

# Toughness could stop 'blunders'

KRAUTHAMMER from Page 4

So Soviet Objective No. 1, to get Zakharov out of the hands of his interrogators, already has been achieved. Likewise Objective No. 2, to establish that the Soviets can create instant human bargaining chips by grabbing an American at will. Which achieves Objective No. 3, immunity for Soviet spies. A bonus is Objective No. 4, a pre-summit demonstration of Soviet toughness. Gorbachev shows Reagan that he is willing to risk a summit even for a two-bit spy. If there is going to be a summit, Gorbachev comes in one-up.

What did it cost Gorbachev? A little editorial outrage, which within weeks of any final "arrangement" (Secretary of State Shultz's preferred usage for "deal") will be remembered only by historians. And the presence of Richard Perle, Jeane Kirkpatrick and Robert McFarlane at a Soviet-American people-to-people conference itself nor the presence of the president's top Soviet adviser. Nor any talks with the United States.

The Daniloff "blunder" is only one of many such Western sightings in the communist world. Daniel Ortega, you will recall, was reputed to have shot himself in the foot by going to Moscow in 1985 shortly after Congress had rejected aid to the contras. The result of this "miscalculation"? Congress voted \$27 million in aid for the contras. And Moscow voted Ortega about \$200 million. Stupidity that brings a 7-1 return deserves another man.

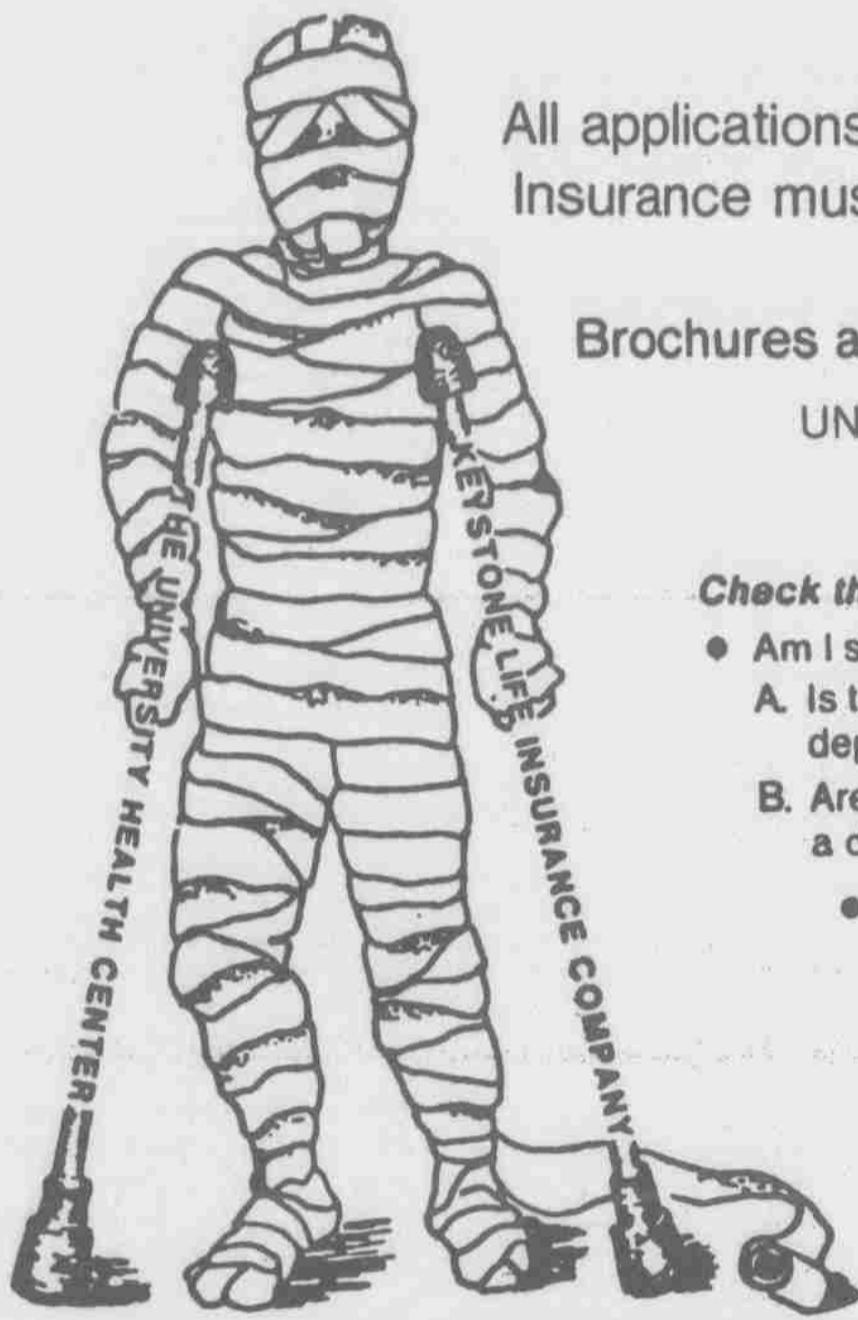
Consider another blunderer. Remember the reaction when Gen. Jaruzelski crushed Solidarity and jailed its leaders? A leading Polish dissident called the crackdown a tactical blunder that would "only strengthen reaction against the government." A broken heart can be forgiven such misjudgments. But more distant observers in the Western press persisted in seeing Jaruzelski's coup as foolish and impossible. How do you crush such a national movement? A Pyrrhic victory, at best. If Jaruzelski were smart, he would offer Solidarity dialogue and accommodation.

Jaruzelski ignored the advice and offered monologue and repression. Pyrrhus would have envied the result. Poland is now so pacified, Solidarity so crushed, that Jaruzelski has just released, at no risk, the last of his political prisoners. The gesture will likely earn him a welcome in Italy and perhaps the Vatican, a papal visit to Poland and soon the reopening of Western credits. Some blunderer.

"Just another blundering American," says Col. Strasser in "Casablanca." "We mustn't underestimate American blundering," responds Capt. Renault. "I was with them when they blundered into Berlin in 1918." In the 43 years since that exchange, it is the Soviets who have blundered into Berlin — and Prague and Warsaw and Kabul and Managua. Last week, they blundered a spy out of a New York jail. Soon they will blunder him back to Moscow.

1986, Washington Post Writers Group Krauthammer is a National Magazine award winner.

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