years," Walters said. "The erosion of that balance is so great that it is essential to peace for us now to undertake a major effort to try to restore that balance."

Walters also said that relations between the United States and Mexico are of great importance.

"There are no easy, simple solutions and there are no magic formulas," Walters said. "There are no magic wands to make everyone happy. We have to live together (with Mexico), grow together, understand one another and make allowances for each other."

"Our situation with Mexico is even more delicate than one with the Soviet Union," he said. Walters briefly covered United States foreign policy in virtually every part of the world.

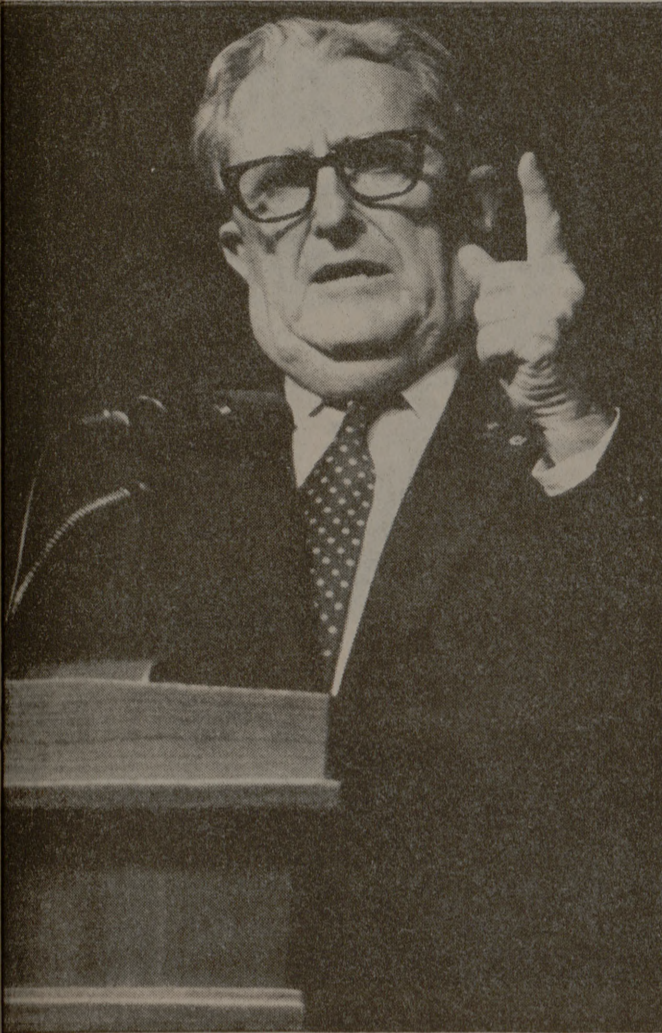
Walters, a top figure in U.S. foreign policy since World War II, was called out of retirement in 1981 to become the senior adviser to the secretary of state. Shortly after this appointment, he was unanimously confirmed by the Senate for his present position of ambassador-at-large.

Before his retirement from the army in 1976, Walters served as an interpreter for Harry Truman and Dwight

Eisenhower and was deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1972 to 1975. He was also involved in the first negotiations with the Chinese — he carried Richard Nixon's first letter to Chairman Mao in Paris.

Walters received a standing ovation after his program and then answered questions from his audience.

Following the program, a reception for Walters was held in the Memorial Student Center.



staff photo by John Ryan

General Vernon A. Walters

Economy woes bring in aliens

United Press International
HOUSTON — Economic problems in Mexico will cause more people to seek work in Texas and will focus attention on a broad range of social and economic issues, an authority on growth trends said.

Mexico's current "economic turbulence is bound to heat up tensions regarding jobs, schools, bilingual education and individual rights in Houston and other employment centers," Dr. Gerald O. Barney, a Washington, D.C., consultant and principal author of the Global 2000 Report to the President, said Monday.

Barney, who was in Houston to help organize a November conference on the U.S. economy, said:

"The continued flow back and forth could create a situation in which the labor markets of Texas and Mexico gradually merge, and it will certainly focus attention on a broad range of social and economic issues."

He stressed, however, that the other side of the coin is increased opportunities for exchanges beneficial to both countries.

Barney said Mexico's economic problems stem primarily from a rapidly growing population and lack of jobs.

"Job creation had a high priority with President Lopez Portillo, but his initiatives were short-circuited by the worldwide recession and by the enormous population pressure," Barney said.

"Miguel de la Madrid, the president-elect, faces an even more difficult and expanding, worried population. I would guess that the government will have to increase its food subsidies in order to avoid starvation among the poorest people," he said.

The Global 2000 report is a state of the world report prepared by scholars at the request of President Carter. It was published in 1980.

Arson determined in El Paso fire

United Press International
EL PASO — A fire which destroyed a turn-of-the-century apartment building last week claimed its sixth victim and an investigation turned up positive evidence of arson, authorities said.

Josephine Gonzales, 72, died Monday at Providence Memorial hospital from burns suffered in the blaze which raced through the wood-paneled hallways of the three-story apartment building Friday.

Deputy Fire Marshall Joe Wilson said investigators found "definite patterns of flammable liquid" in the building, leading

to the ruling of arson. In addition, several residents reported seeing people running from the building before the fire broke out.

Any suspects apprehended in the blaze will face murder charges, police said.

The bodies of two men and a woman were discovered in the rubble. A 6-year-old boy and a 72-year-old man died in an El Paso hospital within hours of the fire.

A suspect was picked up for questioning soon after the fire, but later released, Deputy Fire Chief Glen Watson said.

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