

Editorial

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Breakthrough Meeting a step towards peace

This week's meeting between Morocco's King Hassan II and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres can't help but be viewed in a positive light. Even though the meeting produced no "substantive" progress, the simple fact that an Israeli prime minister met with a non-Egyptian Arab is significant.

First, Hassan's action helps to solidify Egypt's previous action in beginning a reconciliation with Israel. Now there is at least a group — albeit a small group — of Arabs that are at least talking to Israel. Hopefully this breakthrough will encourage other more moderate Arab states to take similar action and begin a serious drive toward establishing peace in the Middle East.

Additionally, Hassan's position as chairman of the Arab League and president of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference can only encourage Arab states to seriously reflect on taking similar steps.

Laudable as this recent meeting, is, however, Israel could do more to aid the process. After all, at this point Egypt and Morocco have taken serious risk — even personal risk — in pursuing rapprochement while Israel has only benefited and has taken relatively little risk. These Arabs

good-faith actions deserve a substantive *quid pro quo*.

According to press reports, in his meeting with Peres, Hassan was articulating a position toward resolving the Middle East struggle based on a plan adopted by Arab nations at an earlier conference. This plan calls for recognition of Israel and peace in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territory.

Israel rejected the plan when it was first proposed and apparently rejected it again. Evidently the call for Israel to give up east Jerusalem and sit down with the PLO prior to their recognition of Israel's right to exist is still the sticking point.

However, Israel's no-compromise position does an injustice to the bravery evidenced by Morocco and Egypt. The U.S. should encourage Israel in no uncertain terms to at least sit down with the PLO for talks and to at least consider placing east Jerusalem under, say, joint control.

The bottom line is that the U.S. should facilitate the peace process in a more substantive fashion and put a little pressure on Israel for compromise. If it does hopefully it won't take years and years until another Arab state begins to talk with Israel.

Train stopped Governor praised for action

Gov. Bob Kerrey's decision to stop a Union Pacific train carrying nuclear waste Tuesday night should be applauded by the people of Nebraska.

The train was held over in Marysville, Kan., and not allowed to cross the Nebraska border until Kerrey was satisfied that the train's cargo carried no danger to the people of Nebraska.

Kerrey was reportedly upset because the state was not officially notified of the train's planned route through Nebraska.

"This is the first major shipment, and I consider it a significant breach of faith on the part of the federal government," Kerrey told United Press International. "It makes it very difficult for states to feel any assurances that we're going to have any say in this."

While stopping a train might not be the most practical thing in the world to accomplish, the significance of Kerrey's gesture is great. In so many words, Kerrey told the federal government,

specifically the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy, that Nebraska wants to be aware of hazardous material passing through the state.

As Kerrey said, it isn't a problem until an accident occurs involving the nuclear waste. Then, liability for any personal injury or property damage might fall into the lap of the state. That is something Kerrey wants to avoid.

Some might think of Kerrey's decision as simply grandstanding, but, then a motive has to be found. Kerrey isn't running for re-election, so that can't have anything to do with his actions.

Kerrey made the right decision in stopping the train. His major concern in this instance seemed to be the health and well-being of the people of Nebraska that he represents as governor. No fault can ever be found in that.

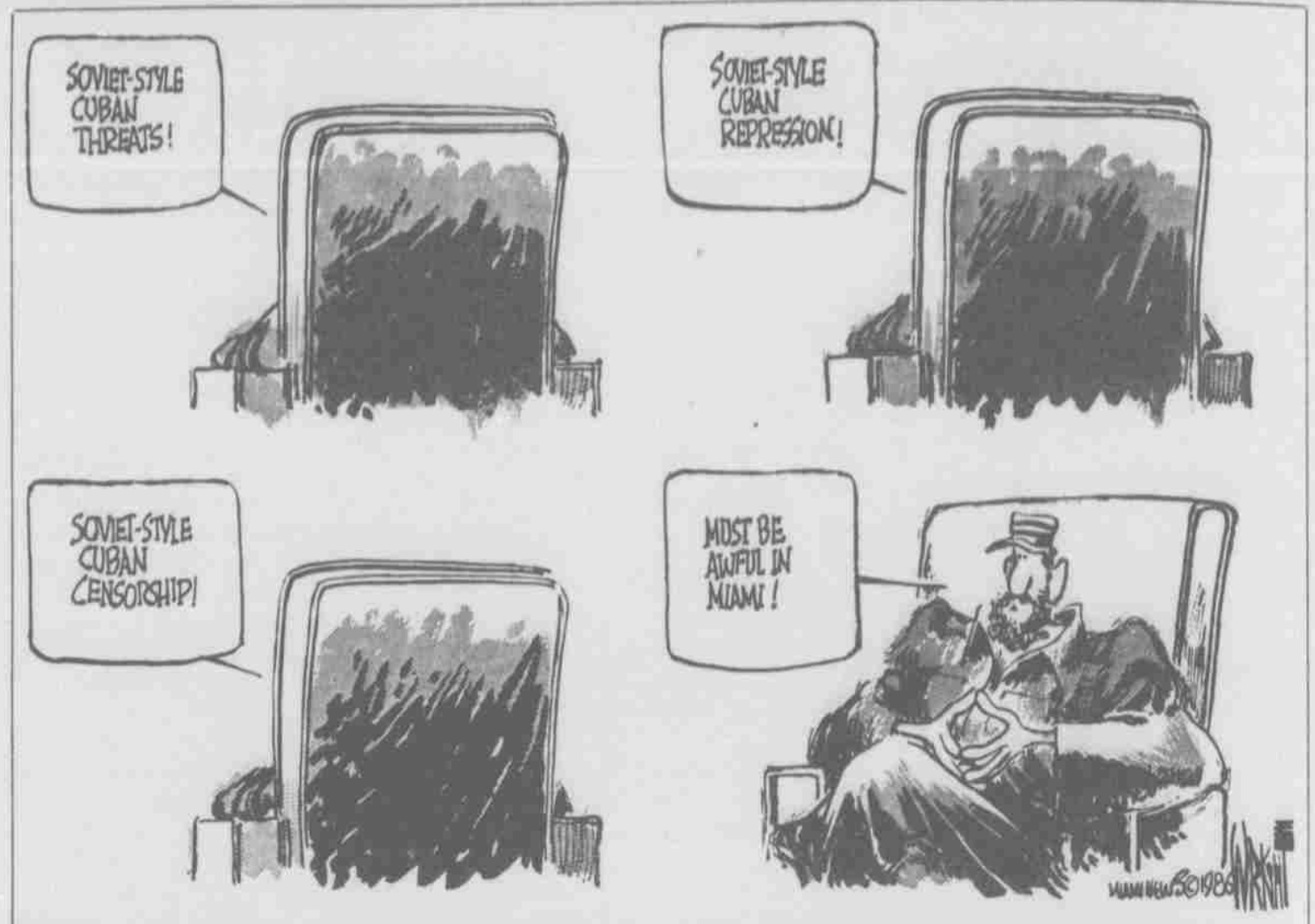
Thanks should go to Kerrey for taking the right stand.

Editorial Policy

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Happy anniversary, Nicaragua

Ortega backed into corner by \$100 million in Washington bullets

The seventh anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution was not exactly the party it should have been. In a nation once run by terror alone, that has managed to reduce national illiteracy from 57% to 12%, build hundreds of health clinics and schools, and redistribute hoarded land to 60,000 landless peasants, the anniversary should have drawn joyful tears of fulfillment from those who participated in the "poet's revolution" seven years earlier along with shouts of hope from the younger generations.

Perhaps it was the anniversary gift from the United States that hushed the crowd in Managua and reduced the Sandinista anthem to a pitiful murmur. The U.S. House of Representatives buckled under the hysterically paranoid pressure of President Reagan and wrapped up a \$100 million aid package to the contra rebels. The package was tied neatly with a ribbon of administration manipulation, invention and lies and came to Managua as a promise of continued war.

The present served to turn Ortega and the Sandinista into what the Reagan administration has erroneously accused them of being for the past seven years.

Ortega is now aligned with the Soviet Union and has resorted to shutting down newspapers and shelving social programs in the interests of defense. But none of this was apparent at the inception of the revolution. The U.S. has finally terrorized the Sandinista into knee-jerk reactions.

Since the Sandinista backed dictator Anastasio Somoza up against the Pacific Ocean on July 17, 1979, the U.S. has sent over \$250 million in aid to the contras. Reagan has dubbed the contras "the moral equivalent of the founding fathers" when in fact the contras are nothing more than upper class landowners, the remains of Somoza's National Guard, criminals and those deposed of their privileges by the revolution.

This unsavory elements scrambled into Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to spread the terrorist tactics in which they were schooled so well by Somoza and the CIA.



Charles
Lieurance

In 1981, Reagan cancelled Nicaraguan credits for the purchase of wheat. That April he cancelled \$15 million in aid leftover from Carter's Nicaraguan aid package. When the Sandinista approached the United States for arms in order to fight off the contras, they were refused by a conservative backlash, possibly confused by our unflagging support of Somoza.

As the facts of U.S. involvement in the bloody, anti-populist Somoza regime surfaced, Reagan tried to make the American people forget Somoza and

concentrate on the idea of the Nicaraguan revolution as a "failed" revolution. Why was it "failed?" Because it now received arms to fight off a well-equipped army of contras from the Soviet Union? Well, at the time of the taking of Managua by Sandinista forces, there was no revolutionary Nicaraguan army. The U.S. refused them aid. Where were they to go to defend the popular coup many had given their lives for?

The Reagan administration has built a complex web of lies around Nicaragua, attempting to prove some kind of International Sandinista conspiracy. All plots, from the polygraphing of contras to reveal infiltrators to the hyperbolized "Honduran invasion" of last spring, have backfired. The FBI has even taken to harassing travellers to and from Nicaragua because they claim Nicaragua is sending its spies abroad.

Meanwhile, as it creates a screen of deception around the Sandinista, the administration has managed to create a Somoza-esque chamber of horrors in El Salvador. Duarte's forces, well-armed by the U.S. and trained by the CIA are bombing, strafing, mortaring and massacring the civilian population of that nation.

So now Ortega is a threat to U.S. interests. Because we have made him so, he is an oppressor. Backed into a corner by a gun loaded with hundreds of millions of dollars in Washington bullets, Ortega is reacting with fear. Do you blame him?

Happy Anniversary, Nicaragua.

Parents fight for religion, against pluralism in educating children

In one way or another, the public schools have always been teaching math to society. It's the schools that tried to find a common denominator for all the fractions of society, to make a whole out of the sum of our children.

This math has been a controversial subject. My own immigrant grandparents, like others, turned their sons over to a school system that was dedicated to wiping the Old World imprint off their young. They were "brainwashed" into becoming Americans.

I do not know how my grandparents felt about this. Probably mixed. But I know that more than once, more than a dozen times, the values taught in my public school, and then in my daughter's, conflicted with what we were taught at home.

My teachers and parents did not always mark the same answers as correct. Homework sometimes included a family debate over the lessons. Out of this conflict, I learned many things. I learned that adults disagree, and

learned how to live in a pluralistic society.

Now in Tennessee, 12 parents are again wrestling with the public-school system for control of the information delivered to their children. This time, in a Greenville courtroom, they have sued to protect their children from textbooks they regard as hostile to their fundamentalist religion.



Ellen
Goodman

The objections these parents raise are easily the stuff of parodies. The parents object to the tale of "Goldilocks" because she is never punished for breaking and entering the bears' house. They object to the dance around the burning wolf in "The Three Little Pigs" because it promotes witchcraft.

On the first day of testimony, Vicki Frost, a mother and central figure in this controversy, was on the stand for hours, cataloging the myriad ways in which the textbooks violated her religious beliefs: pacifism and internationalism, Satanism and humanism. A seventh-grade reader called on children to use their imagination, "the powerful and magical eye inside your head." This, said Frost, was an "occult practice."

But the emotions and the issues behind this trial are not so easy to dismiss. They have come up in controversies over evolution. They will come up again in a similar case in Alabama this fall.

The parents contend that forcing their fundamentalist children to read these textbooks is like forcing a Black Muslim child to read white-supremacist literature. They demand an alternate reading list of religiously "correct" books.

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