

Exxon donates \$100,000 grant to A&M Russian ethnic market could slow secessions

By Robin Goodpaster
The Battalion

Texas A&M received \$100,000 in departmental grants from Exxon Corp. to promote continued study in academic areas such as engineering and accounting.

Dr. Robert Walker, A&M's vice president for development, accepted the gift for the University on Nov. 12.

Robert Walker said Exxon considers A&M an excellent school and wants to help train its students for the job world.

Of 100 schools Exxon donates to, A&M received one of the top three grants. The \$100,000 will be split up between the departments of engineering, business administration, computer science, accounting and geology.

Chemical engineering received the largest amount of money, \$16,000. Mechanical engineering received \$14,000, petroleum engineering \$12,000 and electrical engineering \$5,000. As for the other departments, geology received \$13,500, business administration received \$11,500 and accounting received \$7,000.

Bob Alexander, controller of Exxon company USA, said the reason the company funds diverse areas of study is that in a successful company, all its components need to be strong.

"We need good lawyers and accountants just as much as we need engineers," Alexander said.

Alexander said that the funds may be used for any educational purpose that the department selects.

He added that the use of the funds is unre-

stricted, with previous funds being used for scholarships, field trips and visiting speaker fees.

Terry Walker of Exxon USA's Public Affairs Office explained that more funds were given to the engineering departments because Exxon recruits more students from these departments.

"We want students at A&M to be prepared for the real world, and these funds help them do that," Terry Walker said.

Exxon recruits heavily at A&M with more than 800 A&M graduates presently working for the oil corporation.

"Exxon's relationship with A&M students is an mutually beneficial," Alexander said. "The better A&M gets, the better our recruits get. The more money we can give to A&M, the better A&M can become."

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Hatchett said chances for Tatar independence are slim, however.

"There is a major industrial zone in the region," he said. "I don't think the Russians will give that up so easily."

Large populations of ethnic Russians within the regions could also impede independence moves, he said.

"There is a large population of great Russians in the Tatar republic," he said. "The Russian government will not be happy to see these people become a minority to be dominated by another ethnic group."

Discrimination against such Russian minorities might soon cause larger troubles, he said.

"The republics would not allow Russian to remain their legal language," Hatchett said. "Ethnic Russians might also be fired from their positions in the government and in industry. This kind of ethnic friction is not going to work."

Hatchett said 70 million Soviet

citizens live outside their homeland.

"Half of these people are Russians," he said. "If the republics break down, these people will not be treated kindly, and we will have to help from their homeland."

"It could very possibly be violent," he said. "Russians will not tolerate the Soviet military, and this is the real problem. They may not react so nicely if the claws of Russians are caught."

"The vote by the legislature was by no means a condoning of regional-ethnic independence. It was a slap to Yeltsin, not a slap to Chechen-Ingush."

The situation, however, will not degenerate to this level, Hatchett said.

"I don't believe the situation will go any further than the public level," he said. "There to be a limit somewhere."

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Israeli, Arab, American students to discuss Mideast conflicts

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"I don't expect any real problems. Arabs and Israelis are very level-headed, contrary to what some Americans believe."

Rhonda Bolich, president of ISA, says the event marks the first time that the ISA has been able to

get Israeli and Arab students together in an organized discussion.

"Luckily, we've been able to do that for this discussion series," she says.

Bolich believes the recent peace conference in Madrid will have an impact on the discussion tonight.

"Maybe because of the peace conference people will feel like they can discuss issues now," Bolich says. "I think it (the conference) relaxed people's opinions."

Mediator will be Dr. Larry Yarak, a history professor at A&M. Killerman says that he and Yarak hope to select members of

the audience to be a part of the American panel.

Killerman says, in the past, the ISA Discussion Series did not include views of Americans when two different countries debated issues, but this time, several international students requested that American viewpoints be present in the discussion.

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