

True colors

More than a week ago a Soviet fighter plane shot down a Korean civilian airliner carrying 269 people because the airliner had strayed into Soviet air space. All 269 innocent men, women and children aboard the aircraft perished when a heat-seeking missile struck the plane.

As of this writing the official Soviet explanation for the incident has been that yes, they did it, but they were provoked because the airline was in their air space. The Soviets contended the "lost airline pilot" strayed intentionally.

It is beginning to appear that the fighter pilot did not act on his own but received his orders from a ground

commander. We probably never will know if that ground commander was acting under orders directly from Moscow, but it is more than likely.

The initial reaction to so barbaric an act is anger that anyone could "justify" killing innocents in the name of "air space."

There is much we would like to say about peace efforts in this country and in the Soviet Union. But one thought keeps coming to mind.

Earlier this summer, a young girl from America's East Coast flew to Russia to speak with Premier Andopov about her hopes for peace. She was escorted around with much fanfare and shown off as a symbol of the Soviet Union's hopes for peace.

This incident does much to show just how sincere those hopes were.