



tom thompson

Africa divides U.S.-Cuba rapprochement

Editor's note: Professor Thompson visited Cuba recently.

Only a year or so ago the United States and Cuba seemed on the verge of resuming full diplomatic and trade relations.

After nearly 17 years of mutual hostility between the two countries, both the Ford and Carter administrations moved on a number of fronts to end what many Americans, but certainly not all Americans considered a Cold War anomaly.

To the casual observer, U.S.-Cuba relations might still seem to be improving. Fishing rights and the establishment residence have been negotiated. The U.S. ban that prevented Americans from traveling to Cuba has been lifted.

In an obvious gesture to the Carter administration, Cuba last month permitted 68 Cuban-American repatriates and 64 members of their families to leave Cuba for the United States. Last week 46 Cuban political prisoners and 33 of their relatives were allowed to leave Cuba for the U.S. And Castro has hinted that he may allow more of the estimated 1,000 to 3,000 other political prisoners in Cuba to leave.

In spite of these positive signs of improved U.S.-Cuban relations, negotiations have hit a major roadblock; the U.S. reaction to Cuba's new, assertive Africa policy. That policy involves the expedition of as many as 50,000 Soviet-supported Cuban troops and advisers to Africa.

The Carter administration has decided

that until Cuba's Africa policy is moderated, there can be no progress toward normal diplomatic relations.

Several months ago President Carter said he had proof that the invasion of Shaba province in Zaire from Angolan territory was a Cuban-supported "armed-attack" across an international border. The White House warned Cuba that Western intervention in the conflict would be justified to help a legitimate government (Zaire) defend itself against Soviet-Cuban incursions.

Cuban officials still maintain that Carter was wrong about Cuban involvement in the Shaba raid. The administration has not made public the information that it says establishes the fact of Cuban involvement.

Yet, in spite of denials of involvement in Shaba, the same Cuban officials emphasize what they see as Cuba's "internationalist" duty to support all wars of national liberation and to spread Marxism wherever possible. They often add that in their view no pressures exist that the United States can apply against Cuba that will force Cuba to bring its troops and advisers home.

On a per capita basis, Cuba has more people and more equipment in military forces than any other country in North or South America. A U.S. expeditionary force in Cuba proportionately as large as Cuba's in Africa would include over 1 million troops and advisers. Thus, Cuba's obvious capability to fulfill that "internationalist" duty,

which is only made possible by Soviet logistics, serves as the basis for the Carter administration's alarm.

It is sometimes suggested that under Soviet pressure Cuba now plays a surrogate role for Soviet interests in Africa. But Cuba may have its own reasons for pursuing an assertive Africa policy. It clearly acts as a tonic for ideological fatigue at home.

Fighting in Africa has given the large Cuban military establishment field experience that it could not otherwise get. And the Africa policy allows Cuba to express the "internationalism" that remains so much a part of its revolutionary self-esteem.

Yet without the approval and support of the Soviet Union, Cuba's economic paymaster and provider of military aid, Cuba would hardly even have an Africa policy. That the Soviet Union is calling the shots is suggested by the unwillingness of Cuban officials here to discuss Cuba's policies in the Horn of Africa, where the Soviet Union and Cuba are aiding Ethiopia in suppressing the secessionist movement in Eritrea.

Not long ago Cuba was friendly to Eritrean secession. Cuba even trained Eritrean guerilla leaders in the period from 1969 to 1973. Cuba now apparently favors a negotiated political settlement in Eritrea, the northernmost province in Ethiopia, which has been in a state of open insurrection for years.

The Soviet-supported Ethiopian leader-

ship has vowed to crush the popularly supported Eritrean movement. And Fidel Castro's recent visit to the Ethiopian capital, where he publicly endorsed Soviet policy, lends credence to the argument that the Soviet connection with Cuba in Africa is stronger than merely convergence of interests.

Even if Cuba were to withdraw from Africa, however, several other matters would still affect the negotiation of normal diplomatic and trade relations with the United States.

The matter of claims for compensation for U.S. property confiscated in the early days of the Castro revolution remains to be settled. Nearly 1,000 U.S. firms have more than \$1.8 billion in claims certified against the Cuban government. With interest, the claims probably amount to a whopping \$3.5 billion.

The Cuban government argues that monetary compensation presents a more complicated issue than simply claims against Cuba. Castro has calculated that the U.S. trade embargo has caused Cuban losses in excess of \$6 billion. Cuba also claims damages resulting from the U.S.-sponsored and -directed invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

Given the current impasse in U.S.-Cuba relations, neither country's leaders are in the mood for compromise. Castro has tried to warm up relations with the U.S. by releasing a few political prisoners.

OURS

Morrisette, yes

Springfield district voters clearly have a superior choice in Bill Morrisette for Lane County Commissioner.

Morrisette, a social studies teacher with a master's of education degree from the University, would bring badly needed qualities to the board of commissioners.

These include moderate but progressive attitudes toward land-use planning and the need to balance environmental needs with economic growth.

Morrisette has had good practical experience during recent membership on the Springfield Budget Committee, the Lane County of Governments Advisory Committee on Economic Development and the Oregon Citizen Advisory Committee on Local Corrections.

His opponent, Vance Freeman, a former mayor and councilor, represents the kind of decision-making that created Springfield's inadequate control of growth and a general resistance to innovation there.

We urge you to support Morrisette for county commissioner.

West Lane: None

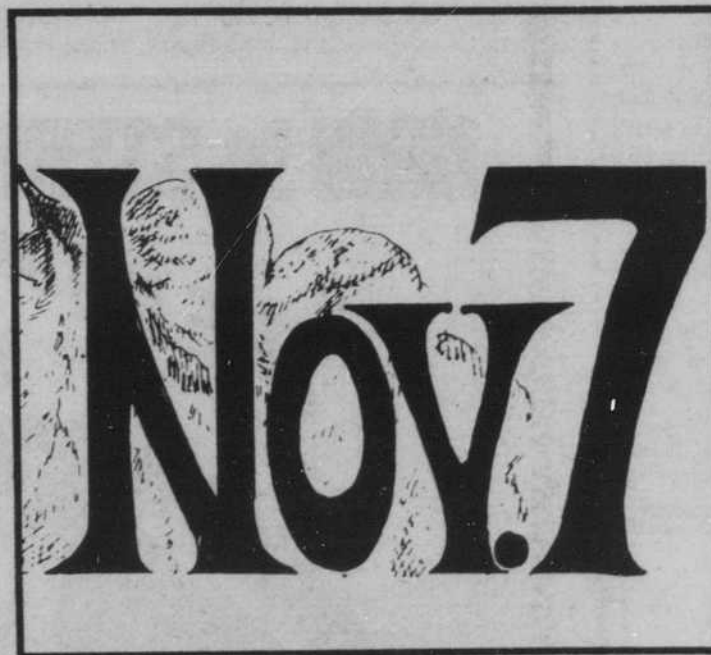
We find ourselves unable to urge voters to support either Ed Reindl or Harold Rutherford in the race for West Lane County Commissioner.

Both candidates are conservative in the mold of Lane County Commissioner Archie Weinstein. Their style may appear less outlandish but their votes will end up much the same as Weinstein's.

The fact that one of these two conservatives will be elected to the commission leads us to hope that at least one of the progressive candidates in either East Lane or Springfield districts will win.

The prospect of a narrow-minded Lane County Commission is not terribly attractive.

West Lane residents should indicate their dissatisfaction with the lack of a true choice in this race and vote for neither candidate.



Haws has served Bethel well

In his first four-year term on the Eugene City Council, Eric Haws has well represented the interests of Bethel-Danebo Residents.

When he was elected serious inequities existed in the level of city services provided to Bethel-Danebo vis-a-vis other areas of Eugene.

Haws has worked quietly to increase local services such as streets, traffic lights and police and fire protection. And, as his campaign takes pains to point out, he has done so without significantly in-

Elect Bob Smith

We urge Lane County voters to choose Lowell Mayor Bob Smith to represent their district as county commissioner.

During his tenure in municipal government and as a representative to the Lane Council of Governments, Smith has demonstrated a moderate approach to problems facing this area.

Smith holds reasonable views on issues such as land use planning, CETA and county participation in L-COG and is more cognizant than his opponent Otto t'Hooft of the complexities in county government.

We disagree with t'Hooft's views on abolishing the state Land and Conservation and Development Commission as an agency with enforcement powers and with his desire to scale down L-COG.

t'Hooft, we believe, would tend to vote along the lines of present Commissioner Archie Weinstein.

creasing the city budget.

In addition, Haws' re-election will insure a shift in the philosophy of the council to a more progressive viewpoint, because of the replacement of conservative Councilor Tom Williams with liberal Gretchen Miller.

Haws is an individual who votes with his conscience. He generally votes progressively, but he is definitely his own man. We urge his re-election.

YOURS

China report an incomplete story

I was interested to note that in reporting on Barbara Koser, Cindy Wooten, and Jeanine Bennett's panel discussion on their trip to China (ODE, Nov. 2), Jennifer Greenleaf remarked that Chinese women and children need not fear violence since "rape and child abuse are almost unheard of in China." Ms. Greenleaf failed to mention, however, that the panelists also said the Chinese claim homosexuality is unheard of, too: They have no homosexuals in China.

Perhaps 90 per cent of the women and children in China have no fear of violence, but pity the 10 percent unfortunate enough to be homosexual in an environment so repressive it doesn't even admit they exist.

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