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MSC

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# Wiley Lecture Series

## Carter: U.S. should try to promote world peace

By Jeanne Isenberg  
Staff Writer

Former president Jimmy Carter said Tuesday the United States should use its world influence to encourage peaceful resolutions to conflicts instead of playing the role of an "international policeman."

"One of the characteristics of a great and powerful nation — and ours is the greatest and the most powerful and the most influential — is to use its great influence for peace," Carter said, "and for the demonstration that through negotiation there might be some easing of tension and the end of bloodshed."

But President Ronald Reagan, Carter said, has a somewhat different philosophy.

Reagan's approach is to prove to other nations the extent of U.S. power, Carter said. If the United States doesn't like something, he said, Reagan's policy is to send off American troops or to threaten to send troops.

By implementing this policy in last week's Gulf of Sidra conflict the

United States only succeeded in provoking the Arab nations and elevating Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy to the status of hero, Carter said.

"It made him look in the eyes of his own nation like a David fighting our Goliath," he said, "with four or five little gunboats fighting the entire sixth fleet."

"He was an outcast three or four months ago in the entire Arab world. Now it's almost impossible for an Arab leader not to say, 'We support Khadafy. We condemn the United States.'"

Carter also said it's important to gauge the possible reactions of U.S. allies to its actions in international conflicts. A group of nations standing together has more impact than one standing alone, he said.

With Khadafy, he said, the United States not only forced the unanimous support of the Arab nations but also was condemned by many of its own allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The best way to deal with interna-

tional terrorism, Carter said, is to make its confrontations public news because public recognition is what terrorists want.

Carter expressed an opinion for the future of the Democratic Party, although he was unsure about the 1988 presidential elections.

He said that although the particular candidate captures the imagination of the United States, it's too early for Democrats to get discouraged.

One thing the Democrats favor is that Reagan is running again, Carter said. Reagan, master of the media, he said, acquired the ability to avoid anything unpleasant coming out of his terms unscathed.

He also said the democratic tradition is favored on most issues facing the United States, not as nuclear arms control, the budget, diplomacy and negotiations and dealing with terrorism and health.

## Arms race unlikely to abate, foreign relations expert says

By Mona Palmer  
Staff Writer

The arms race between the Soviet Union and the United States is unjustifiable but also unlikely to slow down, a U.S. foreign relations historian told an A&M audience Tuesday afternoon.

Dr. Stephen Ambrose, a University of New Orleans professor and author of 12 books on the United States' military and foreign relations, said that in 1953, military experts targeted 70 nuclear missile sites in the Soviet Union for bombing, but the number since has escalated to 7,000.

"We have the delivery capacity to make sure all 7,000 are destroyed," he said, "but we continue to build new bombs as fast as we can — roughly at the rate of three a day."

The Soviets are in a comparable position, he said. They can destroy about 1,000 targeted U.S. sites and also are building three new bombs every day, he said.

"I search my brain," Ambrose said, "I want to understand what compels a society to feel it needs more weapons in this situation — I



Dr. Stephen Ambrose

only can guess at answers. Maybe it's in our genes. We react to an outside threat by grabbing a club — the bigger the threat, the bigger the club."

"But if you were to ask me to logically defend the building of three new atomic bombs on April 1, 1986, and adding them to the American arsenal... I'd say I can't do it. I can't see any point in building more of these weapons."

Ambrose also said the Soviet Union's mentality needs to be considered.

"There's nothing in the mind of the Kremlin," he said, "that sane, rational men... who enjoy life in peace."

Earlier Tuesday Ambrose addressed a history class that a knowledgeable past intervention and non-intervention policies is essential to understanding our present situation. However, these policies do not set precedents for future crises.

Ambrose also told reporters not to sing the praises of Grenada yet.

"The verdict is a long way from being in," he said.

Ambrose said Reagan has been escaping criticism.

"Lebanon was as dumb as we've had in this century," he said. "Not a single objective was met, and, yet, this country isn't talking about it at all."

Reagan's secret, Ambrose said, is his positive attitude and his never looking back or admitting a mistake.

"Quite a quality he's got there," he said. "One that Jimmy Carter didn't have."



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