

# National News

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## American media trumpets famine

American television and newspapers conducted a media barrage during mid-November on the famine situation in Africa, singling out Ethiopia in particular. The argument is that such situations are inevitable because of, among other things, ecological change, and that such disasters will spread elsewhere in the world in densely populated regions such as south Asia, and Bangladesh in particular.

Film footage from Africa of the ravages of starvation is shown while Americans are told that these horrors will continue for years. It reported, correctly this time, that there will be a holocaust unless the industrialized countries provide food relief.

U.S. AID administrator Peter McPherson on ABC television indicated that "reasonable amounts" of food aid are being sent to Ethiopia, and called for an international donors conference to supposedly better coordinate food relief. He blamed the situation on African governments for discriminating against farmers, i.e., not allowing the magic of the market place to function. House Africa subcommittee chairman Howard Wolpe said on the same program that "what is happening now [the food aid operation] is beautiful. . . ."

The *New York Times* asserted on Nov. 23 that such disasters "are actually caused or made worse by human activity." This was based on a report written by the head of the Swedish Red Cross and an official of Earthscan which cited "rapid population growth" among other causes.

The *New York Times* had another article predicting that deadly famine in Mozambique is inevitable, blaming the drought and the fact that the publicity over Ethiopia has reduced food aid to Mozambique. The *Times* only mentions in passing the root cause of the disastrous situation in Mozambique: the activity by Nazi International-sponsored rebels, which has driven farmers off their productive lands throughout the country.

No mention was made anywhere of the primary cause of the African food collapse:

IMF "conditionalities" which have destroyed national economies and prevented the necessary industrialization of agriculture.

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## Poll shows SDI won Reagan the last debate

President Reagan's defense of his Strategic Defense Initiative was the crucial factor in winning his last debate against Walter Mondale, according to a Lou Harris poll. The poll, taken of 13,000 Americans who were asked which candidate won the Oct. 21 debate and why, showed that the turning point in the event came when Reagan advocated developing a defense against Soviet missiles and then sharing it with the Russians. Reagan's strong support for the SDI, in the face of Mondale's attempts to shower it with ridicule, provided him the necessary edge to trounce his opponent in the debate, the poll showed.

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## Senate demands Israel commit suicide

A new Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff report issued on Nov. 22 demands that the Israeli government implement "painful domestic budget reductions" as the only way of avoiding a default on its debts and meeting U.S. conditions for further economic aid.

To have a significant impact, the report demands, the cuts must be of a substantial "size and duration. . . ." It admits: "There will be a heavy cost to the Israeli social fabric and security situation if some of the needed measures are implemented." It further insists on "domestic and structural economic reforms" and "reform measures on Israeli society."

The authors of the report assert that "officials of the Reagan administration" indicated that any increased assistance to Israel would be "predicated on a comprehensive program of economic reforms and inten-

sively explored in close consultation with the U.S. Congress."

The committee report was written by Gerald E. Connolly, a member of the committee's minority staff, and Michael Kraft, a former aide to the late Sen. Clifford Case who specializes in the Middle East.

Further austerity pressure was brought to bear on Israel at the Nov. 18-19 meetings of a Joint Economic Task Force composed of the U.S. State Department and private and public sector economists from the United States and Israel. The State Department end of this is being coordinated by Undersecretary of State for Monetary Affairs W. Allen Wallis, who began his career with a 1933 report on the "Statistical Distribution of the Nordic Racial Stock" for the Harriman family's pro-Hitler conference on eugenics in New York.

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## The Soviets explain why Mondale lost

The Soviets don't like losers. Walter Mondale is one of the most recent examples. In the Nov. 14 issue of *Literary Gazette*, commentator Vitaliy Kobysch comes to the conclusion that "Mondale very much wanted to look like a supporter of positions of strength in international affairs, sometimes even striving to outdo his competitor. But opportunism could not but reverberate against him; it was a lost case from the beginning."

In the article, entitled "What will come out on top?" Kobysch states that Reagan got the "unlimited mandate" of the electorate, and the question remains how he will use it. There are three possibilities: a "prolonged era of conservatism," a softening of Reagan's hostilities against the U.S.S.R. because the President wants to enter history books as a "man of peace," or no modification of his policies at all.

The immediate danger, in Kobysch's eyes, is that Washington will be induced by the electoral success to "repeat the 'Grenada version' in respect to Nicaragua." He claims to prefer that on the contrary, "realism and love of peace will be reflected in the real actions of the U.S. leaders."

## Aspen Institute moves to appease the Soviets

The Aspen Institute's "East-West Project" is the mother institution sponsoring a series of international press conferences Nov. 26-27 at which a 25-page policy paper will be presented demanding appeasement of the Soviet Union and an end to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative program.

The first press conference will be in New York, Nov. 26, at 4:00 p.m., at the United Nations Plaza Hotel. Featured participants include former "High Commissioner" for Germany John J. McCloy; former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance; former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara; *Die Zeit* publisher Marion von Doenhoff; United Nations Association director Elliott Richardson; and Aspen Institute-New York director Joseph Slater.

On Nov. 27, there will be press conferences in London, Bonn, and Rome, more or less simultaneously. The London event will feature former Prime Ministers Edward Heath and James Callaghan; Social Democratic Party head Shirley Williams; and Elliott Richardson. The Bonn event features Helmut Schmidt. In Rome, a press conference will be given by Umberto Colombo; Giorgio La Malfa; Sergio Berlinguer, a cousin of the deceased Enrico Berlinguer who works at the Italian Foreign Ministry; and Venetian Gianni di Michelis, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs. A fifth press conference is scheduled for Tokyo, with Club of Rome member Saburo Okita.

According to an Aspen East-West spokesman in Washington, D.C., "We are stressing the need for dialogue. We want the question of space weapons put under the necessity for arms control. . . . We hope that this 25-page paper will expand into a series of individual policy papers by the early part of next year."

The Aspen East-West group was set up approximately two years ago by close friends of Henry Kissinger. Since its formation, it has sponsored a number of "back-channel" contacts between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as between the United

States and East Germany. Through its front organization, the Institute for Contemporary German Studies (ICGS), it has cultivated the Nazi-communist West German greens. Aspen's main Green Party liaison is Otto Schily, the "Libyan connection" in the greens. ICGS head Robert Livingston will be giving a forum in Hannover, West Germany on Nov. 27, the same day as the second round of conferences.

## Mixed signals on the second administration

Some major decisions have been made concerning President Reagan's second administration, but the direction in which the administration will go is not yet clear. The President has decided to keep Caspar Weinberger on as Defense Secretary, and U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick is "retiring to private life."

Weinberger is the strongest backer of Reagan's SDI within the cabinet, and his reappointment tends to signal a commitment on the part of the President to push ahead with the beam weapon program.

Kirkpatrick is a leading spokesman in the administration for the policies of "Project Democracy," the Congressionally funded program led by AFL-CIO chief Lane Kirkland's circle, for responding to Soviet imperialism by involving the U.S. in regional wars, particularly in Central America, and encouraging "democratic movements" in Eastern Europe.

A further report, however, cites unnamed White House sources saying that the President has decided to keep virtually the entire foreign policy and security team of the first term. That would mean keeping on Secretary of State George Shultz and National Security Council adviser Robert McFarlane, two Kissingerites in the administration, in addition to Weinberger.

That report is not yet confirmed. Were it to be, it would mean that the same split over beam weapons, arms control, and other issues that undermined the first Reagan administration would continue.

● **THE HERITAGE** Foundation, according to the Nov. 22 *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, has issued "a whole bunch of recommendations" in book-form for the second Reagan administration. The book, *The Conservative Phase of the Revolution*, calls on the President to cancel the 1972 ABM treaty with the U.S.S.R. and "to build a new anti-missile system. . . ." It also asks for support to "anti-Marxist resistance" in the Third World and for use of "paramilitary forces."

● **THE SWEDISH** daily *Dagens Nyheter* ran an article on Nov. 17, "St. Petersburg, U.S.A.," mourning the fact that "President Reagan's electoral victory was a victory over the journalist core. . . . The vast majority of journalists sympathize with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. The last four presidents—Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter—are all considered to have been toppled by critical mass media. Reagan's election victory, therefore, is seen as a victory over mass media. . . ."

● **JODY POWELL** added his strident, slightly hysterical voice to those slandering Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., in a column in the Nov. 24 *Washington Post*. His imagination apparently failed him, however, and he merely reshaped previous slanders created by NBC, *The New Republic*, and other media outlets.

● **JIMMY CARTER** is once again aping Soviet leadership on strategic issues. At a recently forum, Carter denounced the SDI: "We'll eventually arrive, after both sides spend \$1 trillion, at the same result as if arms control had been successful. The more we move toward a massive arms buildup, the more we're going down a dead-end road—and I hope that dead end isn't literally true."