

Political analyst cites treaty's problems

By KEITH BERNE
Of the Emerald

One of the most important strategic considerations the United States has in the world today is the implementation and success of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, according to political analyst John Rothmann.

Rothmann, who spoke Monday night before an audience of about 50 people, said the current situation in the Middle East is "the most severe crisis since the Cuban missile crisis, and it is making peace between Egypt and Israel imperative."

Rothmann is a private political consultant who specializes in Soviet and Middle East politics. He was on the Nixon staff until 1970 when he resigned because of policy decision disputes, and worked on the 1976 presidential campaign of U.S. Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho.

The Carter Administration's policy is to form a "fist" in the Middle East that consists of Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Somalia, to maintain the United States' vital link to Arab oil supplies, Rothmann said. Peace and cooperation between Egypt and Israel ensures the stability in the area, and is at the center of that fist, he adds.

Presidential candidates George Bush and U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy have said the only reliable allies in the Middle East currently are Egypt and Israel; both men have cited the possibility of a U.S. military presence in the area, Rothmann said.

"The Sinai military bases which serve as a vital strategic link in terms of America's national security and interests are currently held by Israel,

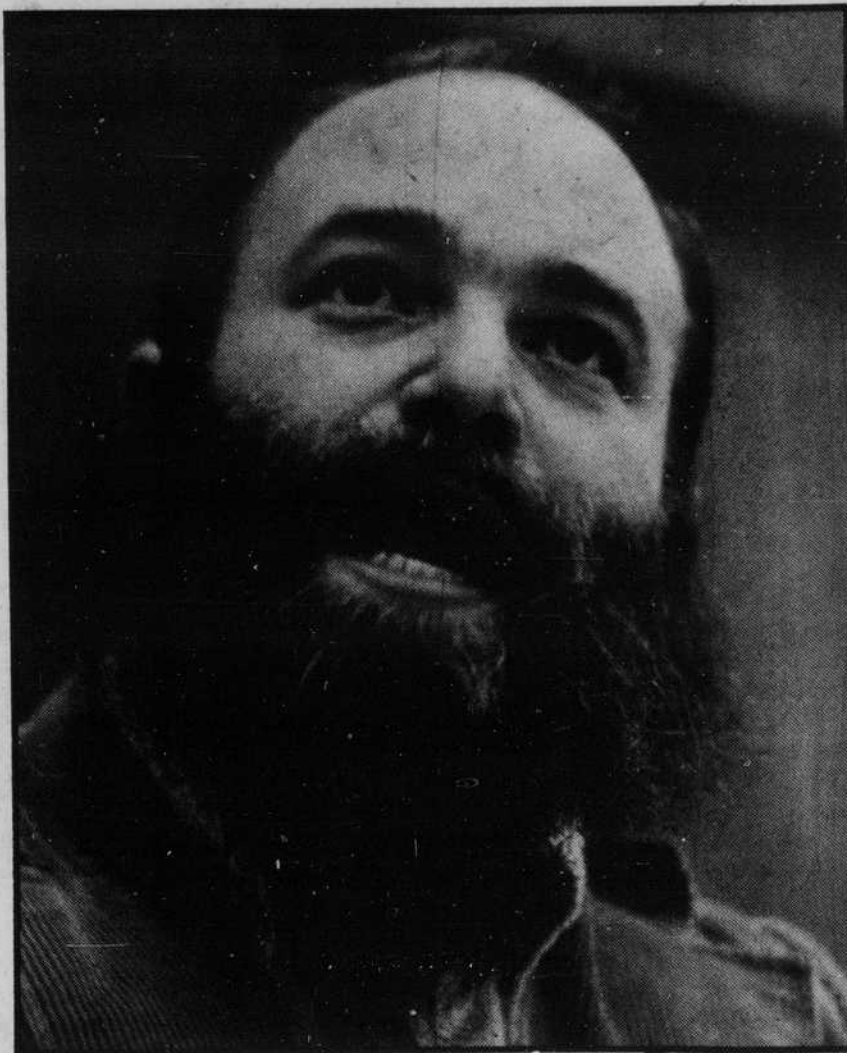
but under the terms of the treaty will be turned over to Egypt by March of 1982," Rothmann said. "Both Egypt and Israel have said we could use the bases in case of an emergency."

Rothmann cited five major obstructions to the success of the treaty. The first is Anwar Sadat's health. If Begin were to die tomorrow, he said, treaty negotiations would continue because Israel is a parliamentary democracy. Egypt, however, is still a dictatorship, Rothmann added. There might be a power struggle between pro-treaty and anti-treaty forces in Egypt upon Sadat's death.

Another major obstruction to the peace process is the Soviet-backed Palestine Liberation Organization, Rothmann said, adding that after the accords were signed, Sadat invited 140 Gaza and West Bank Palestinians to Ishmalia to discuss the treaty. At that time the PLO said any local Palestinians participating in the talks were "traitors to the revolution," and would be sentenced to death, Rothmann said. To date 40 of the 140 who attended the Ishmalia conference have been assassinated, he added.

A third major obstacle is the USSR, Rothmann said. The USSR has criticized the treaty, mainly because their interests were not represented in the treaty's construction.

Rothmann cited both the "so-called moderate" Arab states and the "hard-line" Arab states as the two remaining obstacles to peace. The moderates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, are unstable and unreliable, he said, adding that the hard-liners, such as Syria, Iraq and South Yemen, are usually Soviet-backed and unapproachable.



John Rothmann

Photo by Joe Schnabel

Nader

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public interest group, Nader stressed, pointing out that Oregon formed the first student public interest research group in the country about 10 years ago. Now there are 23.

The New York PIRG has succeeded in getting a "truth in testing" bill passed, and it has a \$1 million budget, a full-time staff and its own scientists and researchers, Nader said. And there's no reason Oregon's PIRG can't grow to that level, he added.

"Universities have to be more than just trade schools," Nader said. "They should be an opportunity to give you time and credit to study power in society."

"These are important years in your life - you won't have the opportunity to take risks, to experiment," after graduation, Nader said.

And, he added, "you've got referendum, initiative and recall." Most of the states east of the Mississippi don't have that powerful trio, Nader said.

A plus for Eugene is its "hub of citizen activity," including the powerful consumer, housing and food co-ops, which Nader said are "as American as apple pie."

Co-ops increase citizen bargaining power, Nader said, adding that he is working on an

audience network to gain access to mass media.

The network would be a consumer group composed of radio and TV viewers, Nader said. One hour of prime time daily would be devoted to the consumer network, which would put on the kind of programs "either taboo to advertisers, or alternative program ideas beyond the imagination of a few network executives."

Nader also reported that a national consumer cooperative bank is being established in Washington. The bank will provide a constant source of credit and technical assistance to help all kinds of cooperatives, including student co-ops, get underway or expand, Nader said.

After blasting energy waste and the oil companies, Nader praised solar energy's potential, saying, "This is gonna be the world's greatest industry."

Solar collectors are not likely to be stolen or diverted like uranium could be, Nader said.

And solar energy requires no evacuation plans, as do nuclear plants, Nader said.

"The government finally admitted in 1979 it can't evacuate the area near Indian Point, N.Y.," Nader said. "Any cab

driver could've told you that 15 years ago."

Privately, General Electric wants to get out of the nuclear business, Nader said. When the company told then-energy secretary Arthur Schlesinger of its wishes, he said, "Don't - that would start a domino."

Solar energy has everything going for it, Nader said. It can't be compartmentalized - "even Exxon can't create an eclipse" - and it enables people to bypass the utility and oil company, Nader said. "You have the potential to create your own energy."

Nader said he would leave in the University library a list of periodicals of citizen interest groups, including addresses for students interested in becoming summer interns.

Nader's speech concluded the ASUO's "Surviving the '80s" conference.

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