

National News

Air Force One in three near-miss incidents

Air Force One, the presidential jet, was involved in an air safety breach Oct. 17, with the President aboard, coming within 4.3 miles of another Air Force jet, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration has revealed. This was the third incident of its kind in two weeks.

Planes are supposed to keep a minimum five-mile distance from one another. The incident occurred over western Pennsylvania, en route to North Dakota, when the pilot of an Air Force F-4 converging toward the presidential plane twice failed to respond to an air traffic controller's instructions to change his course. Finally, air controllers directed the pilot of Reagan's plane to turn south, which he did.

Aircraft traveling at more than 500 miles per hour can cover 4.3 miles in less than 30 seconds, and two jets can collide in half that time at such speeds if they are converging.

Upon returning from North Dakota later the same day, Air Force One's pilot was directed to change altitude because the plane ascended several hundred feet beyond its prescribed flight level.

In an incident in Atlanta two weeks before, a reporter traveling aboard the presidential jet claimed to have sighted a plane traveling at close distance, and filed a "near midair collision" report with the FAA.

Virginia paper critical of raid on LaRouche

The *Blue Ridge Leader*, an independent newspaper serving western Loudoun County, Virginia, on Oct. 15 denounced the use of "police-state" measures in the raid by 400 government agents against companies and individuals associated with Lyndon LaRouche on Oct. 6. The newspaper is one of three weekly papers published in the county where LaRouche resides, and where the raid took place.

In a second commentary published Oct. 22, the paper described the raid in the following way: "Pitted was the power of the state—in the most generic of terms—against the power of an emerging political force that has attracted time, talent, and treasure from across the United States and parts of the world as well.

"A major raid, carried out with all the panoply of helicopters, SWAT-type teams and a near-dawn assault, was carried out in and near Leesburg October 6. . . .

"In some aspects [LaRouche's] presidential campaigns have been reminiscent of those of George C. Wallace—though largely without racial overtones.

"Whether LaRouche will become a martyr to those of like mind remains very much an open question."

U.S. won't ignore Soviet conventional superiority

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is at pains to assure the European allies that the United States will not agree to major cuts in nuclear weapons as long as the overwhelming superiority of Soviet conventional forces in Europe is maintained. Following the Iceland meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov, at which reduction of intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe was discussed, representatives of several allied governments expressed concern on this score.

Speaking to the press in Scotland Oct. 21, during the meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, Weinberger said: "If we go down on the nuclear side, then we have got one way or another to balance the conventional. . . . You balance the conventional by coming up to the Soviet levels, or getting them to come down in a verifiable way to the point where we have parity."

In an interview Oct. 23 on the "CBS Morning News," Weinberger said: "There are some who felt that if you just did that alone, the deterrent balance in Europe might be upset and, of course, there's no slight suggestion that would be all we would do. We would also want to address the imbal-

ance on the conventional side and the imbalance on the short-range side. We can build up our conventional forces if the people in Europe and the people in the United States have sufficient resolution and will to do so and are willing to devote the resources necessary to do it."

Libyan link to California dope?

For the second time in recent months, authorities on Oct. 21 seized a multimillion-dollar cache of cocaine packaged with pictures of Libya's Muammar Qaddafi on the wrappings, UPI reports. The latest batch of Qaddafi cocaine turned up when narcotics agents raided a town house in Foster City, California, and found 187 kilograms of Colombian cocaine, worth \$30 million on the street, said Police Chief Bob Norman.

Fifteen Colombians were seized in several north California cities in connection with the seizure. "At this point, we do not know of any significance in the picture of Qaddafi," said Norman. "It would be speculation at this point to conclude any significance." He added, "This is one of the largest seizures by local agencies in California. These were highly organized traffickers."

Police displayed cartons wrapped in blue paper and plastic, each carrying a picture of the Libyan leader.

Episcopalians denounce Vatican 'coercion'

By a unanimous vote, the 518-member Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York passed a resolution on Oct. 22, deploping what it says is "coercive discipline" by the Roman Catholic Church.

The resolution, "Freedom and Authority in the Catholic Church," was authored by Rev. Christopher Webber, who said he was prompted by Vatican actions against theologian Charles Curran and Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle, which, he said,

"are creating an impression of the Christian Church as authoritarian and not open to freedom and diversity." Curran's license to teach Church theology at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., was revoked on Aug. 18, when the Vatican judged that Curran's teachings on abortion, homosexuality, premarital sex, and contraception were in opposition to the teachings of the Church. Early in September, Hunthausen was stripped of most of his major responsibilities, again because of his "dissident" views on moral issues.

The Episcopal resolution deplores "any action that narrows the realm of free debate. With concern for the greater unity within the church, we would avoid any use of coercion because we believe the witness and mission of the whole church is impeded by such action."

Surgeon general's report covers up AIDS crisis

The U.S. government's cover-up of the extent of the AIDS epidemic continued with the release on Oct. 22, by Surgeon-General Everett Koop, of a report recommending sexual abstinence or the use of condoms to prevent transmission of the disease.

"The impact of AIDS on our society is and will continue to be devastating," said Koop at a news conference. "This epidemic has already claimed . . . almost 15,000 Americans and that figure is expected to increase 12-fold by the end of 1991."

Koop said, however, that he was "absolutely opposed" to Proposition 64, the California ballot initiative which would declare AIDS a communicable disease, thereby forcing health authorities to use traditional public health measures—such as mass screening and quarantine—to prevent its spread. In his opening statement, Koop denounced quarantine and blood testing as "unnecessary, unfeasible, and *cost prohibitive* [emphasis added]."

Koop's report categorically denies that insect transmission of AIDS is possible. It includes a photograph of an "Aztec latex condom," with the following advice to the

AIDS patient: "If you decide to have sex . . . you must protect your partner by always using a rubber (condom) during (start to finish) sexual intercourse (vagina or rectum)."

Koop said he could report no progress toward a cure, and that a vaccine might not be developed until the end of the century—if then. The Department of Health and Human Services will have a budget in Fiscal Year 1987 of \$26 million for AIDS research and education.

Koop added that he plans to have his report printed in Spanish and in comic book form, to reach as many people as possible.

'Sex-ed' will be compulsory in New York

The New York City Board of Education voted up a proposal on Oct. 15 making sex education compulsory in all city schools by next September. Board President Robert Wagner, Jr. also got a motion passed, 5 to 2, under which high school health clinics would be allowed to dispense prescriptions for contraceptives to students who request them. "My hope is that we would have contraceptive distribution in all the schools," said Wagner.

Supporters of the measures claim it will help children avoid involvement in sexual acts out of ignorance, but the "value-free approach" characteristic of such sex-ed courses can only contribute to sanctioning promiscuity and "alternate sexual lifestyles."

The sex education curriculum would begin in kindergarten, when children will learn about their own bodies, and the differences between men and women. Grades one through six will learn about animal and human evolution and the concept of the family. Sixth graders will learn about rape and incest. Beginning in the seventh grade, students will be taught about sexual reproduction, venereal disease, contraception, and abortion. The high school curriculum will include descriptions of oral and anal sex, the use of contraceptives, and how to avoid contracting AIDS.

Briefly

● **CHARLES WICK**, head of the U.S. Information Agency, offered to explore the possibility of the Soviet Union using American radio stations for propaganda broadcasts during the Iceland "pre-summit," the *Washington Post* reported Oct. 25. Wick discussed the matter with Soviet propaganda chief Aleksandr Yakovlev, during a two-hour meeting in Iceland.

● **MAX KAMPELMAN**, the chief U.S. arms negotiator, met on Oct. 22 with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, and Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini. Kampelman said he talked to Craxi privately for 90 minutes, concerning the SDI and "the difficulty in relations with the Soviet Union."

● **MARYLAND** Attorney-General Stephen Sachs said Oct. 22 that mandatory drug testing of most state employees is unconstitutional. Sachs said such testing would violate the Fourth Amendment. "Testing of all applicants for positions as correctional officers, and like public safety jobs, and refusing to hire those who test positive for drug abuse would be legally permissible," Sachs wrote.

● **AN AIDS PATIENT'S** return to work at the New England Telephone Company for the first time in 17 months, after an extended legal battle, led to a walkout Oct. 22 by most technicians at a garage in Needham, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston. Nan Hunter, an ACLU lawyer who monitors AIDS cases nationwide, said: "In terms of employment discrimination, this is the first time a state court has ruled that AIDS is a disability under state handicapped discrimination law."

● **RAMSEY CLARK**, the former U.S. attorney-general, sought a meeting Oct. 23 with the lawyer who is defending captured American Eugene Hasenfus in Nicaragua. Clark said he plans to monitor the Hasenfus trial.