

lems."

Anything about Syria? Yes.

"Nor will our provocative flight over Syrian-held territory reduce tensions in Lebanon." So it is we who are the villains.

It is my understanding that Grenada before our intervention was ruled by a band of thugs who converted this Caribbean island into a police state and that our army was greeted by the populace with real enthusiasm.

But according to Marshall, Reagan is "a president who forces a police state in Grenada."

It seems to me that Marshall has a very low opinion of the intelligence of Times Tribune readers. But she is, I am sure, badly mistaken.

J. H. Wisniewski

PALO ALTO

Council invites recall

IN A DESPERATE, last-minute move to ensure the continuation of the new city's controversial rent-control ordinance, four members of the East Palo Alto Council issued a second emergency rent freeze in answer to a mandate of more than 2,000 referendum signatures from voters who want the rent control measure to be remanded to the electors for a vote.

With the exception of City Councilmember Gertrude Wilks, the City Council has shown an arrogant hunger for power and a total disregard for the needs of homeowners and concerned residents who know the devastating economic effects rent control has had in middle- and lower-income communities throughout the nation." How can the City Council justify its actions in the light of an overwhelming mandate of nearly 2,200 residents who demanded the rent control be halted until the final required number of less than 1,000 valid signatures be verified by the county registrar of voters? The four City Council members who claim that rent control represents the poor and down-trodden should take heed from the blacks and hispanics in Los Angeles who overwhelmingly rejected the proposition M rent control measure in November.

The City Council, in addition to being arrogant, has been completely irresponsible to the financial needs of the city of East Palo Alto, which desperately needs a quantum addition of tax revenue, which can only come from new commercial, industrial and residential development. The council has consistently alienated and rejected sincere investors under the rhetoric of "self-determination."

Through the four City Council members blatant hunger for power without regard for the expressed need of the homeowners and residents or without concern for the city's desperate need for a rapidly expanded tax base, as the city is dropped from the county dole next June, the council has fur-

ther diminished its credibility as public stewards and reinforced the growing clamor for recall.

Edrick Haggans

EAST PALO ALTO

Only the U.S. is serious

YOUR EDITORIAL of Jan. 17 entitled "Style over Substance," was very ironic because it presented an opinion of President Reagan and the Soviet government that is based upon style rather than substance. During his first three years in office President Reagan has found it necessary to present his proposals for increased defense spending in a style which persistently reminded us of the threat that the Soviet Union presents to our political interests. He has had to do this in order to get public and congressional support for his proposals. In the meantime the Soviets busily deployed SS-20s and attempted to convince the people of Europe that there was no real need to deploy Pershing 2 and cruise missiles. Fortunately, the suspect nature of their claims that they pose no threat was revealed when they shot down Flight 007 and then lied about it.

At the same time that the Soviet style was suggesting a willingness to negotiate, the substance of the Geneva negotiations indicated that the Soviets were waiting to see if their propaganda campaign would succeed in disrupting the deployment of NATO's missiles in Europe. During the negotiations the Soviets made no concessions; they simply found a number of ways to suggest that the status quo be maintained. In short, the only major Soviet action at the Geneva negotiations was to walk out on them in response to our missile deployment. One has to ask if the Soviets considered the negotiations as an opportunity to reduce arms levels or simply as part of their propaganda campaign to stop the missile deployments.

In contrast, our negotiators made two proposals that included concessions designed to address Soviet concerns. The Soviets made no counter proposals. In addition, Reagan informally suggested a "build-down" plan, which was developed by Democratic members of Congress.

That arms levels continue to rise is due to a lack of substantive Soviet proposals from which a compromise arms agreement could be reached. It is time that the Soviets return to the bargaining table and give us something to consider. We can be confident that President Reagan will respond with a compromise proposal from which further negotiations can proceed.

Darrell D. Stanaford

PALO ALTO

Letters to the editor must be original, topical and no longer than 350 words and must bear the writer's signature, address and telephone number. Write: Editorial Page Editor, Peninsula Times Tribune, P.O. Box 300, Palo Alto, 94302.