

Iran furor could destroy foreign policy

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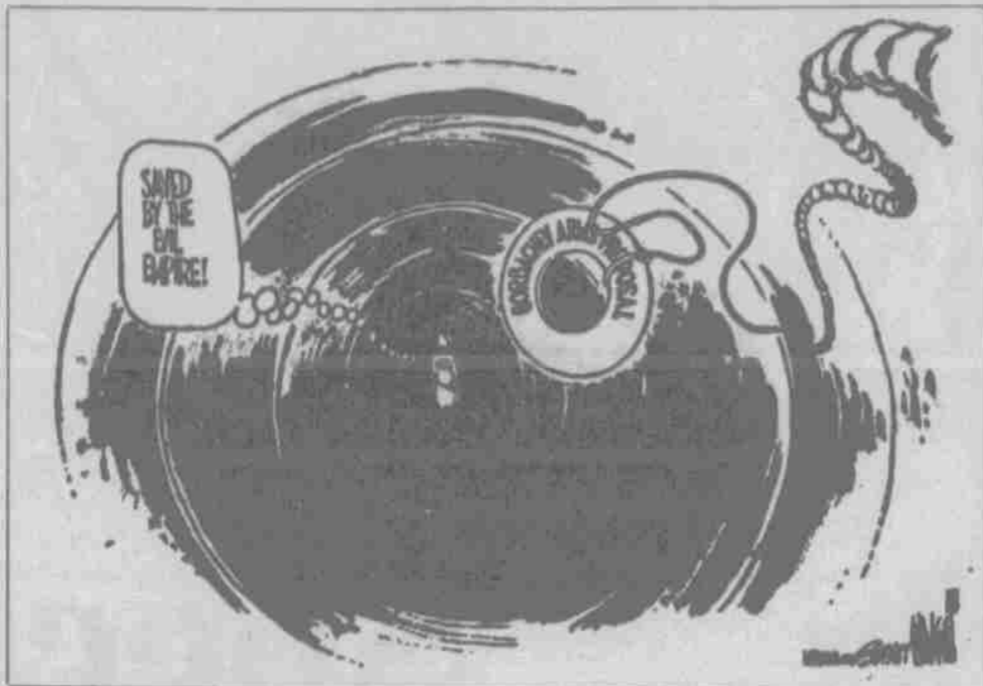
tely called the Truman Doctrine. With it, "containment" was born. The Monroe Doctrine had pledged the United States to keep foreign powers out of the western Hemisphere. The Truman Doctrine pledged the United States to contain Soviet power and preserve freedom wherever it could around the world.

When the speech ended, said a witness, Congress' "applause had a bewildered quality about it." Initial reviews were not all favorable. In the end, however, Truman won. By May 15, the aid was approved by both houses of Congress. The Truman Doctrine saved Greece and Turkey. And coupled on June 5 with the Marshall Plan, it saved the rest of Western Europe.

The Truman Doctrine was the guiding principle of U.S. foreign policy for a generation, until the consensus for containment disintegrated with Vietnam. Several stopgaps were immediately offered as replacements. First was the Nixon Doctrine: relying on friendly regimes to police their regions on our behalf. The great model was the Shah. The Nixon doctrine fell with him.

Then, after the invasion of Afghanistan, the Carter Doctrine promised unilateral American action to defend Western interests in the Persian Gulf. This doctrine died quickly for lack of credibility. The Rapid Deployment Force, sword of the Carter Doctrine, is hardly an instrument for repelling Iranian mullahs, let alone the Soviet Army.

If regional powers prove unstable, and projected American power unreliable, what then? As Joshua Muravchik points out in the winter issue of Foreign Affairs, global containment — the idea of resisting the Soviets everywhere — collapses and gives way to a new American policy vis-a-vis the Soviet Union: selective containment. Some countries the United States will support against Soviet-backed forces. Others



not. In the late '70s, for example, we said no to Angola and yes to El Salvador.

There is one problem with selective containment. Alone, it is a policy of continual retreat. If the Soviets gain a foothold in, say, Angola, they keep it. The Brezhnev Doctrine, enforced by Moscow, pledges that Soviet advances will not be reversed. Selective containment plus the Brezhnev Doctrine means: What's theirs is theirs and what's ours is up for grabs. The fight is always on Western terrain.

The strategic response to this asymmetry has come to be called the Reagan Doctrine. It says that recent Soviet acquisitions at the periphery of empire — Angola, Afghanistan, Nicaragua — are not permanent. They are open to challenge. And we support the challenge. The Reagan Doctrine declares overt (Oliver North take note: overt) American support for anti-communist resistance movements. By declaring Soviet gains reversible, the Reagan Doctrine saves selective containment from being a policy of gradual, but inexorable, retreat. It thus reestablishes an equilibrium — a dynamic equilibrium — in the strategic equa-

tion between the United States and the Soviet Union.

American foreign policy is routinely criticized for its reactive quality, for its air of ad hoc pragmatism. Hence the demand for initiative, strategy, some larger vision of how to deal with the world and with the Soviet challenge. Containment and the Truman Doctrine met that demand exactly 40 years ago. Selective containment and the Reagan doctrine meet it today.

The Reagan Doctrine may, nonetheless, be undone by the Iran affair, by the zealotry of those who acted secretly and perhaps illegally just months before Congress had come to open military support for the major anti-communist insurgencies. Congress, it seems, will have its revenge. If so, those about to defend the Reagan Doctrine might inform us of their alternative strategy for dealing with Soviet advances around the world. Or shall we be content with a policy of gradual retreat? Harry Truman didn't think so.

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Married students find stress relief during workshop, counselor says

By Atsuko Ohara
Staff Reporter

The 3,000 married students who attend UNL are under stress primarily because they don't have enough time to talk to each other, said Sue Bukacek, counseling coordinator in the UNL Student Center 4.

Participants in the Communication Workshop for Married Students have been solving their communication problems by practicing talking and listening skills, she said. Bukacek has been organizing the workshop since 1977.

"For most jobs, you can leave work when you come home," she said, but students have to bring their studies home.

For people who have to study on top of taking care of children and spending time with a spouse, "it's hard to set priorities and to get a balance," she said.

The ages of participants range from 20 to 50 and their problems range from communication problems to consideration of divorce, she said. But "communication is always part of the problem," she said.

A workshop consists of four sessions, one each week. Each session consists of a lecture and talking and listening exercises using topics each couple wants to talk about, she said.

"It is a role playing, but they are using real problems," she said, such as

how they share the housework.

"There has been a definite improvement and also a very positive feeling developed through the time they spend together in the workshop," Bukacek said. When couples spend time together at the workshop, they show that they care about each other, she said.

Husbands and wives may feel good about their spouses studying at the university, Bukacek said, but emotionally they feel "left out" when their spouses are busy with studies every night or are meeting new people and

enjoying new experiences.

Bukacek said couples who can talk about these feelings can get along much better and adjust to different lifestyles.

A workshop usually has less than five couples, which is "a nice number to work with," said Bukacek, who has just finished the February workshop. One workshop began Monday. Another will meet every Tuesday night, beginning March 31. Another workshop will be offered during summer sessions. There is no fee.

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Shorts

● UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale will visit Beatrice, Hastings and Kearney Tuesday to meet with UNL alumni leaders and discuss the Lincoln campus plans for the future.

● Joseph Macek, professor of physics at UNL, has been appointed to serve as a charter member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee. The committee is being formed by Secretary of Energy John S. Herrington to provide periodic reviews of the elements in the department's Basic Energy Sciences program. Macek has been appointed to a one-year term and may be reappointed for up to four additional years.