

Experts discuss U.S. attacks on Iran

By LISA WYNNE
Staff Writer

The U.S. attack Monday on three Iranian oil platforms does not indicate that the United States is heading toward war with the gulf nation, foreign affairs experts and government officials said Wednesday.

"The government in this case is on the right track in trying to keep shipping lanes open to states not at war in the gulf," said Herbert Bodman, UNC professor of Islamic history.

But he said the United States must carefully measure its responses to Iranian acts of aggression "to make it clear that we intend to keep lanes open but not to go to war with Iran unless they make it absolutely necessary."

Bodman said he does not see war with Iran in the near future but

predicts U.S. involvement will escalate.

A lack of well-defined goals in the gulf might put the U.S. position in jeopardy, said Brigid Shea, press secretary for the Washington, D.C. bureau of SANE/FREEZE, a national peace and disarmament organization.

"We're headed down a dangerous path right now in the Persian Gulf," she said. "Our particular concern is this tendency on our part to deploy our military in situations where we have no clear idea of what we're trying to accomplish. It's foolhardy."

The organization, which opposes any U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, staged a protest Monday in response to the attack on the platforms, she said.

U.S. foreign policy in the gulf

resembles the policy prevalent during the Vietnam War, Shea said. In an attempt to regulate this policy, the group is pushing implementation of the War Powers Act, requiring Congressional approval for further escalation in the area.

Although Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., supports the retaliatory attack on the Iranian oil platforms, he also wants President Reagan to invoke the War Powers Act, said Tom Lawton, Sanford's press secretary.

"The idea (of the War Powers Act) is to prevent the United States from backing into undeclared war," Lawton said.

Bodman, however, said other nations could see the invocation of the War Powers Act as a substitute for a declaration of war.

"Iran wants to test us — not go to war with us," he said.

Although the attack came at the same time as Monday's stock market plunge, fear of war probably had little to do with the stock market or the entire economy, economists said.

Stanley Black, UNC professor of economics, said any link between the attack and the crash would be speculative or, at best, minimal.

Nor will the attack diminish international confidence in American markets, said Claude Clement, Regional Economist for the Office of the Near East, a part of the International Trade Administration.

Bodman said the attack may positively affect foreign views of the United States in the wake of the Iran-contra affair.

"The gulf states have questioned our ability to keep those lanes open," he said.

Soviet designer makes deal with N.C. business

From Associated Press reports

RUTHERFORDTON — Michael Tanner said it's not every day that a North Carolina apparel maker is approached to make women's clothing designed by a popular Soviet fashion designer, but similar business deals can only help to improve relations between the Soviet and American societies.

"Let's get the little people together," Tanner said Tuesday after Vyacheslav Zaitsev toured the Tanner Companies, Inc. facilities in Rutherfordton, where his new collection of coats, suits, dresses and eveningwear designed exclusively for the American market will be made.

Tanner said the meeting of East and West went off without a hitch.

"It was very positive," Tanner said in a telephone interview. "We're still not sure what we're going to make and when. A lot depends on the fashion show and the response by the retail field."

Tanner was referring to an Oct. 27 fashion show featuring Zaitsev's creations at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

"We're treating this no differently

than we would any other designer," he said.

But the venture is different in many ways.

The Soviet fashion designer's Moscow House of Fashion is considered the leading fashion house in the Soviet Union. Its customers include Raisa Gorbachev, the wife of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Tanner has produced quality women's clothing for 55 years. Under an agreement that is still in the works, the American company will make the clothes that Zaitsev introduces in the New York fashion show.

"We haven't signed anything yet, so we're on a look-see basis," Tanner said. "But we are the designated manufacturer if everything works out. And I believe it will all be worked out."

Tanner Co. has contracted for a maximum of 30 designs per season, from which it will make about 6,000 garments. Tanner estimates that the company's first-year sales could be as high as \$1 million.

Tanner said Zaitsev "made quite an impression for himself and his

country" during his visit to the Rutherfordton plant on Tuesday.

"This guy's a real showman, a real diplomat," he said. "I think he's for real. He considers his designs an art form."

The deal is the brainchild of Suzanne Stafford of Colfax, N.C., who owns her own international trade company. In January, she was in Moscow representing three American companies when she was invited to a Zaitsev fashion show. Also attending was Tamara Kerim, the president of Intertorg Inc., of California.

Intertorg is among about a half dozen American trading companies that sell products to the Soviet Union. She and Stafford began talking about getting Zaitsev's fashions to the U.S. market.

They convinced the Soviet ministry to allow them to buy a three-year license for the designs and, using American fabric, sell the designs in this country.

Stafford and Tanner agree that Gorbachev's efforts to open the Soviet Union to commercialization played a large part in their successes to date.

"Gorbachev has said that the

Soviet Union is going to become a world class commercial player, and with great deliberation and good sense he has set about making it happen," Stafford said recently.

Intertorg formed the House of Zaitsev of San Francisco, the sales and marketing arm for the American collection of fashions. Intertorg will buy certain patterns from the Russian designer and then have the clothes made here for sale nationwide.

Stafford decided she wanted a North Carolina company to make the fashions.

"The point of the manufacturing location was not that critical," she said. "The quality is important, and Tanner (Co.) has the history, the track record, the machinery and the willingness to do this."

The prototypes for the fashion show will be made from Soviet fabrics. After the show, the fashions will be available to buyers.

Zaitsev will retain control over what is being offered. The styles selected by the buyers will be sent by Intertorg to Tanner, which will cut and make the fashions and deliver them in time for spring.

Shultz to meet with Soviets for possible arms agreement

From Associated Press reports

HELSINKI, Finland — Secretary of State George Schultz set out for fog-shrouded Moscow by train on Wednesday and said he was certain he would make headway on nuclear arms control in two days of talks with Soviet officials.

But he was guarded about arrangements for a third Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

"I think we and the Soviets both agree meetings between the top leaders are very desirable," Schultz said at a news conference in the Finnish capital.

But, he said, summits must be well prepared "and produce substantive results."

Schultz is scheduled to see Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Thursday and Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday. Schultz said he hopes to clear remaining hurdles to a treaty to scrap U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles worldwide and to make progress on curbing long-range bombers, missiles and submarines.

Sodium may not be bad for you

BOSTON — Challenging a widely held belief, researchers say new findings suggest that ordinary table salt may be the only form of sodium that raises people's blood pressure.

They cautioned that their tentative results, based on a small study, must be confirmed by other researchers before the results are used to tell people what they can safely eat. But if the results hold up, they will overturn one of medicine's often-repeated doctrines: all sodium is bad for people with high blood pressure.

Table salt is sodium chloride. Other sodium compounds often added to foods include sodium bicarbonate or baking soda; sodium ascorbate, a form of vitamin C; the flavor enhancer monosodium glutamate; and such preservatives as sodium benzoate and sodium nitrite.

Table salt has long been known to raise blood pressure in people with hypertension. However, Dr. R. Curtis Morris Jr., one of the study's authors, said doctors

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frequently ask their patients to cut back on all forms of sodium, not just salt.

"For many years, the words 'sodium' and 'salt' have been used interchangeably," said Morris, director of the General Clinical Research Center at the University of California.

"That was because people thought that the only part of salt that was important was the sodium component," he said. "We are suggesting that it's not just sodium. It's sodium and chloride."

Plane near-misses increase

WASHINGTON — The number of near-collision reports involving commercial aircraft jumped nearly 50 percent during the first nine months of this year, according to Federal Aviation Administration figures.

There was disagreement Wednesday, however, among aviation safety experts on the significance of the increase on air safety.

The chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board said the sharp rise in near collisions shows that travelers were exposed to an "increased risk" of an aerial collision during the past summer, but the head of the FAA called the statistical jump "not in itself very meaningful."

U.S. researcher wins Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — American researcher Robert Solow won the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences Wednesday for explaining how certain factors work together to make an economy grow.

Solow, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., won the prize for a mathematical formula published in 1956 that demonstrated how factors like savings, capital, technology and labor affect a nation's economic future.

Solow's work showed that even though in the short run a country can reach a higher level of growth by increased savings, the long-range growth rate is determined by technology and capital.

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