

National News

DOD calls for space-based ABMs

The Department of Defense is preparing a report for Congress that will urge a major program to develop a space-based antiballistic missile system, informed sources say. The report will be delivered to the Senate Armed Services Committee May 15.

A space-based ABM, which would utilize laser or particle-beam weapons deployed from satellites, is being hotly debated in the U.S. defense community and is expected to become the focus of a "great debate" on U.S. military strategy over the coming year.

While the administration has not made any formal commitment to such a program, President Reagan is known to favor it. In addition, his newly appointed deputy undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, T. K. Jones, is an outspoken proponent of a space-based ABM.

Environmentalists target Interior's Watt

A coalition of environmentalist groups led by the Sierra Club surfaced last week to launch a nationwide campaign to "get" the prodevelopment secretary of the interior, James Watt.

At a press conference held in San Francisco April 16, the Sierra Club issued "a bill of indictment" against Watt, compiling his "anti-environmental" decisions and remarks. Sierra officials also announced the initiation of a nationwide petition drive to collect 1 million signatures to demand Watt's ouster. The Wilderness Society, the Friends of the Earth, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Audubon Society, the Environmental Policy Center, Environmental Action, and other groups are reportedly planning to collaborate, and a spe-

cial "Watt Watch" office has already been set up.

Sierra's targeting of Watt has caused concern among intelligence circles, since the drive does not correspond to the group's past practice of selecting politically feasible legislative targets for lobbying pressure. Given its lack of any identifiable legal objective, Sierra's anti-Watt hate campaign may well have been designed to create a climate in which the interior secretary becomes a credible target for assassination.

Senator predicts end to grain embargo

Senator Roger Jepsen (R-Iowa) predicted to reporters in Sioux City, Iowa on April 15 that the administration would lift the embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union "within three weeks" if the situation in Poland remains stable. Jepsen said that he has been assured by the President that Reagan is anxious to fulfill his campaign promise to end the embargo but has been held back because of the Polish developments.

"I would predict that the grain embargo will be lifted within three weeks," he said, "if indeed the activities on the Polish borders by the Russians would cool down and the Soviets would back off." The White House confirmed that it is seriously considering an end to the embargo, while on April 18 the State Department denied it.

U.S. Club of Rome boosts Global 2000

Fifty-five members of the U.S. Association for the Club of Rome, which is the American affiliate of the Club of Rome International, gathered in Chevy Chase, Maryland on April 14-15. In an opening speech, Aspen Institute propagandist Tom Wilson insisted that "Global 2000 and other reports like it cannot be refut-

ed. We can conclude that any notion of national security attached to the nation-state or to national boundaries is a conceptual trap." The global problem, he said, is that "the technosphere and the biosphere are on a collision course."

Robert Hamrin, an economist formerly with the congressional Joint Economic Committee, stated that "depletion of mineral resources around the world" would convince policy-makers of "the necessity for Global 2000 as a military security question." The Club of Rome, he proposed, should "perfect a true supply-side economics based on the preservation of scarce land and natural resources."

The final speaker was mystic Elizabeth Dodson Gray, who termed the Judeo-Christian outlook a "fertility cult"

Surgeon General nomination attacked

The confirmation for Surgeon General of Dr. C. Everett Koop, a prominent Philadelphia surgeon, is under attack by the House Conference Committee. The 65-year-old Koop's appointment requires waiver of age-limit for the Surgeon General. A special amendment to this effect, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, has already passed the Senate. Its amendment to a bill that passed the House unamended has, however, placed the issue before Conference Committee chairman Henry Waxman, who is demanding Koop appear before his committee to explain his "intolerant views." Waxman is a supporter of the "right to die" movement.

Currently Undersecretary of the Health and Human Services Administration, Koop is a staunch opponent of euthanasia. The argument that certain patients face "a life not worth living," Koop says, was identified by U.S. personnel at the Nuremberg trials as "the source of corruption of the medical profession prior to the Nazi Holocaust."

Koop views abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, artificial insemination, single

parenthood, and the gay rights movement as a challenge to the family-centered development of children and society. Koop also opposes the use of "cost effective" evaluations to undercut high-technology medicine.

Stockmanites plan major cuts in DEA budget

The Drug Enforcement Administration is slated for major cuts, including a \$5.4 million cut in supplemental funds already allocated for the agency's Southwest Asian heroin interdiction program. An additional \$5.9 million in cuts is proposed for federal, state, and local task-force programs, as well as cuts in the State Department's international narcotics management program, which supports crop substitution overseas.

Administration spokesmen say they plan to augment certain areas of DEA funding, including domestic enforcement, foreign investigations, and technology. The overall budget is \$2.7 million higher than Carter's, before inflation. However, cuts of up to 50 percent in domestic task-force manpower and in intelligence, where 21 positions are to be eliminated, would reduce national drug-fighting capabilities overall.

Tom Hayden receives Democratic award

The Orange County (California) Democratic Alliance, a group of 60 mainstream Democrats, bestowed the "Rumpus Decti" (Chosen Ass) award on "the husband of Jane Fonda, also known as Tom Hayden," in April.

The award was given as part of the group's campaign to "cleanse [party] ranks of a very dangerous element," especially Hayden's Campaign for Economic Democracy (CED), and to promote "traditional Democrats and the American System of government." The Democratic Alliance's unanimous deci-

sion to award Hayden read in part:

"Whereas, this man had the temporary presence of mind to marry Jane Fonda's millions, in a community property state; and

"Whereas . . . [he] has unilaterally decided to perform a disservice to the people of California by threatening to seek simultaneous election to, and concurrent service as state controller, state treasurer, secretary of state, and governor, otherwise known as the Junta of One. . . .

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Orange County Democratic Alliance has determined that the only reason for the existence of the . . . CED is to promote a Haydenistic . . . counterculture."

Soviets, Heritage protest Space Shuttle

Amid international jubilation over the success of the maiden voyage of the Space Shuttle Columbia, a few unhappy souls remain vocal in opposition to the program.

The Soviet news agency TASS issued a propaganda barrage calling the Shuttle an imperialist tool of the military-industrial complex. "The Shuttle program," said TASS, "from the very outset has been practically completely subordinate to the Pentagon's interests. The U.S. military links the program to its far-reaching plans of projecting the arms race into outer space."

Joining with the Soviets in opposing the Shuttle program is the pseudo-conservative Heritage Foundation. In its Agenda for Progress, a report recently submitted to the President, Heritage opined: "An excellent illustration of the pitfalls of federal intervention at too low a level is the Space Shuttle. . . . The wisdom of this commitment is not clear. . . . In spite of the perceived wisdom that there is no turning back on the Shuttle commitment, the alternatives should be reviewed thoroughly and soon. Alternatives to be examined include the discontinuation of the Shuttle program."

Briefly

● **GEORGE BUSH** attacked high U.S. interest rates as "unconscionable" three times in prepared remarks to the annual Republican Senate-House dinner in Washington April 7. Standing in for the President, Bush perpetuated the line, however, that budget cuts must be imposed "in order to bring down the interest rates."

● **MORRIS B. ABRAM**, a prominent New York attorney and promoter of euthanasia, says there should be "no opposition from the Reagan administration to a policy to allow terminally ill patients to forego life-sustaining therapy." Abram heads a Carter-established presidential commission on medical ethics which just completed hearings and claims a consensus for the "right to die." Abram complains that "medical care comprises 9 percent of GNP . . . way too high."

● **DEAN FISHER**, a State Department spokesman, was asked by *EIR* at a recent press briefing to comment on reports that the DOS is making policy decisions based on "a classified hit list" of countries judged unlikely to survive because of demographic pressures. On April 16, State posted an official reply stating that it is "not aware of the existence" of such a list.

● **JERRY BROWN** and environmentalist groups are costing California utility customers \$1 million daily by delaying the opening of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, charges Malcolm Furbrish, a representative of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has refused to throw out environmentalist objections to the facility, which "is ready to save the equivalent of 20 million barrels of oil a year," Furbrish said.