

Iran: a matter of principle

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The United States is in yet another crisis. A crisis involving the basic foundations which have sustained this nation and made its people strong. A nation of proud people, not always understood, but respected by friend and foe alike.

The crisis that now exists with Iran, was brought about because those persons whom we have elected and charged with the noble responsibilities of government, have again failed to grasp the tenor of our constitution. They fail to apply simply logic to principle. Instead, our elected officials have traded principle for political gains. Political gains are always short-lived.

McCarthyism and Watergate are sad reminders of what will happen when principles and laws are used at the expense of the people and in the name of the common good.

It is not reasonable to believe our government was unaware of the Shah's caustic rule. There is no principle that will uphold injustice and violation of human liberties. Therefore, it is not reasonable to believe there is principle in the cry from Washington about the individual rights of the peoples of the world. Such crys reverberate with hypocrisy. Hollow words, "full of sound and fury and signifying nothing."

Because of this dual standard this country is faced with compromising principle in the name of negotiations. Principle cannot be negotiated. Principles are accepted truths.

It appears that in this democracy, principle is accepted as such by our lawmakers and our representatives only when suitable to political gain, or when it is deemed necessary to sell to

the American people a dubious cause.

If those Americans, held prisoners in Iran are harmed in anyway, all America is harmed. No country can be allowed to terrorize and bring to a halt the normal goings on of an American Embassy, without this nation rising up in total indignation.

We must expect our leaders to act with all haste, with our without the approval of other nations, to protect the rights of this nation and its citizens. We cannot with honor endure men of dual principles, who are without vision and the courage to carry out the provisions guaranteed in our constitution.

This nation can no longer afford the luxury of leaders who manipulate rather than uphold the principles this great nation was founded upon. If we continue on this path, the logic, reasoning, and rights of the common man shall forever be in a crisis.

This government for the people and by the people shall become a government by the government and for the benefit of those who govern. Truth, right, and wrong will surely become not principles by which reasonable men live, but orna-

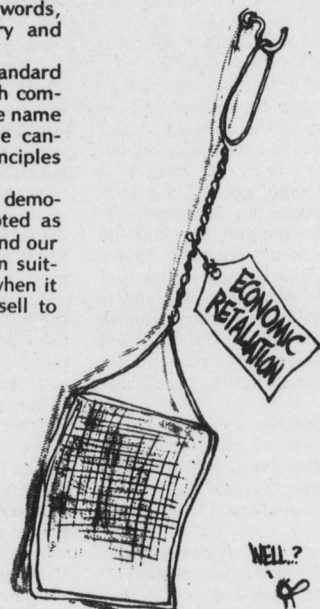
ments named in the common good, by men bent on a road of disguised loyalty through amended rights and compromised principles that will eventually enslave us all.

The time is come for every American to send word to Washington that we are no longer tolerant of lip service to principle. We are no longer tolerant of the manipulating of the many for the privilege of the few. We can no longer tolerate indecision in the name of peace.

Nor shall we wear the crutch of the lame in fear of the mighty. If we be sunk, let it be for honor while still at the gun, not while holding the short stick of hope.

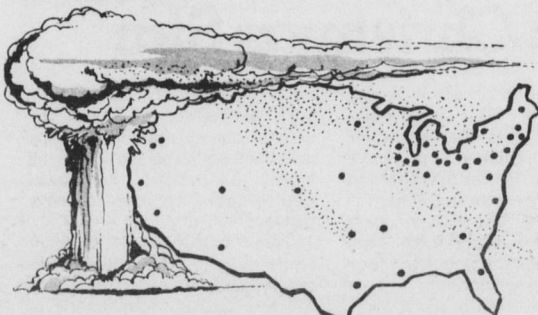


"We burn this flag as a symbol of our opposition of the religious, tolerant and Allah-fearing Islamic state against the hedonistic, capitalistic pigface Americans. Oh, by the way, "Hi Mom!"



WELL?

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Peace of most importance

Excerpts From a National Statement by the Fellowship of Reconciliation

We are deeply concerned about the crisis in Iran. Not only the safety of the hostages and the sanctity of the embassies and consulates are at stake, but the risk of war and spreading violence pose a situation of utmost gravity.

We share in the desire fervently expressed by Americans and people of good will everywhere that an effective solution be found to the present Iranian crisis. We join with the parents relatives and friends of the hostages in their vigil of hope and prayer.

We are convinced that only a nonviolent solution will obtain the safe release of the hostages and lay a foundation for just relations with the Iranian people. No number of tanks or missiles, neutron bombs or warships will accomplish the goal of freeing the hostages or bringing justice to Iran.

The present Iranian crisis exposes a tragedy which has been central to our concern for years: that the hundreds of

billions of dollars spent annually on defense and aid to repressive regimes do not buy peace or security for the American people. Particularly in the nuclear age, it is vital that we develop peaceful ways to resolve conflict -- in Iran and elsewhere.

The immediate cause of the taking of hostages was the decision of the U.S. to admit the ex-Shah into this country. To the Iranians, that decision was as outrageous as a decision to harbor Nazi war criminals in the U.S. would have been to Israelis.

To the Iranians, the decision to admit the former Shah was the ultimate indignity and injustice. It epitomized our continued support of a man whom they fear and despise.

The U.S., through the CIA, put the Shah in power in 1953. From that time on, until the present revolution, the U.S. was largely instrumental in keeping him in power. Indeed, our persistent support only made more difficult his eventual ouster by the Iranian people.

Our outrage at the holding of the hostages must not blind us

to the collective outrage of the 35 million Iranians who feel that they were held hostage in their own country for 26 years by U.S. support of the Shah, whom they hold responsible for their poverty and suffering, torture in the jails, loss of family members by execution and for the Westernization of traditional Iranian/Islamic cultural and religious values.

But we must move beyond effecting the release of the hostages. The freezing of Iran's assets, the threat of military actions, ruptures in our trade relations and racist actions against Iranian students only add to the list of injustices against the Iranian people.

Therefore, we call for negotiations on this matter, not only to effect the release of the hostages, but also to facilitate the creation of an international tribunal to hear the Iranian case against the deposed Shah.

It is time for reconciliation. We look to the world's religions to foster an atmosphere of trust and hope and to be a force for peace and justice in the resolution of this crisis.