

Iran/Iraq truce needs enforcement

The U.N. Security Council's decision ordering a cease-fire in the seven-year war between Iran and Iraq Tuesday is a bold and direct statement that should be enforced.

Although no enforcement provisions were established in the resolution, the unanimous decision calls for a cease-fire, withdrawal of forces and an exchange of prisoners of war. If the two countries do not take steps to end the war, then a worldwide arms embargo resolution will be considered.

It is unlikely Iran or Iraq will comply to the resolution — Iran's president already has called the resolution "worthless." But by recognizing the war and the arms sales problem, the United Nations have provided international pressure to end the fighting.

These intentions must be followed. Many countries profit from the sale of arms to both Iran and Iraq, therefore encouraging continued fighting. All countries must be encouraged to stop dealing with Iran and Iraq. This resolution should not become a meaningless symbolic gesture because of the heavy trading.

The United States was a major force behind the decision. But the Reagan Administration has benefited from secret arms sales to Iran and, by protecting Kuwaiti oil ships, has aligned itself with Iraq.

Our support of the resolution has been criticized as a political move to overshadow this hypocrisy. We should not hesitate to support an arms embargo and encourage other countries to follow our lead.

The United Nations cannot enforce this resolution without the full support of everyone involved. With our influence in the United Nations, we can provide the support needed and the resolution can become more than words on a paper.

Tanker escort service unwarranted in gulf

Kuwaiti oil tankers are being sailed under the U.S. flag and escorted by U.S. naval vessels through the troubled waters of the Persian Gulf.

The Reagan Administration has asserted the U.S. presence alongside Kuwaiti tankers is necessary to prevent Iran from interrupting the freedom of navigation in the strife-torn region.

The reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag, however, is unwarranted with regard to the justification articulated by the Reagan administration.

The United States imports only about six percent of its oil from the Persian Gulf. Thus, in relation to the amount of oil imported from the gulf, the U.S. government is footing the bill for the protection of oil transshipments to other nations, particularly Japan and Europe, which import 54 and 30 percent of their oil from the gulf, respectively.

The administration's escort service also is politically imprudent.

Because Kuwait is allied with Iraq, reflagging changes the United States from being neutral in the war to being aligned indirectly with Iraq. Iran may perceive this shift in political status as a hostile move, increasing the possibility of an armed confrontation between Iran and the United States.

Furthermore, the informal change from neutral status to alliance with Iraq vis-a-vis Kuwait will damage future diplomatic relations with the Iranians.

Rather than police the Persian gulf with U.S. military force, the Reagan Administration should establish a collective, international peacekeeping force with other nations to ensure freedom of navigation for oil tankers.



Commentary

Threats aimed at Salvadoran critics

The recent kidnappings in Los Angeles of two Central American political activists, and revelations of death threats against 17 other refugees and two U.S. citizens, indicate the notorious death squads of El Salvador are operating inside the United States.

Commentary by
Scott Harding

Moreover, the attacks appear to be the result of collaboration between the Reagan administration — through the FBI — and the National Guard in El Salvador, in an effort to silence opponents of the war and U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

On July 7, a 24-year-old member of a Salvadoran women's organization was kidnapped at knifepoint by two men she described as having Salvadoran accents. Blindfolded for the next six hours, the woman repeatedly was raped with a stick, tortured and questioned about her political activities and knowledge of members of the Los Angeles chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

When she refused to answer any questions, her abductors assaulted her in a manner similar to the techniques employed by El Salvador's death squads. A doctor who ex-

amined the woman said her wounds were "very similar to the other victims of torture in El Salvador and Guatemala who I have examined previously." After debating whether to kill her, the two men told their victim the attack would serve as a warning to others they had targeted.

Six days later, another Salvadoran woman found a letter in her mailbox threatening her life and that of 19 others, all of whom are active members of Salvadoran solidarity organizations in the United States. Marta Alicia Riveria described the letter as similar to written death threats she received in El Salvador prior to her 1979 arrest and torture by the Salvadoran National Guard.

Last Saturday, two masked gunmen with Salvadoran accents abducted a Guatemalan woman who works with Salvadoran support groups at a Los Angeles bus stop. The two never harmed the woman physically, but instead threatened future attacks.

Combined with a series of threatening letters, phone calls and vandalizing of cars, a distinct pattern of violence and intimidation against Central American political refugees and support groups has emerged in recent weeks. Indeed, the series of events prompted the FBI last week to begin an investigation into the crimes.

While the FBI investigation indicates the seriousness of the crimes, the agency's involvement may be like letting the fox watch the henhouse. Just as COINTELPRO, the FBI's domestic spying operation, infiltrated and intimidated the Black Panthers and anti-war organizations in the 1960s and 1970s, the FBI recently has targeted CISPES and other domestic groups opposed to the Reagan administration's Central American policies.

On March 7, 1983, the Department of Justice established new guidelines on domestic surveillance and investigation by the FBI of political groups. The new policy allows for the

infiltration of certain organizations for the purpose of influencing their activities. According to Freedom Of Information Act requests filed by CISPES, the FBI has at least 17 volumes of files on CISPES, while more than 20 chapters of the group have been or are under investigation.

Last February, Frank Varelli, a paid FBI informant who infiltrated the Dallas CISPES chapter from 1981 to 1984, further elaborated on the FBI's domestic spying activities before the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

In the course of his testimony, and in subsequent interviews, Varelli exposed a reciprocal relationship between the FBI and the National Guard and National Police of El Salvador. Both organizations are known to have participated repeatedly in death-squad activities.

In an elaborate exchange of information, Varelli supplied the Guard with the names of Salvadoran "opponents" who were to be deported from the United States to El Salvador.

Another purpose of the relationship, according to Varelli, was that "the Guard, the National Police, or the death squads from El Salvador were interested in gathering intelligence, gathering information on where or who was opposing the aid to El Salvador so they can carry on activities" in the United States. Varelli cited "bombing, arson" and other crimes that right-wing Salvadorans and members of the National Guard were prepared to commit against individuals or groups opposed to U.S. policy in El Salvador.

It would appear from the recent events in Los Angeles that these activities are now underway. Varelli's testimony points to probable U.S. complicity. As shown by the Iran-Contra hearings, the Reagan administration is intent on using the most ruthless means in its quest to eliminate critics of its Central American policy, both at home and abroad.

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