Martin criticizes Soviet war tactics

By Mortie L. Wang

The Soviet Union has been using cruel war tactics in its war with rebels in Afghanistan, according to Richard Martin, who spent six months in Pakistan teaching Afghan rebels how to treat medical emergencies.

Martin spoke at MIT last week about war politics, Soviet tactics and the Afghani people.

Martin said that the Soviet Union suddenly and blatantly invaded Afghanistan in December 1979. The Soviet Union maintains that it was only responding to the Soviet-backed Afghan government's request for assistance in dealing with rebels.

According to pamphlets from the Free Afghan Alliance organization, the Afghans were poorly equipped and hopelessly outnumbered, yet they fought back and denied Russia control of the countryside.

Martin said that the Soviet tactics are designed to demoralize the mujahedeen ("holy warriors"). The rebels call themselves Muslims, in contrast to the Islamic doctrine. A lot of them had never seen people so dedicated to their cause.

Martin remarked that he has been taught Afghans medical techniques without a weapon. Night guards who are in charge of the fort 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The Soviet Union is using mines laced to detonate when stepped on.

Martin also charged that the Soviets are using biochemical agents in violation of Geneva Convention agreements. The mines are used by the rebels to protect the fort against mines made of charcoal, against the gas so they improvise bombs.

Martin encountered large crates around the hospital made by bombs, and he also saw unexploded bombs on the roadway. Martin is a graduate of University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He also was a Green Beret in the special forces. After serving as an Army medic, he went to Pakistan to serve Afghan forces for six months.

Martin also helped set up an ambulance to pick up the wounded right outside the Afghan border, which was two hours away from his hospital in Pakistan. Martin said if there were no vehicles, people would have to wait for hours or days to get medical attention.

Martin encountered large crates around the hospital made by bombs, and he also saw unexploded bombs on the roadway. Martin is a graduate of University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He also was a Green Beret in the special forces. After serving as an Army medic, he went to Pakistan to serve Afghan forces for six months. Now he is a student at Northeastern University studying for his master's degree.

Martin concluded that the war in Afghanistan is as vile and disgusting as any war, but it does not get much attention. He also emphasized the importance of support in terms of volunteers and donations.

Martin got involved in working with the mujahedeen through the mujahedeen par-ties four or five years ago, but now these groups coordinate military maneuvers.

Martin argued that the rebel movement has reached a mature stage. There had been unrest between the seven mujahedeen parties four or five years ago, but now these groups coordinate military maneuvers.

When describing the environment he lived in, Martin said that no law governs the tribal area. If one person killed another, no law was brought down upon him, Martin said. No one could venture outside the fort he was staying at without a weapon. Night guardsmen watch the fort 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Martin got involved in working with the mujahedeen at the Freedom Medicine, a group which sets up medical units to help the Afghans. Freedom Medicine helped Martin get to Pakistan where Martin and others taught Afghans medical techniques in a hospital. Martin worked with the mujahedeen from March 1987 to September 1987.

Martin said that the seven mujahedeen parties four or five years ago, but now these groups coordinate military maneuvers.

Martin also got a delicious lesson in what lighter Italian cooking tastes like. With all sorts of Pizza Torte, pasta salads and homemade specialities. He is sure to leave room for desserts like European style cakes and pastries, that were made for Caffe Capucino's special coffees, including cappuccino, naturally. It's also a great place for Sunday Brunch and fast take-out service. Caffe Capucino's, it's how you say value in Italian. Serving 11:30 to Midnight.