

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Make foreign policy consistent

Another example of the double standard and hypocrisy of the Reagan Administration's foreign policy is its interoretation and perception of actions toward Nicaragua and South Africa.

How can demands for democratic reform be stressed for Nicaragua while South Africa's blatant sidesteps of democratic rule is excused?

Why did the Reagan Administration criticize Nicaragua's elections, where more than 50 percent of all Nicaraguans voted the current government in power, while remaining mute and apologetic on South Africa's elections that excluded 85 percent of the electorate?

What gives the Reagan Administration the right to become Nicaragua's border and immigration officers as they condemn the presence of Cuban and Soviet advisers while they dabble in Third World countries without hesitation?

When does a group's confrontation challenge to their government cause the Reagan Administration to classify them as "guerrillas" as in the case of the African National Congress, while praising Nicaraguan's anti-Sandinista as "Freedom Fighters"?

There is no consistency in Reagan's foreign policy, but there is plenty of exploitation, racism and imperialism. Everything was fine in Central America as long as American multi-nationals and a few Central American families controlled the wealth. But when the people fought against economic oppression and social stagnation,

Americans were told of an impending Communist threat.

The truth of the matter is, it makes no difference to a family farmer who shows him or her how to plant corn. The only concern is feeding, sheltering and providing for their families. The reality of what one group of elderly white males (Reagan's cabinet) will offer Nicaragua is no different from what another group of elderly white males (Russia) will provide.

The only difference is choice. The majority of Nicaraguans chose the present form of government and humanity demands that all human beings be given the right of self-determination. The Reagan Administration is violating this right.

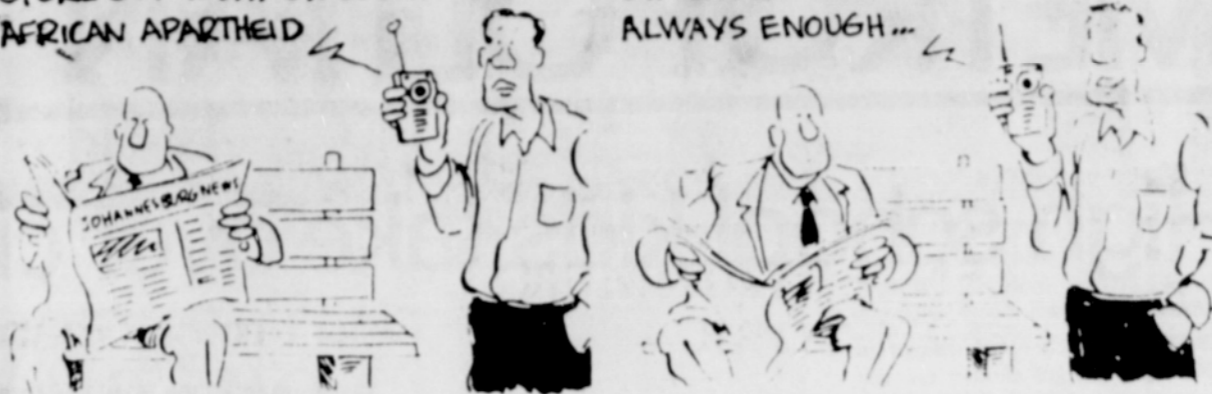
They even re-wrote the rules to accommodate their narrowness by removing their actions from the jurisdictions of the World Court because Nicaragua called for accountability over this administration's financial support and guidance in the bombing of her harbors.

As taxpayers, we should demand consistency in foreign policy application. We should question why the Reagan Administration wants to spend our tax dollars to overthrow Nicaragua, while protecting the racism of South Africa by voting 'no' on United Nation's resolutions to boycott goods and services to a country ruled by those who stole and raped her.

The mentality and implementation of Reagan's foreign policies places our tax dollars on a peculiar side — the wrong one.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SPOKE OUT TODAY ON SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID

RONALD REAGAN SAID THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY WAS NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH...



AND HE DIRECTED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS —

TSK, TSK



Israel linked to South Africa

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable



South Africa is not simply a police state which denies democratic rights to the overwhelming majority of its people. It is not just a racially segregated society, in which 3 million Black children suffer from malnutrition, and in which infant mortality rates per thousand live births are 13 for whites and 90 for Africans. It is not solely a place where percapita spending on education is \$1,115 for whites and \$170 for Blacks; and where doctor/patient ratios are 1:330 for whites and 1:19,000 for Africans. It represents in its totality a renegade, fascist state, a government lacking in basic human decency, a regime which views all people of color as permanently inferior. Its grotesque character and Hitlerian social system would hardly seem the place in which historically oppressed people would find any reason to cooperate, much less gain profits from.

And yet the great irony is that the one nation which maintain the closest ties with the political economy of apartheid, other than the U.S. and the United Kingdom, is the state of Israel. The February, 1985 issue of *Israeli Foreign Affairs* documents an extraordinarily close relationship between Tel Aviv and Pretoria. Jane Hunter, a Jewish progressive, notes that Israel's claim of \$83 million in exports to South Africa does not include "polished diamonds, Israel's top export at \$1 billion a year, which are imported from DeBeer's Central Selling Organization"; "military transactions, probably several hundred million dollars annually"; joint undertakings such as Iskoor, "a marriage of the South African Steel Corporation and Koor, a corporation owned by Israel's Histadrut that conducts much trade with South Africa." Conversely,

South African firms provide 35 percent of all non-U.S. foreign investment in Israel.

The military links between Israel and apartheid are even more striking according to Hunter. South Africa has purchased Israeli attack boats "equipped with ship-to-ship Gabriel missiles, Dabur Coastal patrol boats and Kfir jet fighters, radar stations, electronic fences, infiltration alarm systems, night vision apparatus." South Africa is instrumental in the defense posture of the Israeli state as well. Apartheid firms help Israel to improve its own modest steel industry; they are helping to bankroll "development of Israel's fighter bomber for the 1990's, the Lavi." Such extensive ties help to explain why some American Jewish leaders were reluctant to become involved in the Free South Africa Movement demonstrations this winter. But the fact that "Israelis have trained South Africans in everything from naval construction to counterinsurgency techniques" must be addressed by Americans who maintain unquestioned support for Israeli's policies, while at the same moment offer moral condemnations of the brutalities of the apartheid regime.

Black Americans are not immune from criticism on these grounds. For nearly a decade, the Reverend Leon Sullivan has pushed the so-called "Sullivan Principles" concept, which sets racial standards for U.S. firms doing business with apartheid. In theory, the signatories of the Sullivan Principles attempt to humanize the barbarism of the system by promoting desegregated workplace facilities, mandated equal pay for jobs, and training nonwhites for "supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical

jobs." But according to Sullivan's own annual reports, progress along such lines is at best marginal. In the 1983 report, it was noted that white employees filled 94 percent of all new managerial posts, and that non-white workers "lost ground steadily in clerical-administrative programs over the last three years." About three fourths of all unskilled workers in firms signing the Sullivan Principles were Africans, while only 0.3 percent were white. Two percent of all managers were Black, 97 percent were white. Clearly, the strategy of reform-from-within makes about as much sense as trying to convince Hitler passively to give up fascism.

There are also hundreds of Afro-American artists and athletes who have performed in South Africa during the past decade, obtaining huge fees to entertain white audiences. Their presence legitimates the regime, providing tactical support and comfort to the opponents of Black freedom. Just a short list of these entertainers includes: Aretha Franklin, Eartha Kitt, Johnny Mathis, Stephanie Mills, Della Reese, Betty Wright, the Staple Singers, Ray Charles, and Nikki Giovanni. Throughout the U.S., Blacks have organized to boycott the performances and records of all artists — Black and white — who have profited from apartheid. The system of tyranny in South Africa is crumbling, and within the next decade will fall before the forces of democracy. What we do inside the U.S. can speed up that inevitable process.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.

New Zealand's refusal to grant port access to American ships who may carry nuclear weapons made national headlines last week. The Street Beat team asked, "Should one country have the right to refuse another country's ships who may be carrying nuclear weapons?"

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard J. Brown



Linda Tryner
Housewife

"Yes. Countries have the right to protect their own."



Lawrence Parker
Custodian

"Yes, nuclear weapons are dangerous. A country has the right to deny access."



Willie Myers
Retired

"No. Equal access to all ships."



Randy Laws
Driver

"Yes, under certain situations, but not if that country is an ally."



Clarence Severson
Press Operator

"That depends on if that country is an ally. If they are, they should let the ships enter. But the other country should tell them if they are carrying nuclear weapons."



James Carter
Retired

"It should be the other country's choice. I'm against nuclear weapons expanding."

Letters to the Editor

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed or neatly printed and signed with the author's name and address (addresses are not published). We reserve the right to edit for length. Mail to: Portland Observer, P. O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Report strangers

To the Editor,

This is an open letter to the parents in North/Northeast Portland. It has been brought to my attention that a strange man has been hiding in the shrubs around Humboldt School's playground, taking pictures of chil-

dren during recess and when school is dismissed about 2:30 p.m.

He was said to be driving a green pickup and is of light brown complexion or of foreign descent. He has been seen on two different occasions. The last time he had another man with him and was wearing a mailman's uniform.

These two incidents happened after the TV airing of the Atlanta children's murders. I feared this kind of thing would happen. We do have a lot of mentally deranged people out there who would use this kind of movie to imitate such a thing.

The Humboldt staff and parents have met to discuss the issue. The

school district security is aware of this. The police department has been informed. But we parents living outside of the Humboldt area are unaware of this. It could happen at other schools.

If you have small children, you cannot use too much caution to protect your children. Don't let them play outside too late. Talk to them about strangers. If possible, walk the little ones to and from school for a while. Most of all, know where your children are at all times. Be alert and concerned now, and don't wait until a tragedy happens. It will be too late to help them then.

VESIN D. LOVING

Portland Observer



The Portland Observer (USPS 959-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217, Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

The Portland Observer was established in 1970.

Subscriptions: \$15.00 per year in the Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P. O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

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