

Warnings

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influence over the country, Kennedy said.

In the 1950s, the monarchy collapsed and the present regime took control. At that time, Iraq posed a threat to Kuwait, which was still a British protectorate, Kennedy said.

"It didn't start with Saddam," he said.

Another factor in the war is Israel, Ambrosius said.

He said resolutions by the United Nations call for both Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories in the West Bank, Golan Heights and Gaza Strip and for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Ambrosius said the people of Iraq wondered why one resolution was enforced and the other wasn't.

If Israel becomes involved in the war with Iraq, he said, "that could shatter the coalition."

Syria said it would withdraw if Israel were involved, but Egypt said it would stay. But he said he thought Egypt only would remain in the coalition if its president, Hosni Mubarek, stays in power.

Craig MacPhee, economics department chairman and a professor, said not only should the past and present political situation in the Middle East have alerted Western powers of an impending war, but recent economic conditions also should have foreshadowed the conflict.

MacPhee, who wrote a paper on the effects Iraq has suffered from the oil embargo, said Iraq's actions in the past year should have forewarned the allies of its intentions.

He said figures from a few months ago showed that Iraq had been anticipating war and had stockpiled food and extra parts for machinery and vehicles.

"I think it's pretty clear they were planning this for a year," MacPhee said.

During the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, he said, Iraq showed its capability to stockpile huge amounts of food.

Iraq can stockpile one-half of its yearly gross national product and only consume one-third of it, he said. That implies that Western powers can cut the Iraqis off from supplies, MacPhee said, but consumers wouldn't suffer that much.

Because the Iraqi government plays such a big role in Iraq's economy, MacPhee said, the country may have a problem recovering after the war is over.

"I doubt they would be able to repeat Japanese and German miracles unless they have a change of political conditions," he said.

The war also has hit the economy of other countries, MacPhee said.

He said Jordan has had problems getting goods because Iraq borders it on one side and Israel on the other.

"Jordan is pretty dependant on Iraq for goods," he said, "and now that it's pretty much shut off, they're in bad shape."

King Hussein of Jordan has applied for aid, MacPhee said, but as long as Hussein continues to speak up in favor of Iraq, the allies don't want to help him.

MacPhee said he wouldn't be surprised if Jordan decided to totally support Iraq.

"You can only hold out so long," he said.

Iraq and Kuwait since World War I



Kuwait also has been hit hard by the war, MacPhee said.

But despite destruction to land, looting by the Iraqis and much of the population fleeing, he said, Kuwait will not have much of a problem recovering from the war.

Not only could destruction of oil fields make it more difficult for Kuwait

to reestablish its economy, but it also could affect the world economy by raising oil prices and possibly causing a world recession, MacPhee said.

He said the United States seems to be holding out without the oil from Kuwait and Iraq, and that because of domestic reserves, he didn't see any

reason why that couldn't continue indefinitely.

MacPhee predicted the war will last longer than was earlier thought.

Ambrosius agreed the war will be longer than was thought earlier.

He said that as long as Iraq can stay dug in, air power alone will not guarantee military victory.

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Cult

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practices have raised questions about its legitimacy.

At Harvard University in 1987, officials became concerned about the group's activities on campus, which included door-to-door solicitation in residence halls, repeated odd-hour phone calls to potential recruits and deceptive descriptions of church structure and activities.

Ken Cauble, chief of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department, said that to his knowledge, the Lincoln group simply has had services and prayer groups and attempted to recruit members.

Members stay in almost daily contact with potential recruits who have attended meetings. No legal violations or violations of university policy have been confirmed.

Tom Plog, campus minister at Washington University, said that the Church of Christ group was at the St. Louis campus for about 2 1/2 years before it significantly stepped up its recruiting efforts.

Doug Zatechka, director of university housing, said some students already have expressed concern over the group's recruiting activities.

"They feel like they're being pushed too hard to go to meetings. I've heard that students have been asked to sell some of their personal belongings and give the money to the organization . . . It begins to sound almost culty," he said.

According to a report that appeared in the Harvard Crimson in October 1987, the Boston Church of Christ does not differ radically from other fundamentalist churches in that it professes that the Bible is the ultimate authority on all moral questions, that adult baptism by immersion is necessary for salvation and that most established churches have departed from the true path of the Lord.

What sets the Boston Church apart is its rigid authoritarian organization, in which all members are responsible to superiors in the Church for all facets of the conduct of their daily lives.

Plog said the St. Louis Church of Christ group was banned last semester after it failed to comply with university regulations that require outside groups to register.

Plog said the group was overstepping the bounds of persuasion, recruiting members through manipulation and coercing members.

"There was intense pressure placed on particularly new students. They probed into students' lives, into their sexual conduct. They used group

“**66**
(Some students) feel they're being pushed too hard to go to meetings.

Zatechka
director of university housing

confessions to get leverage over their members," Plog said.

With reference to the group that has formed in Lincoln, Plog said, "If they're calling themselves the Lincoln Church of Christ, I'm sure they are affiliated (with the Boston Church of Christ)."

Diane Placht, a former member of the St. Louis Church of Christ, said without hesitation that the group is a cult. Placht withdrew from the group in December of 1989.

She said the church targets certain cities to send mission teams to. While she was a member, the St. Louis targets were Tulsa, Okla., Columbus, Mo., and Springfield, Mo. Although Lincoln was not one of St. Louis' targets, she said, Lincoln would be within reasonable distance of either the Denver or the Kansas City, Mo., branch to be targeted by them.

The recruiters that came to Washington University were not students, but they were on campus every day, Placht said.

"Because they were not going to school, they got into a lot of hassle with the university. Logically, I can see them deciding to station recruiters on campus that were actually students to avoid some of the trouble they got into."

According to UNL students, campus police and housing officials, the group in Lincoln has members actually living in the residence halls. Residence hall officials think the members of the group have taken the minimum amount of hours required to permit them to live in the residence halls, where their recruiting efforts will be less restricted than if they were outsiders.

Zatechka said students cannot go door to door within the residence halls soliciting members regardless of whether they live in the halls.

Residence hall conference rooms can be booked for Bible studies, but not religious services in most cases, Zatechka said.

Cauble said neither of the two meetings the group is known to have had were on campus. About 70 people attended the most recent full-scale meeting, he said.

Cauble said he has received phone calls about the group from both students and parents.

"Some parents have expressed

concern about a change in attitude from their son or daughter — not wanting to communicate with the family, etc. It's the parents' belief that it's had something to do with the group," Cauble said.

However, many campus officials warned against jumping to premature judgments of the Lincoln Church of Christ and other religious groups on campus.

Rev. Larry Doerr of the Cornerstone Ministry said university officials, students and parents should exercise caution in reacting defensively to the group on the basis of theology.

"I would ask students to look carefully into what's being offered and the tactics of the group. It seems like very often groups like this tend to narrow the horizons and options of their members," Doerr said. "I look for honesty in business as well as religion, but I don't always find it in either place."

Zatechka said students should be leery of joining religious organizations that aren't given university recognition and that aren't members of the campus pastors' association.

"Those are two of the best measures of credibility for a (religious) organization that I can think of. Students take a real risk if they don't check these things out," Zatechka said.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said, "We don't want to see any of the religious groups on campus trampled or misaligned — there are groups that get wrongly accused of being a cult."

Cauble added that the university was concerned about the welfare of students as far as their right to gather and worship.

"We're not going to infringe on anyone's constitutional rights. We just get somewhat concerned because campuses are places where a lot of groups come under the guise of religion to get money," he said.

The Boston Church of Christ is financed entirely by membership contributions.

Doerr warned that often cults target those who might appear to be vulnerable students, such as freshmen who recently have been severed from daily contact with their family and other support structures.

The difficulty may lie in determining to what extent the university is responsible for regulating the activities of such groups.

Doerr acknowledged the problem of justifying measures that might limit people's religious freedom for the sake of protecting students from deception.

"In the end, we have to grant people their own choices," Doerr said.

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