

A Letter from the Publisher

As they reported on the revolution in Iran for this week's cover stories, three veteran TIME correspondents found themselves drawing analogies and making contrasts with what they had seen in other countries undergoing conflict and change. For Rome Correspondent Roland Flamini, the turmoil at Tehran's Inter-Continental Hotel vividly recalled for him two weeks in 1970, when he was trapped in the Inter-Continental in Amman while Jordanian troops fought with Palestinian guerrillas. Says Flamini: "The first two people I met in the [Tehran] hotel lobby had also been in Amman. We talked about whether or not we should fill our bathtubs in preparation for another siege that would cut off our water. We concluded such a move was premature but could not be ruled out later on."

Dean Breis, who will soon become Cairo bureau chief, compares Iran's current troubles with what occurred in Egypt during the '50s. Says he: "What's happening in Iran will be as profound for its development as was the takeover in Egypt by Nasser and the abdication of Farouk in 1952. For the first time in the 20th century, the Egyptians felt that they could make their own destiny—the feeling the Iranians have now."



Reporters Breis and Flamini in Tehran

The situation struck Bureau Chief Bill McWhirter, whose regular post is Johannesburg, in a different fashion. A man who has covered rebellions that have erupted from Northern Ireland to the Philippines, McWhirter says that the Iranian uprising was unique for him. His explanation: "Other revolts I've written about have been movements with defined goals and tactics. Here I think we are witnessing the absolute birth of a movement, a spontaneous outpouring of united resentment without any direction agreed upon, except for an Iran without a Shah."

To give perspective to the stories, TIME's Wilton Wynn drew on his 30 years of experience in the Middle East, mainly in Cairo. Meanwhile, Hong Kong Correspondent David DeVoss and Photographer David Burnett spent two weeks in Baluchistan for the accompanying story on that troubled Pakistani province. In Washington, State Department Correspondent Chris Ogden obtained an exclusive interview with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and talked at length privately with National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. The result is a comprehensive survey of the movements and currents that are roiling a vital and fascinating part of the world.

Index



18 Cover: It curves from Indochina to southern Africa, a crescent of crisis that is centered on Iran, where the future is in doubt. The instability in the vast region confronts the U.S. with a challenge that it is struggling to meet. See WORLD.



8 Nation: Carter attends a four-power summit meeting in Guadeloupe. ▶ Murder, lust and revenge in bucolic Pennsylvania. ▶ Boon or boondoggle? A century-old argument over a mind-boggling waterway in the South is raging hotter.



58 Inflation: Almost all Americans have clearly been hurt by zooming prices. But the impact of inflation varies widely, depending on a person's job, age, family situation, region and buying habits. See ECONOMY & BUSINESS.

34 World
Peking celebrates its new ties to the U.S. with popping corks and wall posters.
▶ Vietnamese troops pour into Cambodia.

38 Education
As their budgets soar and a student shortage looms, private colleges are mounting megabuck fund drives.

46 Law
It will become as expensive to shed a lover as a spouse, if California Attorney Marvin Mitchelson has his way.

60 Economy & Business
The 65-year-olds can now stay on the job—but only a handful will. ▶ Bank robbers must pull more heists to stay even.

70 Show Business
After the boffo success of *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters*, Paramount is filming that space-age pioneer, *Star Trek*.

72 Television
First good news of 1979 is that *Upstairs, Downstairs* is back, with fresh episodes that reveal more about the Bellamys.

50 Art
American parents have changed their views about children during the past 200 years, as an Atlanta exhibition shows.

54 Sport
He was a monomaniac hipped on winning, and win he did, but his temper finally cost Coach Woody Hayes his job at Ohio State.

76 Essay
With all the players striving to do what everybody knows cannot be done, the prognosticating game goes berserk each year.

3 Letters
4 American Scene
43 People
47 Environment
68 Medicine
71 Cinema
73 Books
75 Milestones

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Letters

Carter and China

To the Editors:

I applaud President Carter's historic decision finally to recognize the People's Republic of China [Dec. 25]. It is about time we joined the rest of the world in the acceptance of what has become a political fact.

Neil H. Butterklee
Stony Brook, N.Y.

President Carter does not speak for all the American people, at least not for me. I'm going to "dance with the guy wat brung me"—Taiwan.

Virginia B. Hooko
Seattle

ished for almost 30 years, is it any surprise that Israel is hesitant to accept Sadat's two-faced assurances of good intent after 30 years of war?

Jeffrey Lipsitz
Toronto

The Oliphant cartoon of Begin's Inn appears to equate Israeli Premier Begin's negotiating position with the biblical denial to Mary and Joseph of room at the inn. This continuation of the anti-Semitic cartooning that has been among us for a thousand years is an affront to us all. Begin's position is clearly not anti-Christian. He is doing what he thinks best for the people of Israel in his negotiations with the Arabs.

Jack R. Bershad
Philadelphia

The Nobel Peace Prize that Premier Begin so eagerly rushed to accept has turned to Silly Putty in his hands. He's im-

1930s." In fact, United Press International (then United Press) began serving overseas clients in 1909, and by 1929 its service was going to 1,170 newspapers in 45 overseas countries and territories. It covered the world for its U.S. subscribers with its own correspondents and was completely independent of the world news cartel with which A.P. was then associated.

Frank Tremaine
Senior Vice President
United Press International
New York City

Inflationary '70s

It defies belief that Frank Trippett could write a full page on the '70s without one word about inflation [Dec. 25]. If there is anything future generations will recall about this decade, it will be the disappearance of the 25¢ hamburger, the 10¢ Coke and the \$5 three-martini lunch.

E.L. Estes Jr.
Racine, Wis.

schwartz, the Gulag Archipelago and Jonestown, we are again that evil does not. Good grief! What would a for Milhaven and Baum existence of evil? Having from the world, perhaps so kind as to rid us of pov-

Robert H. Stein
White Bear Lake, Minn.

yet to bear out liberal theory to believe all human beings are creatures with a few who works with high I find that kids won't buy because it just isn't true. whitewash thoughts, at- motions they know are also deprives them of the one can achieve: the re- infinite love for a coming man. Where there is be no forgiveness.

Robert P. Beschel Jr.
Seattle

Default of Dennis

Cleveland's Mayor Dennis Kucinich seems to lend credence to the saying "Never send a boy to do a man's job" [Dec. 25]. Let's hope Santa Claus provided him with enough toys and games so he can amuse himself while the professionals attempt to straighten out the mess.

Edward F. Greene
Keene, N.H.

U.P.I. Abroad

TIME's survey of attempts by some Third World governments to control news [Nov. 20] contains a historic misunderstanding. In referring to the autobiography of former Associated Press General Manager Kent Cooper, it was stated that a cartel of European news agencies controlled "all the news that flowed into and out of the U.S. until well into the

Dumping Israel?

You attack Israel for refusing to give in to absurd new Egyptian proposals that fly directly in the face of the Camp David agreements [Dec. 25]. But if Taiwan can be abruptly dumped by the U.S. after a friendly relationship that has flour-

I thanks for telling me I'm not the only adult who ignores everything else to watch *The Muppet Show*.

J.S. Price
Arlington Heights, Ill.



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