

STATE AND LOCAL

U.S., Soviet relations discussed

By ANN CERVENKA Staff Writer

The long-term task for the United States is to maintain freedom around the world for nations that wish to protect it, Dr. James Schlesinger, former secretary of defense, said at Thursday's Wiley Lecture Series.

However, Schlesinger said the Soviet task is "to disrupt the connections that hold together the free world."

Schlesinger spoke as part of the Wiley Lecture Series program, "United States-Soviet relations: A Quest for International Security."

The program featured three top Sovietologists: Ambassador Arkady Shevchenko, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski and Schlesinger, former secretary of energy and a former director of the CIA, to discuss the relationship between the two superpowers. The program was moderated by Edwin Newman, former NBC newsman of 35 years.

The discussion began with a topic Schlesinger said is the most important long-term issue concerning U.S.-Soviet relations: "Is the United States up to the task?"

Schlesinger said that in order for the United States to maintain freedom around the world, it must not be deceived by the illusion that it can restore its position of military superiority or of invulnerability, Schlesinger said.

"There is no way we can restore American invulnerability," he said. Therefore, the United States must achieve its goals through diplomatic and economic instruments, while at the same time maintaining military power, he said.

Brzezinski's introduction focused on four immediate aspects of the U.S.-Soviet relationship.

Brzezinski, who served as assistant for national security affairs for former President Jimmy Carter and is former director of the Trilateral Commission, said he believes that President Ronald Reagan has contributed greatly to the Soviet decision to return to the negotiating table on the subject of arms control.

However, he also said that Reagan overemphasized his desire for a summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Because Gorbachev is in the process of establishing credentials as a new leader, he should be the one to call the summit, which would en-

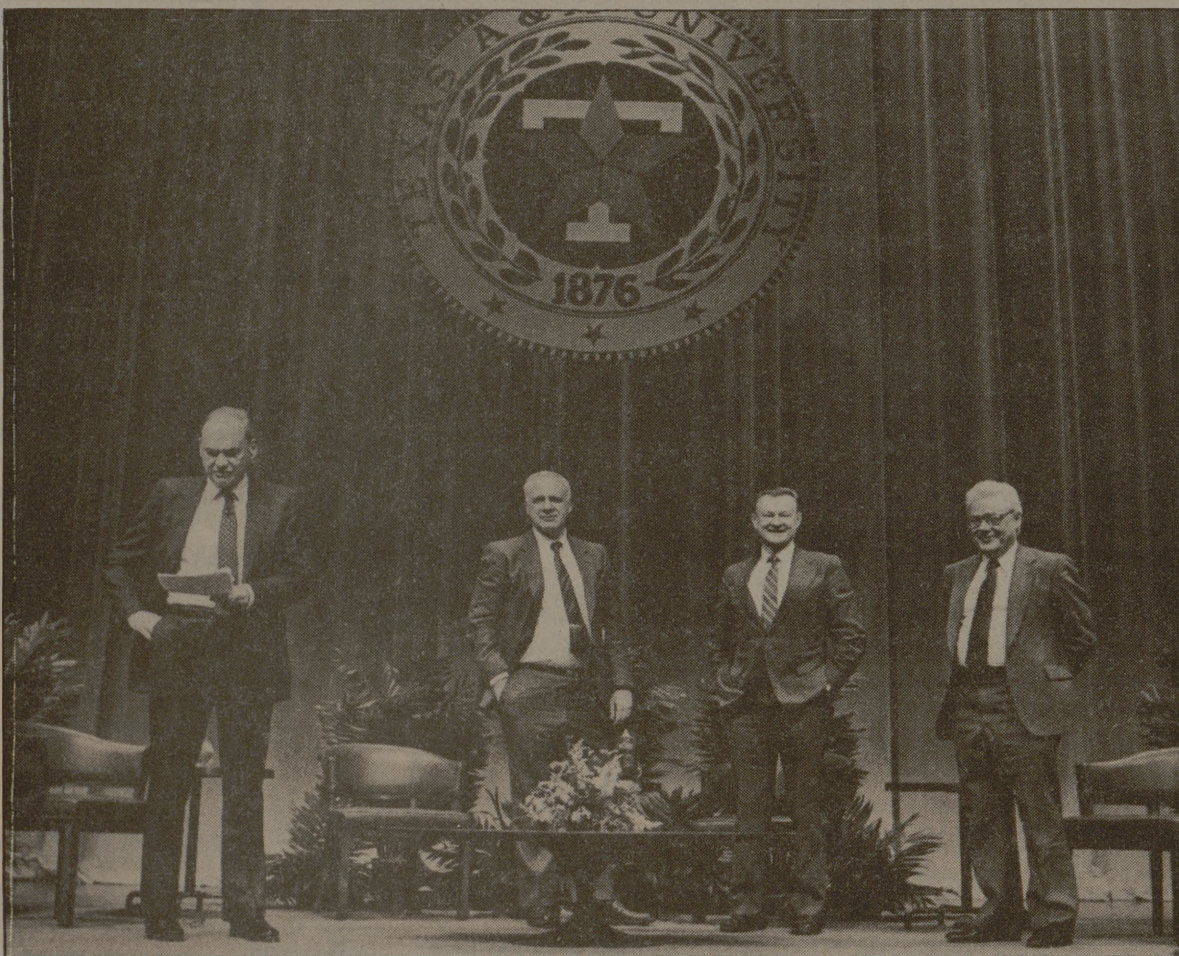


Photo by PETER ROCHA

Edwin Newman (l) led the discussion which featured (from l, after Newman) Dr. James Schlesinger, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski and Ambassador Arkady Shevchenko.

hance his power and serve his political interests, Brzezinski said.

In addition, he noted the importance of the current arms control negotiations between the superpowers. "The most we can expect at this stage are some limited agreements but not broadly gaged comprehensive agreements," he said.

Finally, Brzezinski said the chance for any comprehensive agreement is narrowed if geopolitical differences between the two countries continue.

Shevchenko said President Reagan's offer to meet with Gorbachev is "a good gesture."

"I think that the United States has

to resume a dialogue with the Soviet Union," he said.

Shevchenko is a former Soviet ambassador who, in 1978, became the highest ranking official and the richest citizen of the Soviet Union ever to defect to the West.

Because of strong domestic pressures to favor the Soviet economy, Shevchenko said Gorbachev will probably make more negotiations than most people expect.

After the introductions, Newman asked the men questions which were taken from the audience as they came in the auditorium.

Despite criticism of President Rea-

gan for his "harsh" policies, Schlesinger said Reagan is supported by foreign leaders.

"Foreign leaders were almost unanimously desiring the re-election of this president because he has changed the spirit of the United States," he said.

The panel discussed the purpose of arms control negotiations is to stabilize the U.S.-Soviet relationship.

"It isn't a question of continued bargaining chips," he said. "We have to have something to offer as deter-

rence."

2 A&M engineers see manure piles as new Texas gold

By BRIAN PEARSON Reporter

The mountains of manure around cattle feedlots west of the Mississippi River could provide a useful energy resource in the future, say two Texas A&M engineers.

Dr. John Sweeten, a professor of agricultural engineering, and Dr. K. Annamalai, a professor of mechanical engineering, are studying the conversion of manure into fuel.

"I feel that you can extract energy from manure with present technology," Annamalai said.

Annamalai said manure fuel, which burns similar to Texas lignite, could supply six times more energy than a feedlot needs and also could provide a way of disposing the accumulated wastes.

"To me, based on experience, it is a better fuel compared to coal," Annamalai said.

Large feedlots, with about 50,000 head of cattle and a virtually endless supply of manure, would be the ideal locations for the manure-fueled power plants. So, instead of paying as much as \$250,000 a year to have the manure removed, the feedlot owners can build a manure-burning power plant and can make a profit from selling excess electricity, he said.

"If the feedlot owners use the manure for energy needs, the profits for the feedlots will double," Annamalai said.

Even though manure has been around for a long time, Annamalai said people just started to take an interest in using manure for fuel during the energy crisis of the 1970s.

Annamalai and Sweeten have been studying the subject simultaneously with Valley View Energy Corp. of Dallas. With the research provided by Annamalai and Sweeten, the corporation is

working on a full-scale, \$80 million power plant in Hereford.

Annamalai said the Hereford power plant, along with an identical one built 100 miles north of Hereford, will supply 100,000 households in Austin with electricity.

The process involves the direct combustion of manure in a specialized boiler. The dried manure will be used in a fluidized bed combustion system to heat water which runs a turbine producing electricity, Annamalai said.

Unlike coal, which is 30 percent to 40 percent gaseous, the more combustible manure is about 80 percent gaseous, Annamalai said.

The manure must be burned at a lower temperature than coal, about 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit, to prevent slagging. Slagging is a process in which the fuel turns into rocks within the system.

Annamalai said the sulfur produced can be controlled by adding limestone to the system and by installing the required emission equipment.

The waste product manufactured by the power plant can act as a fertilizer, he said.

Although he is uncertain of the future of manure-fueled power plants, Sweeten said the concept is interesting and has merit.

"We're not out to create a sensation, we're just getting the facts," Sweeten said.

Manure fuel would not become a major source of energy, Sweeten said, but it would help stretch the supply of oil, gas and coal.

"Our long term energy goal is not going to rest on cow manure," he said.

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