

Former arms negotiator leaves Europe for A&M position

By Kelly S. Brown Staff Writer

For the past five years he argued arms control with the Soviets. He was living a high, hectic life as an American negotiator in Europe — coming home every night to his palace in Austria before dashing off to two or three parties where negotiations would be the focus of the evening.

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challenging than the work he did as an arms negotiator.

Until August, he was the U.S. Department of Defense's primary spokesman in Europe on conventional arms control.

The battle of a negotiation was sometimes frustrating, Hatchett said.

"But I knew I had to try," he said. "No matter how little my anticipations were going into a round, I had to look at it in perspective — that it was a new round and it could result in a breakthrough. No matter how pessimistic I was about our chances, I had to go. Arms control is a high-stake activity, not only from the standpoint of the possible result in terms of security of the people, but the likelihood that both systems can survive."

It's also high stakes from an economic standpoint. "If we come up with a conventional arms agreement that significantly lowers the conventional force level in Europe, it will save an extreme amount of money," Hatchett said.

Conventional arms are the most expensive forces, he said. Nuclear forces are a bargain when compared to conventional arms — 85 percent of the defense budget is spent on conventional arms, he said.

Despite the magnitude of his responsibilities negotiating arms agreements with one of the world's most powerful political and military forces, Hatchett said he has never been intimidated by the Soviets. "We have been negotiating from a po-

sition of strength, especially under the Reagan-Bush administration," Hatchett said. "We know what the real situation is around the world. We know who has the support, the hearts and the minds of more people in the west, and we have the support of our own allies," Hatchett said.

"I never felt under-the-gun or intimidated when negotiating with the Soviets."

There is a great difference in negotiations with Soviets under Gorbachev and negotiating with Soviet leaders prior to Gorbachev, he said.

"I'm not saying the ultimate goals of the Soviet Union have changed under Gorbachev, but their way of doing business has changed."

"In the past, Soviets would not even be embarrassed about, for example, things like not agreeing to on-sight inspection — they'd say it was an insult. They gave us all these reasons for not allowing inspectors to come on their soil, but when Gorbachev came to power, he began to talk about several things that could offer this possibility of inspectors on their soil and on-sight verification. This is a big step for conventional arms control agreements in Europe," Hatchett said.

"But I have to stress the word 'possibility' because we don't know whether or not Gorbachev's serious — we have a chance to test him on this."

Hatchett said it's a little easier at least to talk to the Soviets now. "Whether the results will be different in the long run is dependent on whether or not Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika policies eventually pan out."

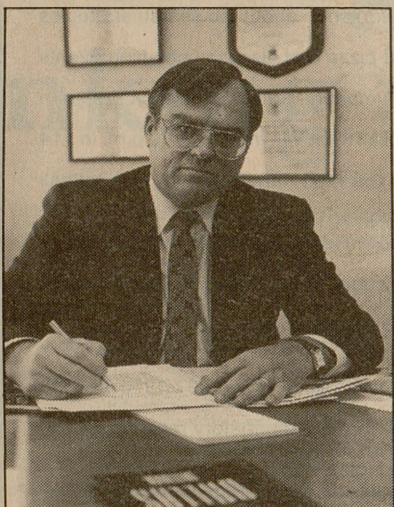
That is a wait-and-see situation, Hatchett said, whereas in the past, the United States knew where it stood with the Soviets — they usually were saying no.

"It was also frustrating in the past because they blocked every avenue necessary to come to an arms control agreement," he said. "What is frustrating now is that the Russians are saying what we want to hear, but they haven't gotten down to details yet, so we have to wait to see if what they say they're going to do will pan out."

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and we haven't been able to eat the pudding yet."

Whether it is pudding, steak or sandwiches, the Soviets and American negotiators eat together often because so much time is spent negotiating.

"Maybe three hours twice a week were spent in formal, across the table negotiations, while 30 to 40 hours a week were spent in informal negotiations," he said.



Dr. Ron Hatchett

"We had a saying — 'I regret but I have one liver to give to my country,' because of all the cocktail parties and formal dinners we had to attend."

"I met face-to-face with these people daily," he said. "I got to know them as people rather than as a status or a faceless slogan like 'communist' or 'capitalist.'"

There is very little acrimony and dramatics during negotiations, Hatchett said.

The Soviet and U.S. negotiators have a mutual respect for one another, which comes from the fact that they are from large countries and are respective leaders of their alliances, Hatchett said.

"The old rigid Soviet negotiators, like Stalin — who once said about Gromyko, 'I could tell him to sit on a block of ice

and he would sit without moving until it melted.' — they're tenacious in holding a position and never felt embarrassed about taking positions that didn't make sense," Hatchett said.

But Hatchett said the new leaders in the Soviet Union are personable. He calls them 'blow-dried Bolsheviks'.

"They wear more modern clothing and they wear their hair in western ways. They look like us, talk like us and try to mimic our values. They talk about democracy, peace and freedom, but you still have to realize they trust the Soviet system or they wouldn't be representing it."

Hatchett trusts the American system.

He grew up in Waco thinking that one day he probably would attend Texas A&M. He came close. Just before he was leaving to come to A&M, he was accepted at the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He chose the Academy because it offered a four-year scholarship.

At the Academy, Hatchett earned a degree in international affairs.

"As a potential military officer, I thought I should focus on understanding a culture and people — the ones that I decided on were our potential enemies," Hatchett said.

"One of the principles of war is know your enemy — know how he thinks, know what motivates him — so I concentrated on Soviet East European Studies."

Hatchett speaks Russian and Yugoslavian. He attended the University of Zagreb in Yugoslavia for a semester because he wanted to study in a communist country to better understand the government. Zagreb was the one place he could study as a serving military officer, because Yugoslavia is not a member of the Warsaw Pact.

After graduation, Hatchett held regular Air Force positions, he said. Then he

became an Air Intelligence Officer and was stationed in Europe.

The Air Force seeks specialists in political military affairs who are capable of dealing with the state department and other Washington D.C. agencies. Hatchett was selected to return to the United States for more academic training. He received his master's and doctorate in international affairs-Soviet bloc at the University of Texas.

He arrived in Washington in 1980, working for the joint chief of staff as a staff officer.

Hatchett took a sidetrack in international relations during 1980-81. He worked in the Middle East on Lebanese, Jordanian and Israeli affairs.

Slowly easing out of the military role, he began working in Washington at the Foreign Institute as the Department of Defense representative. While there, he heard of a position opening in Vienna for a representative for the secretary of the Department of Defense.

He was soon interviewed, then hired. His role was first as a military officer.

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Ron Hatchett

trasse. "It was the sheik address," he said.

Back in Texas, Hatchett now has a longer distance to travel to work, and the work is just as hard.

"It feels good to be here, away from all that," he said. "It was a high-intensity lifestyle. My hectic schedule was trying, because the day didn't end at 5 o'clock — there were always three to four social events almost every night except Sunday. The events were more or less mandatory, and some of our most effective and successful negotiating came from those parties."

"Here at A&M I can still work on issues of national defense policy for the government, but I'm not burdened by day-to-day activities."

Here he can step back and take a broad view of what directions national security policy should be moving.

"I can think in terms of shaping policy for the future, and analyzing implications of policy decisions we're making today."

Twenty-five years after Hatchett's thoughts of going to A&M had guided him elsewhere, he said he is finally able to realize the ambitions he had in high school of being associated with A&M.

"There is no better place in Texas to have a defense studies institute than at Texas A&M, given the rich tradition it has of contributing to the national defense."

Hatchett not only is associated with A&M at the Institute, but beginning in the spring, he will interact with students as well, teaching a geography class.

"I love to teach," he said. "I want to get across to the student the current situation in Europe. Not only the geography features of where mountains, rivers and rainfall patterns are — that's good to know — but they should also know the social, economic and political situations of today."

Texas university enrollments up 5.8 percent

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas college and university enrollments are up by nearly 6 percent this fall, far more than expected, state higher education officials said Monday.

Preliminary figures for the Fall 1988 semester showed a combined enrollment at all institutions of higher education that totaled 834,444, a jump of 5.8 percent or 45,916 students over 1987, the Higher Education Coordinating Board reported.

Enrollment at public junior and senior

colleges and universities in Texas totaled 731,783, a 6.5 percent increase.

Kenneth Ashworth, state higher education commissioner, said, "This level of growth is far above what was expected. If we add to this year's growth the increase for last fall, our public colleges and universities have grown by almost 70,000 students in two years."

Ashworth said that growth has come since the Legislature last was in session, and he said the expanding student body will have to be recognized in the money

appropriated for colleges and universities when lawmakers convene again in 1989.

Thirty-three public senior universities reported combined increases of 19,533 students, while two reported a combined loss of 72 students, the coordinating board reported. Total enrollment at the 35 schools was 385,343, up 5.3 percent from last year.

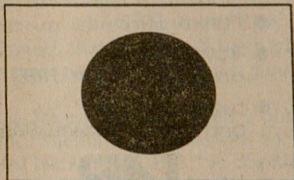
Texas A&M University at Galveston reported the largest percentage gain, 34.9 percent, while the University of

Texas at Austin reported the largest increase in students, 2,364.

Enrollment also was up at 42 of the 49 public junior college districts, a 7.9 percent net increase, or 25,414 students, and a combined enrollment of 346,439.

Among the public community colleges, Collin County Community College reported the largest percentage gain at 43.9 percent, while the Houston Community College district had the largest increase in students with 2,829.

WHAT ABOUT US?



Japan is doing well.

Under 8 years of Republican rule, countless American jobs have been exported to Japan—and Japan has moved ever closer to controlling our economic future.

FACT: Japan now controls 17 of the world's 25 largest banks. The United States controls just one.



Saudi Arabia is doing well.

After 8 years of Republican rule, America still has no energy policy. The Saudi and other OPEC economies have boomed while the Texas economy has gone bust.

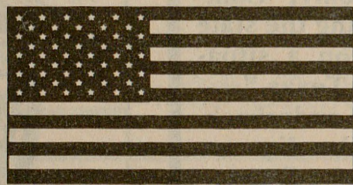
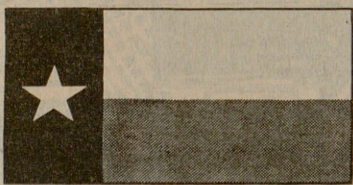
FACT: Texas has lost over 216,000 oil-related jobs in the last five years, while America's oil imports have jumped 20% in the past two years alone.



The international drug cartel is doing just great.

For 8 years the Republicans have talked tough about drugs but time and again have sought to slash funding for the war on drugs.

FACT: Under the Republicans cocaine smuggling has tripled, heroin trafficking increased 50% and the number of drug-related deaths doubled.



TEXAS AND AMERICA DESERVE BETTER

- Democrats helped save millions of American jobs by passing historic trade legislation this year.
• Democrats have adopted a Texas-proposed national energy policy that would significantly increase sales of Texas oil and natural gas and create tens of thousands of Texas jobs.
• Democrats are committed to standing up to drug kingpins like Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega and to waging a real war on drugs on our streets here at home.

On Tuesday November 8th VOTE DEMOCRATIC General Meeting-Aggie Democrats

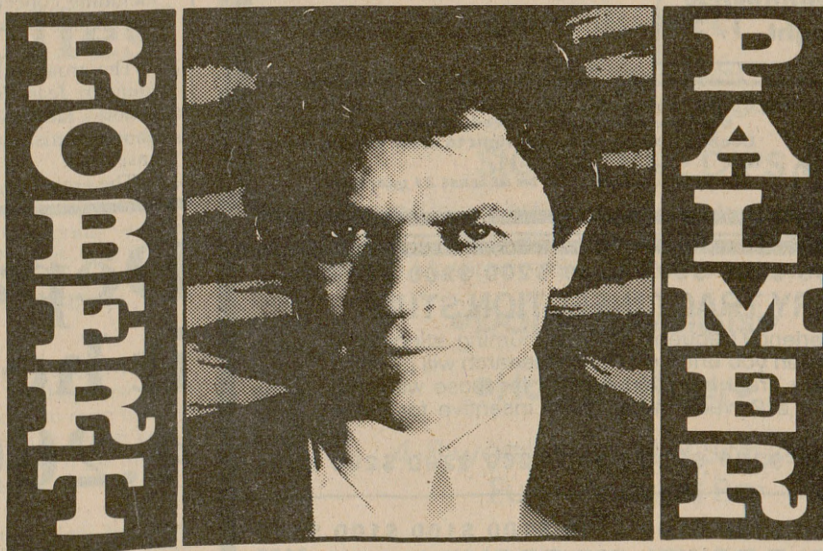
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