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Economics vital to NATO, leaders say

by Gary Barker
and Denise Richter
Battalion Staff

Three former NATO leaders advised the Reagan administration during a forum here Monday to cut the anti-Soviet rhetoric and concentrate on Western economic problems. As former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said, citing Theodore Roosevelt's adage: "We need to speak softly and carry a big stick. For so long we've been speaking loudly and carrying a little stick." Schmidt, former President Gerald R. Ford and former British Prime Minister Edward Heath concluded that "the big stick" should be founded on a solid economic base. Those conclusions came as part of

the inaugural program of the MSC Endowed Lecture Series. The program, "The Future of the Western Alliance," was moderated by Marvin Kalb of NBC News.

In addition to the lecture, the leaders met with Texas A&M students and faculty Monday and held a press conference that afternoon.

The forum, which was presented to a full Rudder Auditorium, began with a short introduction from each of the former Western leaders. Kalb then moderated a discussion among the three.

Following the discussion, Kalb said: "I came away with some sense that the old framework of negotiations with the Soviet Union ... ought now to be expanded to take into con-

sideration economic and social issues as well.

"In a world of a dwindling number of democracies, the NATO alliance seems to be more important and ought to be preserved."

The original North Atlantic Treaty Organization, signed in 1949, united Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Canada and the United States in a pledge to assist each other in the case of aggression against any of the members. Greece and Turkey became members in 1952, and West Germany became a member in 1955.

To preserve that alliance, the leaders suggested that current Western leaders place more emphasis on such economic issues as unemployment and the U.S. deficit.

Heath said: "It is essential that we restore prosperity in democratic countries. We each have to face up to certain economic difficulties (in our countries)."

Commenting on one of those difficulties, Schmidt said: "We (the West) have failed totally to deal with 10 percent unemployment in all of our countries. It ought to be taken into consideration that there is a great inherent danger of political disaster if we can't overcome this economic crisis."

Schmidt said an economic crisis also could result from the \$200 billion U.S. deficit, which he called "the greatest single threat to the world's economy."

Ford agreed: "A one-year (\$200 billion) debt is not catastrophic. But back-to-back-to-back deficits of that magnitude could be disastrous — not only to the United States, but to the Western Alliance."

But solutions to the world's economic problems can't be limited to the West. During the press conference, Heath said: "There is a grave problem that we spend too much in the West on the wrong priorities. We have to pay attention to developing countries. If not, the only places they have to turn to are Moscow and Peking ... Because of military strings attached, it is extremely dangerous if they look to these countries instead of to the West."

The three former heads of state also related economic problems to defense problems.

In his opening remarks, Ford said: "There is a general recognition that the Western industrialized nations cannot maintain adequate defense expenditures and programs if they do not have a stable and prosperous economic base."

During the press conference, Ford said that current Western defense

problems aren't with strategic arms — where he said the United States has a "rough equivalence" — but rather in conventional arms.

"There is a gap as far as conventional weapons are concerned," Ford said, "that requires that the president increase our conventional capability. Hopefully it will be done in conjunction ... with our allies."

But Schmidt said: "I would not include my country in the neglect of conventional arms. We have 1.3 million trained soldiers through conscription that could be called out. To match that level, the U.S. would need 5 million trained men, some two and a half times more than they now have."

"In order to build conventional forces ... first, you need men, second, you need motivation ... third, you need skill and training and fourth, you need money and weapons."

"The abandonment of the draft has to be thought about if you (the United States) are considering so many theaters of war in the world."

But Heath disagreed. "We (in Britain) found the draft a very expensive way to get qualified troops," he said.

Both at the forum and the press conference, Schmidt said he is more concerned about the build-up of Soviet medium-range missiles that are aimed at Western Europe. To counter the Soviet build-up, the Carter administration in 1979 agreed to deploy U.S. medium-range Pershing II missiles and cruise missiles in Western Europe. The deployment has been used as a negotiating tool with the Soviet Union during the recent intermediate-range missile talks, which adjourned last week for a two-month recess.

For the talks, Reagan outlined a program called the "zero-option" in which the United States would cancel the planned NATO missile deployment if the Soviets would agree to dismantle the medium-range missiles they now have in place. On Tuesday, Reagan backed down from the zero-option and proposed an interim approach, suggesting that the two superpowers set a limit on the number of medium-range missiles on both sides.

Schmidt said he asked for the deployment only after the Soviet missiles were not included in the second Strategic Arms Limitations Talks.

"I thought they were strategic," Schmidt said during the panel discussion. "They are aimed at my country."

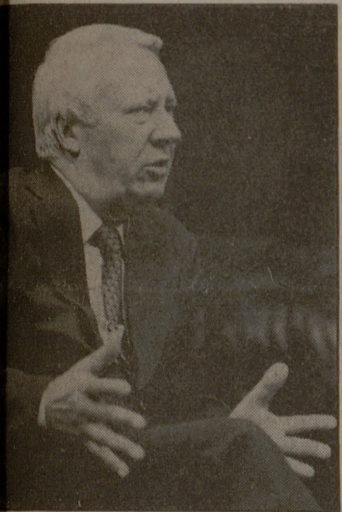
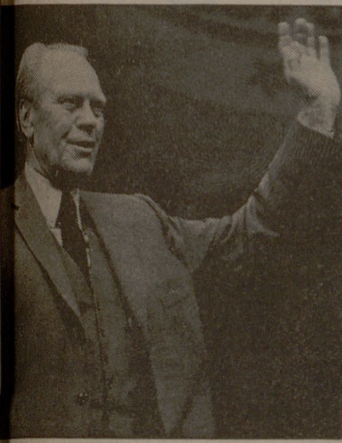
The proposed deployment of the missiles in Western Europe has met political opposition in that region, especially in West Germany.

See ALLIANCE, page 12



photo courtesy of the Texas A&M Office of Public Information

Former President Gerald R. Ford, left, former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, center, and former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, right, part on a friendly note after the program.



staff photos by David Fisher

Former President Gerald R. Ford, above left, former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, above right, former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, below left, and Marvin Kalb of NBC News, below right, participate in the first MSC Endowed Lecture Series program.

DeLorean's bail firm, judge says

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — A federal judge refuses to change John DeLorean's \$5 million bail, rejecting both the accused dope peddler's poverty claim and the prosecution's claim the automaker has \$17 million stashed in a Swiss bank.

DeLorean has "apparent access to over \$17 million in Switzerland," government prosecutors said Monday in seeking a bail increase to \$10 million.

But defense attorney Howard Weitzman called the prosecution's claim "baloney," saying the charge was "only in response to our motion to reduce bail."

"We asked it be reduced to \$2.5 million to give John some breathing room," he said. "He doesn't have an income. He has bills to pay."

"My client is experiencing tremendous financial difficulties," Weitzman

told U.S. District Court Judge Robert Takasugi.

After hearing the arguments, Takasugi rejected the claims as "unsubstantiated speculation and gossip" and declined to either reduce or increase DeLorean's bail in connection with charges of conspiracy to smuggle \$24 million worth of cocaine into the United States.

DeLorean, 58, was arrested last October and charged with conspiring to distribute 220 pounds of cocaine. He has been free since posting \$5 million in cash and property about two weeks after his arrest.

"The government views John DeLorean as a greater, not a lesser risk, at the present time," the prosecution said in its motion to increase bail. "His release was, in a most significant sense, obtained by fraud."

President's race needs runoff

by Kelley Smith
Battalion Staff

Joe Jordan and Joe Nussbaum will compete in a runoff election for student body president Tuesday.

Jordan, a senior physics major from Fannett, received 1,649 votes — 27.2 percent of the vote for president at last week's election. Nussbaum, a junior industrial distribution major from Corsicana, received 1,200 votes — 19.8 percent of the vote. Seven candidates ran for the presidency.

Results for the junior yell leaders, engineering senator at-large and sophomore engineering senator have

not been released. All candidates for those positions will participate in the runoffs because of an error on the ballot. Names of three candidates were left off the ballots, but were corrected early Tuesday morning.

Election commissioner Les Asel recommended to the Judicial Board that the election for those offices be repeated.

Runoffs also will be held for the following offices:

— Vice president for finance: Mike Cook, a freshman economics major from Duncanville, and Ellen Anita Pifer, a junior business analysis/

accounting major from Plano.

— Class of '84 president: Todd Fleming, a junior business major from Tyler, and Joseph A. Sandoval, a junior biomedical science major from San Antonio.

— Class of '86 president: Pre Ball, a freshman biomedical science major from San Antonio, and J. Raley Marek, a freshman electrical engineering major from El Paso.

Other offices in which a runoff will be held are senator elections for architecture at-large, business sophomore, University Apartments, off-campus ward IV and Graduate Stu-

dent Council veterinary medicine.

Runoff elections also will be held for the Class of '85 vice president and the Class of '86 vice president, secretary and social secretary.

Students may vote from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Zachry Engineering Center, the Memorial Student Center, the MSC bus stop, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center, Heldenfels Hall, the Academic Building, the Academic and Agency Building and Sbsisa Dining Hall.

See Results page 5

inside

Around Town.....	4
Classified.....	6
Local.....	3
Opinions.....	2
Sports.....	9
State.....	6
National.....	8
Police Beat.....	4
What's up.....	7



forecast

Cloudy to partly cloudy today with a 30 percent chance of showers and a high of 60. Partly cloudy tonight with a 40 percent chance of showers by morning. Tonight's low near 49. A 40 percent chance of showers on Wednesday with a high near 63.

White House officials say Reagan will cut defense

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, displaying flexibility in light of growing pressure from Congress, is willing to slice billions of dollars from his defense spending blueprint for 1984 and beyond, White House officials said.

Reagan planned a key meeting with Republican members of the Senate Budget Committee today — just one day before the panel begins marking up the defense budget — to discuss his defense proposals in detail.

Reagan took a more conciliatory stance in the face of spreading sentiment in the country and Congress that his proposal to boost Pentagon spending in 1984 by 10 percent — to a total of \$239 billion — was excessive.

The president already has been rebuffed by the House, where Democrats have approved an alternative budget plan that allows for just a 4 percent real increase in defense spending.

Reagan harshly criticized the Democratic budget when it was passed last month, saying such a small

increase would allow the Soviet Union to make strong military gains over the United States.

White House officials indicated billions of dollars in savings over the next few years were possible largely because a special commission studying the MX missile will propose a basing mode for the controversial weapon that is less expensive than the cost of earlier plans. The commission is expected to propose placing 100 of the multi-warhead missiles in existing Minuteman missile silos.

The Washington Post reported today Reagan had decided he could trim \$8 billion to \$10 billion from his proposed defense plans for the next five years. Administration sources told the Post the savings for 1984 would probably amount to some \$2 billion, a reduction of about 0.8 percent.

The president held a series of meetings Monday with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and key national security advisers, including Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Sources said he also met with strategic nuclear experts about infor-

mation that has been collected on possible violations of the missile provisions in the Salt II treaty.

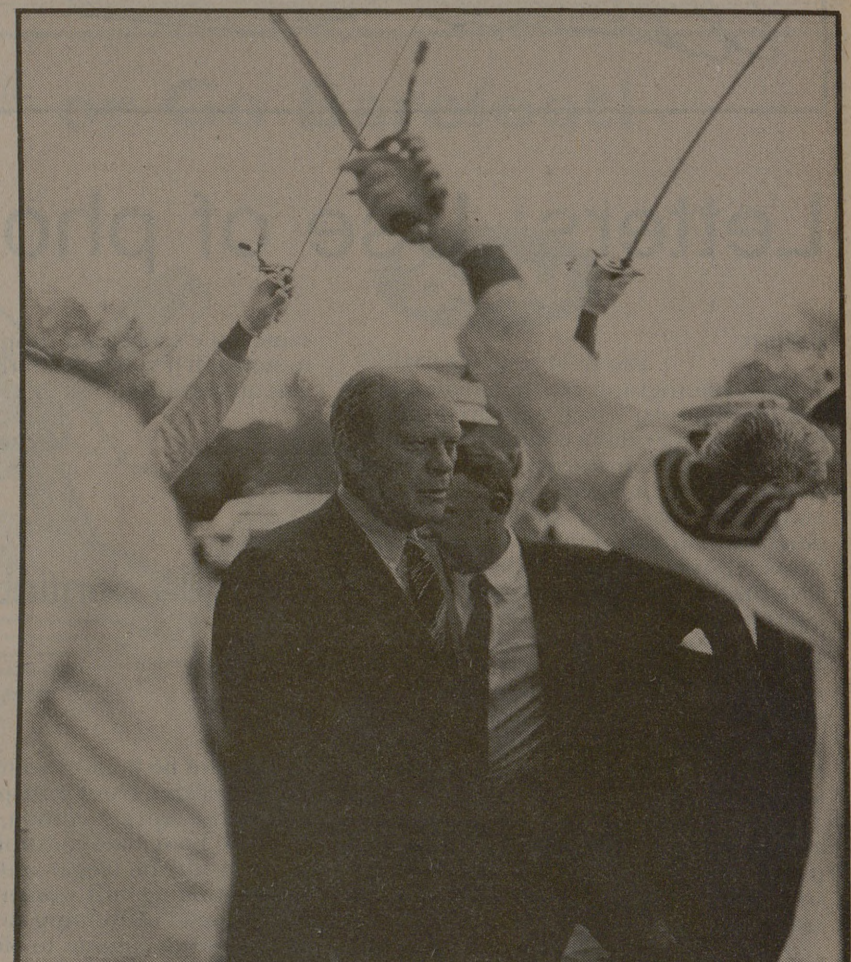
The U.S.-Soviet treaty has never been ratified by the Senate but both countries nevertheless agreed to abide by its terms. The pact was reached by President Jimmy Carter and the late Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Reagan faces another key defense issue later this week when the 11-member MX missile commission he appointed in January makes its report.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan has made no decision on how to base the weapon, although he is "aware of the general direction" of the commission's work through frequent briefings.

Aides said Reagan plans a major defense address April 11, but Speakes said the president has not yet decided if he will unveil the MX decisions in a speech to the nation.

After Reagan submits his proposal, Congress will have 45 days in which to act.



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

A Texas A&M welcome

Former President Gerald R. Ford receives a saber-arch welcome from the Ross Volunteers at Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver's house Monday afternoon. Ford was in College Station to participate in the inaugural program of the MSC Endowed Lecture Series. See related story, photos, above.