

Editorial



Good sense calls for U.S. aid to Central America

No one was too surprised when the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America issued its recent report calling for increased military and economic aid to Central America.

Despite accusations that the findings of the commission, led by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, were fixed, the real reasons for its recommendations can be traced to plain old common sense.

According to the Jan. 23 edition of *Newsweek*, the major findings of the report were:

- The intrusion of the Soviet Union and Cuba into local grievances is a serious threat to the United States and the western hemisphere.

- The threat calls for a large monetary response from the United States, including as much as \$8 billion in economic assistance over a five-year period.

- Aid to El Salvador and the rest of Central America should be contingent on their progress in human rights.

It didn't take some congressmen long to find fault with the report. According to *Newsweek*, Rep. Michael Barnes, D-Md., blasted the commission

for recommending only military solutions and ignoring political avenues.

A negotiated settlement in El Salvador would be the best solution, of course.

But surely we have learned our lesson by now. Such a solution will not work. What Barnes and many of his colleagues fail to recognize is that for a peaceful settlement to be reached, both of the superpowers — not just the United States — must end their involvement there.

If, while searching for a political solution to the crisis in El Salvador, we fail to provide the necessary support for those fighting the Soviet-backed leftist rebels, you can bet the Soviets will take advantage of it.

We've seen them do it before — in Cuba, Nicaragua and throughout Eastern Europe — and there is no reason to believe they would not do it again.

The United States has an obligation to itself and the rest of the free world to ensure that El Salvador does not turn into another Moscow puppet. The only way to do that is to see that the Salvadoran government is strong enough to fight off the rebels.

Pentagon's spending game; the price is never too high

Good morning, America! Welcome to *The Prices Are Right* (applause, applause). I'm your host, Boob Barker, and we've got a great show on tap for you today! (Applause, applause.) I won't

your first showcase . . . Announcer: We have here 10 beautifully camouflaged Italian troop transport helicopters! Of vintage design, these whirlybirds can fly at three knots for distances longer than the states of Maryland and Connecticut put together and carry up to 13 Cub Scouts and their canteens. (Ooohs, aahs.)

These choppers are both steam- and petrol-propelled and come complete with coal scoopers. The Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang-Copter package can be yours if the prices are right!

Barker: General Longbottom, you have the decision to play or pass. Which do you choose?

Longbottom: Whew, that's tough, Boob. Could I make a quick strafing run? Ho, ho, ho . . . just kidding. Seriously Boob, if the ball is in my court, I'll pop it. I'll say \$1.1 million.

Boob: Okay, General, don't want these Iranians to get the birds.

Longbottom: That's right, Boob.

Barker: Colonel Starchbritches, it's all up to you now. Are you ready?

Starchbritches: Sure am, Boob — "Be Prepared," right?

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Christopher Burbach
be picking contestants out of the audience today, because this show is a special one — it's our first annual Pentagon Showcase Showdown. (Wild applause, national anthem.) General Longbottom and Colonel Starchbritches, come on down! You're the next contestants on *The Prices Are Right*!

Longbottom: Uh, thank you Boob. Hi mom.

Starchbritches: Howdy, soldier, and congratulations. You're the only person that has ever brought the Pentagon down. (Guffaws, hurrahs, applause.)

Barker: Welcome, gentlemen. Pay close attention now, because here is

Everywhere — an awfully big place

Woodrow Wilson told us there would be times like these:

"There will come a time when America will be surprised to find herself growing old — a crowded country,



strained, perplexed — when she will be obliged to fall back on her conservatism, obliged to pull herself together, adopt a new regimen of life, husband her resources, concentrate her strengths, restrict her vagaries and trust for leadership her best — not her average — members."

The time is now — but how? When the Truman Doctrine was enunciated — to resist all aggression wherever — Vermont Royster was editor of

the *Wall Street Journal*. He remarked then that "wherever is an awfully big place."

Recently retired, Mr. Royster has been traveling wherever. Here is the essence of this experienced observer's rationale:

The Truman Doctrine made such faraway nations as Greece and Turkey "our business." We went there and put out the fires.

Then Korea — where we had to settle for half a victory.

Then Vietnam — where we had to settle for defeat.

Today in Europe we are maintaining 200,000 Army troops, 2,500 Marines and a thousand combat aircraft.

In surrounding waters, 45,000 Navy personnel.

Everywhere is indeed an awfully big place.

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Campus Quotes

Should Nebraska's drinking age be raised to 21?



Dan Bender
senior
news-editorial
journalism

"I'm gonna vote for it. I have no illusions, however, that it will bring down the number of alcohol-related traffic accidents."



Kevin Mallum
freshman
College of
Arts and Sciences

"No, I think it wouldn't make any difference. It's stupid, I mean, one year and you'd be able to drink anyway."



Kay Hinn
senior
engineering

"No it shouldn't. I'm second vice president of ASUN and we've just recently passed a bill and we're also sending letters to the Legislature against it. Unless the rest of the U.S. raises to 21, it won't do Nebraska any good to raise it."



Lila Olson
graduate student
music

"I think I would agree that it needs to be raised due to traffic safety problems of that age group. I think that would be the primary reason."



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Brad Gifford
senior
journalism

"I say no. I think it's fine right where it's at. Twenty-year-olds are about the same age as 31-year-olds. They should be able to make their own decisions."