

Soviets write story for newspaper about travels by A&M professor

By Mark Gee
Staff Writer

Texas A&M history professor Terry Anderson said an article written about him in the Soviet Union newspaper *Izvestia* was accurate except for a few misquotes, and that it gives Texas A&M world exposure.

Anderson, a Vietnam veteran, returned to Vietnam in October 1987 to look at the country as a historian. In 1966, he was a gunfire-control technician in the U.S. Navy.

Anderson was interviewed by Igor Andreyev, a special correspondent for *Izvestia*, during Anderson's two-week tour of Vietnam.

The Soviet headline "Tourist from the U.S.A. No. 77," the story about Anderson and a picture of him and his traveling companion, Rose Eder, appeared on Page 5 of the Dec. 15 issue of *Izvestia*.

Anderson was surprised and eager to get a translation of the article when he found it in his mailbox.

"Most of the article was accurate and entertaining," Anderson said, "but there were some mistakes. I was excited about having a story in a Soviet newspaper and the international exposure it gave A&M."

The article was translated by Marie Godfrey, who has a degree in Russian studies from Texas A&M.

"The interview was very good," Godfrey said. "There is some misquoting as Terry (Anderson) said, but otherwise, the interview is above board. I consider it a very positive article. It's not anti-American."

The Russian journalist Andreyev, who did not speak English, came across Anderson's story by chance, Anderson said. Anderson and Eder met Andreyev through Vladimir Maslov, a professor of economics at the Soviet Academy of Science.

Anderson spoke to Andreyev through Maslov, who was an interpreter in the trial of Matthias Rust, the West German teen-ager who landed a plane on Red Square.

"It was one of the best interviews I've had," Anderson said. "It was enjoyable. The two Russians were great conversationalists. We talked about Soviet-American relations and Gorbachev's *glasnost* and its impact on Soviet academia and journalism."

Anderson said he likes the article because it has the potential to improve American-Soviet relations.

Anderson said a Vietnam veteran's views are important to Soviet citizens because the Soviet Union is involved in a similar war in Afghanistan.

Students see Vietnam of '80s

By Mark Gee
Staff Writer

From Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, an associate professor of history on Wednesday gave 500 A&M students a slide-by-slide look at his October 1987 tour of Vietnam.

Terry Anderson, who toured Vietnam last year, presented "Vietnam Today," a look at the country two decades after the war from a historian's perspective.

"I'm here to talk about the reconstruction and present conditions in Vietnam, not the war," Anderson told the audience at Rudder Theater.

Anderson said even though the Soviet Union supplies the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with almost \$1 billion a year, the country still lacks basic consumer goods and industry.

Even with the extreme poverty, Anderson said there was very little crime because the citizens fear re-education camps.

In Hanoi, he said, electricity is rationed to homes at night from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., so factories can have electricity during the day.

He said the city is dark at night, with only a single light bulb hanging at street corners.

Anderson said the vice director of a 1,200-family agricultural cooperative near Hanoi told him proudly that 40 percent of the homes had a television. Anderson said there were two television stations in Hanoi. "One station played Russian sit-coms; the other played test bars," he said.

He said free enterprise is developing in Vietnam. "After cooperatives have filled their quotas," Anderson said, "they are allowed to sell their surplus on the free market and make a profit."

Anderson said he hopes to return to Vietnam with a group of Vietnamese-Americans and write a book about the return.

"It relates to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and issues that their future veterans will face," Anderson said.

Godfrey said the lead of the article — which calls the 41-year-old Anderson a "pink-cheeked youth" — puts the professor in a good light.

"The youthfulness of Americans is always surprising," the *Izvestia* article began. "It often catches people off guard and creates awkward situations. Such an occurrence happened on a hot and humid evening in Da Nang."

Godfrey said Soviets often portray Americans as youthful.

"It is impossible to get into someone's mind," Godfrey said, "but most Soviets will take it (Anderson described as youthful) as cute, but others will look at it and think the reason Americans look youthful is because they have an easy life and all they do is watch MTV."

Anderson said the Soviet journalist asked him, "How old are you, you pink-cheeked youth?"

After the journalist tells the reader about his surprise that Anderson is 41, has his Ph.D. and has fought in the Vietnam War, he puts

Anderson's 1966 military duty in a Vietnam perspective.

"In the memorable year of 1966, in the spring of which the first massive bombardments of the D.R.V. was made by B-52s . . . the people (Viet Cong) who manned the anti-aircraft guns of the D.R.V. shot down the one-thousandth American Thunder Chief (fighter plane)," Andreyev wrote.

Anderson said that claims of 1,000 planes being shot down in 1966 is an exaggeration. He said less than 1,000 planes were shot down during the 10-year war.

"The Soviet journalist must have been using Vietnamese statistics," Anderson said. He said while in Hanoi, he was told the North Vietnamese claimed to have shot down 3,500 American planes.

"I don't want to use the word propaganda, because it happens on both sides and does nothing to improve American-Soviet relations," Anderson said.

Anderson also says there is a potential fabrication in the article.

Anderson says that he told the Soviet journalist that Thailand's economy was better than Vietnam's.

But the article directly quotes Anderson as saying, "For example, in Thailand, as in many other countries, one is surrounded by sick people, the majority being children. There is nothing like this in Vietnam. Therefore, the government has been able to eliminate this important problem."

Anderson said this statement is incorrect.

"Unless there was a problem in translation about Vietnam's being better than Thailand's, then that was fabricated," he said. "No one who has visited Bangkok and Saigon would ever think the economy in Vietnam is better than Thailand's."

Anderson has been to Bangkok four times and has traveled to 25 countries.

"I'd like to give them (the Soviet journalist and translator) the benefit of the doubt," Anderson said. "I'm thankful he put it in there because I'd love to give them a slide show. It would be a blast."

Anderson has more than 500 pictures of Vietnam, some of which he showed to A&M students during a Political Forum program in Rudder Theater.

"Many of my slides," Anderson said, "show the poverty, hunger and need for medical and humanitarian aid."

Immediately after the statement comparing Vietnam and Thailand, the article quotes Anderson as saying, "Of course, there are still many problems and I would like to know how the government intends to solve them."

Anderson said he never made that statement.

"That is a typical question of a Russian, but he quotes me as saying it," he says. "The point is that the Soviets want to know why there are so many problems — why they spend so much money and why the communist government has not solved them."

Since 1975, the Soviet Union has given massive amounts of aid to rebuild Vietnam, he said.

Anderson said the men who interviewed him were engaging and talkative. Anderson, Eder, Andreyev and Maslov talked for four hours and drank Heineken beer for 50 cents a bottle.

"They really got a kick when I told them, 'Well, we had our Vietnam and you have your Afghanistan. The only difference is that our men spent time in the tropics and your men are on some cold mountain,'" Anderson said.

Checkpoint really scam for tourists

EL PASO (AP) — A federal Mexican official was in Juarez, Mexico, this week to investigate a phony highway checkpoint set up by immigration agents who illegally confiscated travelers' property, authorities said.

Six Mexican immigration agents were arrested Saturday at the checkpoint at the intersection of two highways in Janos, 130 miles southwest of Juarez.

The agents had illegally confiscated two trucks, jewelry, firearms and about \$8,300 cash, Juan Aguilar Garcia, Mexico's deputy director of immigration, said Tuesday. About \$7,000 of the money was U.S. currency, but Aguilar said the agents preyed mostly on a nearby Mennonite community.

The seven agents are likely to face charges of extortion, robbery, unauthorized use of arms and conspiracy, authorities said.

Nude

(Continued from page 1)

that sexual gratification was acquired and in this case it was not.

"Unless someone files a criminal complaint no one can be arrested and names do not have to be revealed," Wiatt said. "However, if someone does file a complaint then the case becomes public knowledge and the person so charged can be identified."

According to Wiatt, some of the men were turned over to the resident official in Cain Hall, Dr. Steve

Attack

(Continued from page 1)

the Corvette, grabbed Barclay and threw him into the rear bumper of his car, knocking him unconscious and breaking his collarbone.

The attacker then turned to Voigtman and asked him if he wanted "some of this too," the report says.

The man then threw Voigtman

Crews. Wiatt added that the athletic department is conducting its own investigation.

"We are seeing if anyone offended by the incident would want to file appropriate charges and as of now, no one has," Wiatt said.

Holly Becka, a sophomore journalism major from Killeen, said she saw three naked men and three clothed men running through the Commons lounge area.

One of the clothed men said the three naked men were freshmen going through a football initiation, she said.

into the open passenger door of the car he had just exited, the report says.

Voigtman sustained bruises to his chest, ribs and lungs, according to the report.

Mary Barclay said she approached the man asking, "What are you doing?" and he responded by grabbing her blouse and hitting her in the face with his fist, the report says.

An athlete who asked not to be identified said on the first cold night of February upper classmen on the football team round up the new recruits, mainly underclassmen and transfer students, and have them strip.

The new recruits are taken to Rudder Fountain where they sing "The Spirit of Aggieland." The source said this makes the new players' first year easier because they don't get harassed as much as they would otherwise.

Barclay said she was unconscious for a few seconds and when she regained consciousness she saw the two men driving away in the Corvette.

The Barclays and Voigtman were admitted to Humana Hospital Sunday and were released later. The police report says that Andy Barclay will need surgery for his broken collarbone.

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