

Draft

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I am convinced--now more than ever-- that the current ~~an~~ approach to foreign policy by the Reagan Administration is, at best, ~~misguided~~. "ill-advised". The Administration seems to be obsessed with the ~~policy~~ tired old ~~policy~~ ~~of~~ supporting (militarily) any government so long as it professes to be anti-communist. The issue of human and civil rights of a particular government is of secondary importance to the Administration.

By militarily supporting countries that, although may be anti-communist, lack respect for the ~~basic civil and~~ human rights of its people, the United States is, in effect, paving the way for more violent upheavals which could lead to an all-out embracement of ~~the~~ communist-backed alternative. Certainly, that is exactly the opposite for which the United States should be striving.

I urge the Administration to be more mindful of our past history. A little over twenty five years ~~ago~~ ago, the CIA put the Shah of Iran on the throne. Since then we propped him up with \$32 billion in sophisticated arms. But he fell before the challenge of an exiled religious zealot because he had lost ~~xx~~ support of his own people--- the same masses who turned against the Shah turned against our embassy in Tehran when we took the ~~Shah~~ Shah into the United States. How much better it would be for the Shah, and the people of Iran and the people of the United States if instead of sending arms, we had sent people who know how to farm, ~~and~~ to build roads, ~~and~~ to ~~teach~~ school and to heal the sick. Had we led the Shah in that direction, he would have ~~the~~ support of the Iranian people and so would we. We are unfortunately guilty of making the same mistakes in other countries ~~throughout the world~~. The people of El Salvador ~~are~~ reaching toward the left-wing guerrillas-- the w not out of a lust for Marxist ideology--but, rather, in hopes of putting food in their children's mouths and shelter over their ~~heads~~ ^{children's} heads. The best way to reverse this trend is to provide these people with food and development aid as opposed to arms. Communism doesn't have a chance in a country where the people are fed and and are treated with dignity.

And let me also say---that I am tired of hearing the absurd argument that we are militarily backing countries like El Salvador in order to preserve "self-determination and freedom". What a tragic deception this is. There is no such thing as freedom in ~~any~~ El Salvador. Citizens are jailed, tortured and murdered for almost any type of dissent.

The policy that I would like to urge the Reagan ~~Administration~~ Administration to adopt is one in which we are more selective as to who we supply with military aid. The Administration should be mindful of the overall character of the government it intends to support and should refrain from an all-out embrace of a particular government if, in fact, the government lacks any regard for human rights.

Just bills
to end
to sponsored
military aid to
El Salvador.