

EDITORIAL

Vietnam embargo just hasn't worked

As the pages of the New World Order textbook continue to be turned, yet another Cold War adversary has been fully welcomed into the Western economic fold.

President Clinton's decision last week to lift this country's 19-year trade embargo against Vietnam represents a win-win situation for both countries, with little to lose and billions of dollars to gain.

The biggest concern about ending the embargo has been voiced by veterans groups and the families of MIAs, who are worried that without the embargo there will be little incentive for Vietnam to turn over or search for the remains of American servicemen still missing in action. Some 2,232 MIAs are still unaccounted for in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

But in the nearly 20 years since the embargo was put into effect, only 250 MIAs' remains have been returned. And while the embargo may have helped encourage the Vietnamese government to cooperate in finding that 250, it certainly did not have it over a barrel.

Vietnam was not, and still is not, desperate for American trade. For most of the embargo, Vietnam could count on trade with its Communist bloc allies enough to sustain the country, even if it wasn't sufficient to allow much growth.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, Vietnam may have lost one ally but it gained several more. Europe and Japan have since begun trading vigorously with Vietnam, so at no time has the country been seriously crippled by a lack of American trade. But American companies have been losing out all along.

Embargoes are rarely an effective means of bringing about political aims. The United States has maintained an embargo against neighboring Cuba for over three decades with nary a dent to that nation's political structure (it's even led by the same guy after all these years.) And Cuba, because of its geographic location, loses much more as a result of a U.S. embargo than Vietnam ever did.

The only way for an embargo to be truly effective is if all (or virtually all) the nations of the world agree to participate in it. The embargo against Iraq that coincided with the Gulf War was such an embargo and it did have severe economic effects on that country. But even those effects did not succeed in bringing about political change.

The United States gave the embargo chances to work... 19 years' worth of chances. All the U.S. got in return was a tenth of the MIAs still missing in Vietnam and billions of dollars in lost business.

Trading with Vietnam is not a validation of Vietnam's political organization or its government. It is a recognition of reality. The embargo was accomplishing next to nothing, and it was time for it to go.

The U.S. gave the embargo chances to work... 19 years' worth of chances.



LETTERS

Discrepancy

On Jan. 27 the *Emerald* ran an article about how the House voted on a resolution urging Clinton on his meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to seek reparations for a Jewish survivor of Nazi atrocities.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of Muslim Bosnian victims of the ongoing holocaust in the former Yugoslavia could have and still can be saved had the same House voted on a similar resolution (on the lines "never again") to put a decisive end to the Serb and Croat barbarity and genocide. And speaking of reparations, why has the Israeli government been acquitted of having to pay reparation to the 700,000 Palestinians (now numbering the millions) who, following the war in 1948, lost their homes and land to Zionist settlers?

Clearly, there is a widening asymmetry with regards to human rights in the civilized Western nations, e.g. Muslim lives less valuable than others.

In an effort to eliminate this dangerous discrepancy, today the Muslim Student Association is sponsoring a talk titled "The Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process: Strategy for Peace or Tactic for War" from 3 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. The elected Imam (spiritual and prayer leader) of the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., Mohammad Al-Asi, will present an analysis of the PLO-Israeli Agreement and what it means for its signatories. We encourage the University campus and Eugene communities to attend this talk so that we may all help further the cause of humanity.

Hanan Ranahi
MSA

you can even fool yourselves, but you can't fool us and you can't fool destiny. The sweet smell of romance is in the air and the sound of wedding bells can't help but follow. Submit to your fates and to your feelings for each other, for our sake, if not your own. There lies your path to happiness and love.

Fred O. Roellig
Peer Advising

Fighters

People who fought for their homeland against occupational colonialism were considered freedom fighters and were treated with respect throughout history. However, when Palestinians want to stand up to free their homeland, why are they called terrorists?

Palestines are not for war. They are for peace. Unfortunately, there is no peace if Palestinians are not allowed to exist and to have their own state. If you live by a river, you teach your children how to swim; not just because swimming is good, but because you do not want your children to drown. We teach our children because we want them to survive. As the children who live close to the river learn to swim, the Palestinian children need to know how to stand up for their rights.

Currently, Israel receives more than one half of all U.S. foreign aid annually. The horrifying result of U.S. economic, diplomatic and military support of Israel is destruction of Palestinians' homes; however, they cannot crush the Palestinians' spirit. Mothers and fathers are living in daily fear for their children's lives. Many Palestinians have been forced to leave their lands. Those who remain are being denied their basic human rights.

The U.S. government policy of supporting Israel is virtually like issuing death certificates and destruction to Palestinians.

Peace starts with the justice. What do we live for, if it is not for peace and justice? Peace is possible if we try to bring the truth of the Palestine struggle to the world, despite all roadblocks. I am convinced that truth and the will of Palestine will surmount all obstacles.

Ali Keyhonfard
Eugene

Watchdog

Edward Klopfenstein's incisive expose (*ODE*, Jan. 27) of the invidious racism to be found "even in the University's own slide collection" did not go nearly far enough in its sensational revelations.

Not only does "Jap" appear as part of the call number for every Japanese slide, but many other derogatory terms are routinely used, as well, such "Chi" for China, "Rus" for Russia, "Ger" for Germany, and even "Mex" for Mexico! Klopfenstein is to be commended for being the first investigative journalist to call attention to this pattern; let the University community heed his call that something be done about this kudos to the watchdogs of the press.

Charles Lachman
Art History

Ball-caps

Last term, 87 percent of the students on campus with ball-caps were wearing them backward. This term, only 5 percent are wearing them backward. Who says college education doesn't have an effect?

Douglas Hintzman
Psychology Professor

Destiny

It's obvious to all *Emerald* readers who have ever seen *Moonlighting* or anyone of a number of Doris Day and Rock Hudson movies, that Lia Salciccia and the So. Cal. man are made for each other.

You two can fool each other,

LETTERS

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

Emerald

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