Opinion

What Andropov will see

Yuri Andropov, as interim General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, will face for the next decade a world in which existence will be contingent upon his ability to revivify Soviet strategy and make use of the existing control over West European military forces. A revivified Third World political and economic situation has marginally reduced the military threat to the Soviet Union over the past five years. Those developments are likely to continue for the duration of Andropov's period in office.

In the area of foreign policy, Andropov will likely design policies that will subtly exploit the regionalization inherent in both Western Europe and North American contemporary politics. Andropov, without seeking open diplomatic or military conflict with the NATO countries, may be able to use countries, such as those in the Third World, to subtly exploit the regionalization of power in Europe and America. This strategy may be more pragmatic than a direct military confrontation with the NATO countries.

Another area of potential conflict is the Soviet Union's dependency on the United States for military and economic aid. Andropov, as a former President of the Soviet Union, is aware that the United States is dependent on the Soviet Union for military and economic aid. This dependency may be exploited by Andropov to his advantage.

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Andropov's job of regionalization will involve a number of factors, including the dependency of the United States on the Soviet Union for military and economic aid.

Opinion disputed

To the Editor:

Keri-Lyn Scifoal's column of Friday, November 19, on the CEP freshman year proposal gives the reader an incorrect impression of Professor A. C. Smith's attitude towards education here at MIT. By quoting out of context, Scifoal's words imply that Prof. Smith is more concerned with saving MIT money than he is about the quality of education here. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Professor Smith has been deeply involved in matters of educational policy both in his department and Institute-wide. As a member of the CEP, CAP, and as a graduate student for Course VI, he devotes a great deal of time and energy to improving MIT's educational experience. His concern for education also manifests itself in the classroom. As many will attest, Professor Smith takes a personal interest in the education of his students and is sensitive to their concerns. Frequent feedback on his teaching performance by students is an integral part of his courses. In light of his sincere concern for students here, it is particularly unfortunate that Professor Smith was misrepresented in a student publication.

This article's academic excellence is due in large part to the efforts of faculty members such as Professor Smith.

Gregg Burgess '81, Chairman, Aero-Astronaut Student Advisory Committee; Jim Taylor '81, Member, Committee on Educational Policy