

commentary

from other pens...

Bush aides' differences lurk below surface

By Barry Schweid

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — Differences with other nations over U.S. foreign policy are deep and clear for all to see — global warming, missile defense, germ warfare. Less obvious are the internal differences among President Bush's key advisers.

The differences don't measure up to the fierce friction, for instance, in the Carter administration between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Zbigniew Brzezinski, the White House national security adviser.

Vance ultimately resigned over the ill-fated attempt to rescue American hostages from Iran that had been approved by Brzezinski and all other Cabinet members.

Quietly, in the Reagan administration, Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger opposed trading weapons to Iran for freeing American hostages, but others prevailed.

Back in the Nixon administration, Security Adviser Henry A. Kissinger effectively operated as Secretary of State. Outmaneuvered, William P. Rogers finally gave up the job.

It wasn't so much they disagreed, but Kissinger was on a foreign policy track Rogers often was unaware of, especially the opening of diplomatic relations with Communist China.

Kissinger was appointed to succeed Rogers in 1973 while also holding on to his post at the White House for two more years.

Leslie Gelb, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, puts the current friction in perspective.

"There have been bigger splits within administrations over foreign policy," he said, pointing to the tougher line Weinberger wanted to take toward Russia compared to the approach favored by Shultz.

"In fact," Gelb said, "the biggest gulf is not so much within the administration as between the U.S. and its major allies around the world."

The differences among Secretary of State Colin Powell, Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and White House Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice are held behind closed doors.

Sometimes they voice giving the Bush administration the look of speaking with many voices. Occasionally, it is awkward for the U.S.

Powell, for instance, had no sooner declared in March that a dialogue begun by the Clinton administration with North Korea would be continued than he was overruled by the White House.

To make matters worse, the about-face was executed while South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, an ardent supporter of talking to Pyongyang, was on a visit to Washington.

Is this a big deal? Not according to Powell who learned about infighting and what he calls "this noise level" in Washington during the Reagan and senior Bush administrations.

When there are differences, "people take it to the level of a capital crime," Powell said last week.

"Do we have differences? Sure," Powell said. "Do we argue about things? Sure. Do we have to debate issues from time to time? Yes."

"There is no real space between us," Powell insisted during a joint news conference with Rumsfeld in Australia last week.

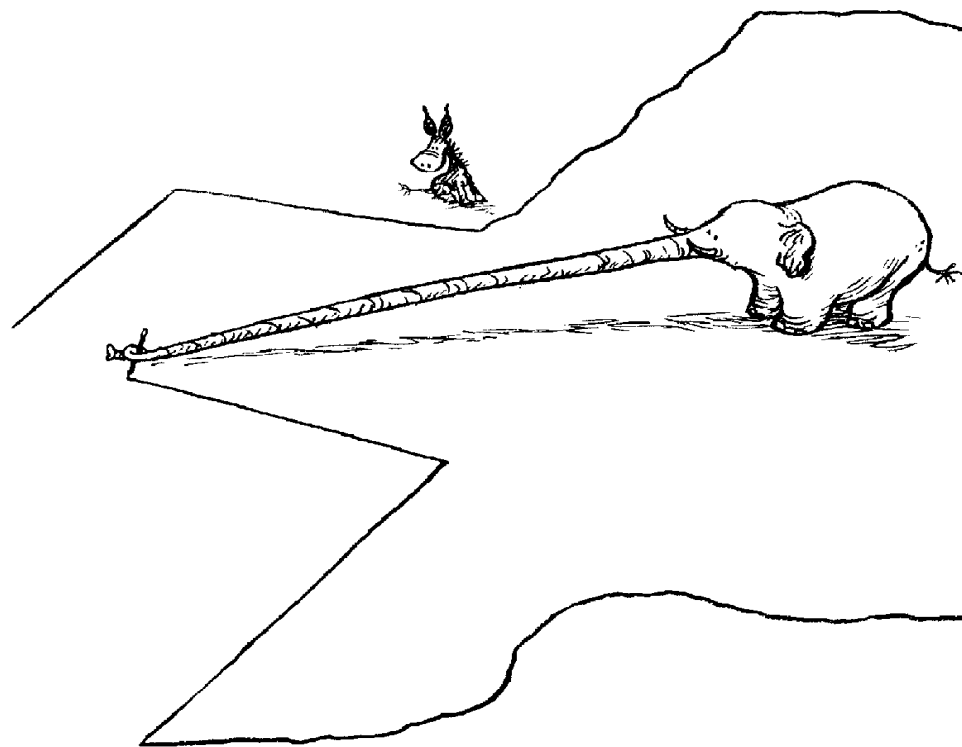
Rumsfeld brushed aside any notion of a rift. "Are you trying to find some daylight between Colin and me?" he asked reporters, with a grin.

Powell represents the State Department, Rumsfeld the Pentagon. It is Powell who has to deal with world leaders who favor the conciliatory stance toward China and Russia that has emerged in recent weeks.

Powell deals with Arab leaders who want pressure applied to Israel. Mostly, he has resisted. But the State Department has taken a somewhat tougher line on Israel than the White House or Cheney, who showed understanding for Israel's raids on terrorists' headquarters. Powell has told Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon such targeting is wrong.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Barry Schweid has covered U.S. diplomacy for *The Associated Press* since 1973.

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HULME



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING BOARD

Lack of plan to change hatred should be a crime

The term "ethnic cleansing" generally describes the systematic and forced removal of members of an ethnic or religious group from their communities to change the ethnic/religious composition of a region. It is also the politically correct way of saying "holocaust."

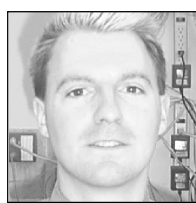
Are there different degrees of ethnic cleansing? Is one form worse than another? Should we condemn all forms of "cleansing"?

The real-life chess game that is the Middle East has one side "cleansing" another. To counter the culture of religious hate and violence, Israel and the Palestinians must learn to accept religious differences. Unfortunately, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, with the help of the United States, is making moves to "eliminate" the "Palestinian problem," not heal religious wounds. Israel is playing the ethnic cleansing card and with help from the U.S., escaping responsibility.

This "violation" of international law is why the U.S. bombed Kosovo and why Nazi Germany is a synonym for evil. Can Jews be guilty of ethnic cleansing? The deafness coming from the mouth of the United States implies no. Is this what America wants to stand for?

Sharon and Israel want a perfect world with no violence before they "negotiate" with Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority. President Bush says he wants 100 percent "effort." That is impossible. How is the U.S. going to judge if Arafat has given 100 percent effort? What happens if he gives 95 percent? Is an A grade good enough, or is a perfect score all that matters? What happens if he gets less than 60 percent? Summer school? What percent does Israel have to achieve?

Israel and the U.S. are anti-Arab. The Israelis don't respect the Palestinian culture, but the Palestinians are the ones who are criticized for not being "respectful" of Jews. Arafat's reputation makes him an easy patsy for Israel and America to blame for their own flawed policies. We rarely criticize Sharon. Are we afraid to criticize Jews for



mitch
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• the soundgarden

ethnic cleansing?

The current American brokered "plan" demands Arafat arrest all of his people who are committed to fighting against Israel. Due to the violent "cleansing" actions by Israel in the territories, I don't believe there are enough jail cells in the entire Middle East to accomplish this. Arafat would have to arrest 90 percent of his population. I don't think Americans would sit out a fight if their family was being attacked.

Where are the demands on Sharon to call off his military? The Palestinians are no different than the Israelis in what they want before they negotiate. They want violence against their people to stop.

Israelis are united in their belief, assisted by the U.S., that they are the objects of terror and violence initiated by the Palestinians. On the other side, Palestinians believe they are the objects of "occupational violence" by Israelis.

The "occupying violence" noted by Palestinians is about day-to-day acts by Israeli settlers or security forces to force them off their land. It is a form of "ethnic cleansing." Examples are: unprovoked shootings and beatings, punitive damage to homes and other property, and Israeli's bulldozing piles of earth and stones to block entrances to Arab villages in the West Bank.

This is ethnic cleansing. Period. Where is the outcry for Sharon to end the violence? Arafat should not be the only one who is expected to get perfect scores on his "effort and actions" to end the culture of cleansing.

The religious hatred firing this conflict is not held by just a few. On both sides, it is a culture. A plan must be designed to solve the religious intolerance

before peace will be at hand. Why doesn't the United States recognize that the Palestinians are targeted for their religious beliefs?

Outbreaks of violence, no matter who starts it, gives each side the right to not make any concessions, and to attack the other. This feeds the beast of religious hatred and fear. How does the process for tolerance proceed when any attack or "self-defense" measure by either side only validates a license to kill?

Israel doesn't want a peace deal. They want to eliminate as many Palestinians as possible, to eliminate a Palestinian state before it can start. If peace is at hand, and if Arafat had it in his limited power to clamp down on violence, then the Israelis will have to remove many of their settlements in the disputed territories. The Israeli government doesn't want to give up these lands today, because they have tried to stack the territories with enough Israeli settlers to make any future Palestinian independence there unattainable.

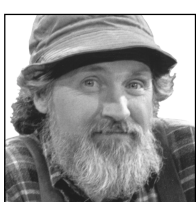
But this policy has been a complete failure. Today the total number of Israelis in their territories has never been able to equal the yearly increase of the indigenous Palestinian population. Today there are approximately 20 Palestinian villages in these strategically important zones. These areas would be scenes of constant upheaval if they were brought inside the Israeli state, as Palestinians continued to defend themselves from Israeli ethnic cleansing. The Israelis won't stop the cleansing until the U.S. puts a gun to their head.

The Israeli's don't want Palestinians around in "their" land, so they don't want peace. If they forcibly move Palestinians off Palestinian land, is that ethnic cleansing?

The lack of a plan to change the hatred that boils in the hearts of so many in the region should be a crime. I'm afraid if it was prosecuted, only Arafat would be held accountable.

Did we learn our intolerance of different religious beliefs from them — or did they learn it from us?

Old guys get up way too early



red
green

• north of forty

A lot of old guys get up way too early. If you see a lot more sunrises than you do sunsets, you're probably one of them. This can be very irritating to your wife. She doesn't like the concept of you being up before the roosters, doing things in the basement that she can't control. Plus, you're sound asleep at 7:30 in the evening, and that doesn't go over so well, either. Now, we all know that we'd all sleep in if we could, but stress and noise and guilt and over-active kidneys get in the way. So here's what you do: Whenever you're up several hours before your sleeper half, do the dishes or dust the furniture or wash the windows. After a couple of days like that, your wife won't mind you getting up early at all. She'll appreciate the help. Even on days when she wakes up at the same time, she'll probably pretend she's asleep. Most wives are pretty good at that.

QUOTA UNQUOTA

To get the maximum performance out of their employees, a lot of companies have a quota system, where you're expected to build a certain number of units or contact a certain number of customers or generate a certain amount of business. Then, once you reach your quota, it's normal to coast for a while. I'm wondering whether the same thing happens in life — that once you've worked a certain number of years or made a certain number of mortgage payments or raised a certain number of kids, you're allowed to coast for a while. That seems fair. On the other hand, when old people get crabby and difficult to live with, I'm wondering whether maybe they think they've been nice long enough, and now it's time to coast. That's not good. When you feel like you're getting down to your last smile, get someone to raise your quota. You need to stay happy till you drop, even if you're faking it. It may be your only chance of having the last laugh.

AMAZING LIFE LESSONS, PART III

Here are a few more unexpected revelations that I've experienced:

- Dogs can smell fear, and so can your dinner guests.
- Gas gauges don't always lie.
- Don't burn vinyl in your fireplace, even if it's

wood-grain.

— If you're not sure what just happened, don't be the only one smiling.

— People who don't like coffee shouldn't be allowed to make it.

— Ice cream is very sensitive to gravity.

— Tattooed men on motorcycles may not see you as a contemporary.

— Whenever you hear an explosion, always look surprised.

NORTH VS. SOUTH

You always hear that opposites attract, but I think that only applies to magnets. And very few people are magnets, even though they hover around the fridge a lot. Two people who are opposites have nothing in common, and ultimately, that makes for

a very tough relationship. Arguments over whether to go the ballet or the tractor pull rarely have a happy ending. If you see a couple where she's wearing a designer gown and he has a "Will Work for Beer" T-shirt, don't spend much on the wedding gift. On the other hand, it is important for members of couples to be different from each other. Just not too different. They need to share interests, but one of them has to be less intense than the other. One is the racecar; the other one is the drag chute. They're both going the same direction, but the second one, holding back, keeps the first one on the right track.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "For every minute that you exercise, you add one minute to your life. This enables you, at 85 years old, to spend an additional five months in a nursing home at \$5,000 per month."

— Red Green

Red Green is the star of "The Red Green Show," a television series seen in the U.S. on PBS and in Canada on the CBC Network, and the author of "The Red Green Book" and "Red Green Talks Cars: A Love Story."

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