

Editorial

Secret arms deal cripples diplomacy

The recent revelations about the Reagan administration secretly shipping arms to Iran reveal more than hypocrisy in the administration's policy toward terrorism. The shipments represent a severe threat to U.S. efforts to secure peace and an end to terrorism in the Middle East.

The shipments to Iran are apparently part of an 18-month program to persuade moderate officials there to put pressure on the pro-Iranian group Islamic Jihad, which recently released David Jacobsen and claims to hold two other Americans hostage.

Most officials who have revealed information about the shipments agree that the administration's intent was the release of the hostages rather than broader diplomatic aims. Indeed, the shipments appear to have been effective in gaining the release of the three hostages set free in Beirut so far.

However, the administration correctly has been repeatedly condemning negotiations with terrorists or nations that support or sponsor terrorism.

The hypocrisy of this stand in light of the shipments is minor compared to the threat the shipments pose to Americans abroad and people caught in the war between Iran and Iraq.

By using the shipments to secure the release of the hostages, the administration has not only supported the Iran-Iraq war, but they have provided a reason for pro-Iranian terrorist groups to continue to capture and hold American hostages.

The Iranian government only implicates itself in the terrorism by exerting its influence on the groups only as part of arms deals. Dealing with nations that sponsor or support terrorism is essentially the same as dealing with the terrorists themselves.

Besides supporting the war and terrorist activities in general, the shipments also weaken U.S. credibility and negotiating ability in the Middle East.

In October, Secretary of State George Shultz spoke to a group of Arab foreign ministers, stressing the importance of ceasing arms sales to Iran. He highlighted the United States' role in halting the shipment of arms to Iran.

Shultz has been outspoken about his stance of not negotiating with terrorists; he has been particularly vocal in the Arab community.

Similarly, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger recently urged Chinese leaders in Peking to stop sending arms to Iran.

The shipments have undermined both U.S. credibility, that of Shultz in particular, and the policy's intent. As one state department official said recently, "We're going to have a tough time for a while explaining what happened."

Thus, the United States has lost what it needs most desperately in the strife-torn Middle East — diplomatic strength.

Like his decision to send troops to Lebanon to keep peace in the embattled Beirut, Reagan's move was a short-sighted and inappropriate response to a very serious and wide-ranging problem.

In the short term, the program may result in the release of further hostages, but at the expense of a prolongation of the Iran-Iraq war and possibly Shultz's resignation. In the long term, it may result in an escalation of terrorist activities.

The net effect has not been to strengthen the U.S. position in seeking the release of American hostages now and in the future but to weaken it drastically.



Letters

Internships

There seems to be a misunderstanding on campus about the process by which a University student can work in the 1987 Oregon State Legislature. Every two years roughly 40 to 60 students get academic credit for working with state senators, representatives or specific committees. Their commitments range from full-time work as legislative aides to part-time research assistants.

What seems to be at issue is the process by which one can become an intern. All students must go through a single process of application administered by the Field Office in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management for a Legislative Internship.

The uniformity of process exists because of University students' status as representatives of the State System of Higher Education in a situation where issues concerning higher education are decided. It also enables the University to maintain its responsibilities to its off-campus students in a more professional manner.

For those who wish for further clarification on this issue or any other concerning the nature of the Legislative Intern Program or individual eligibility, I

or the faculty member responsible for the program, Carol Johansen, would be happy to meet with you.

The past experience for the majority of participants has been extremely rewarding, and it has in a number of cases even lead to full-time employment. It would be very satisfying to see this tradition continue.

Gregory Rikhoff
PPPM GTF

Morality first

The researchers and biology students who believe what they are doing overrides any consideration for the rights of animals illustrate their arrogance.

I don't think the question is whether animal rights people are intelligent enough to understand biology. I think perhaps a sufficient number of animal rights people are as intelligent as the researchers and biology students who experiment on animals.

I believe the question is whether the research science people are moral and sensitive enough to clearly see what they are doing behind the mystique of "science." How many countless animals have been tortured and sacrificed to satisfy their curiosity and, of course, to supply them with taxpayers' money to further their careers?

I think ultimately on Judgment Day it may be more important to have been a moral animal rights person than an intelligent researcher who has blotted out the lives of animals.

Ruth Bryant
Eugene

Energy waste

How unfortunate that Mr. O'Renck is so enamored of his own "facts" that with all his college degrees he missed my main point, which was not that we need Trojan, but that Oregonians waste energy. Trojan (and worse) will be with us as long as we refuse to conserve.

My solar energy comment referred to its not being a viable commercial option in the Willamette Valley for electrical generation, which it is not due precisely to our lack of sunlight.

As to the private use of solar energy, the great majority of Oregonians can't afford to have new homes designed and built; unless someone like Mr. O'Renck is willing to subsidize a mass conversion of existing structures, private solar homes will remain an ostentatious luxury of affluent pseudo-liberals.

As to risks: Years of study in electrical engineering and work in a solar cell laboratory have taught me that manufacturing solar cells involves some of the most toxic chemicals known to man — used in high pressure systems that are subject to spectacular failures from time to time.

Personally I am far more concerned with the uncontrolled release of low-level radiation and chemical toxins from fossil fuel burning, or Wah Chang's sediment ponds, than I am about the small amount of contained high-level waste stored at the Trojan site.

Hiawatha
Graduate, music

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