

National News

U.S. halts maintenance for Panama's military

The U.S. Southern Command has ceased routine maintenance of the Panama Defense Forces, in a gesture of opposition to PDF chief Gen. Manuel Noriega, a spokesman confirmed. The U.S. embassy in Panama is overtly seeking to oust Noriega and President Eric Delvalle, and to install a government more amenable to the austerity policies of Wall Street and the International Monetary Fund.

According to the *Washington Times* of July 16, William Ornsby confirmed the authenticity of a memo to this effect written by Lt. Col. Harry Parker, and released by Panama's Col. Roberto Díaz Herrera, an opposition figure, a few days before.

Ornsby said, "In essence, we do not support the Defense Forces until further notice. The directive is an internal memo to his [Parker's] supervisors and branch chiefs. The directive is in line with U.S. embassy policy, and what it refers to is the types of repair, maintenance they provide to the PDF on a routine basis. . . . This is not stopping military aid or security assistance, or the turnover of any major equipment."

This refers to small equipment and stops all U.S. Army repair work for the Panamanian military under the American security-assistance program "on everything except what is already in the pipeline."

New PANIC initiative launched in California

Petitioning has begun in California on the "Son of Proposition 64," its co-proponents Brian Lantz and Khushro Ghandi announced on July 13. Proposition 64 was the referendum to classify AIDS as a "communicable" disease, placed on the November 1986 ballot at the initiative of political associates of Lyndon LaRouche.

It was defeated, thanks to a high-publicity campaign by Hollywood movie stars, "gay" activists and others in both Demo-

cratic and Republican party leaderships. But 29% of California voters supported the measure.

For the new initiative, approximately 409,000 valid signatures will be required by Dec. 7 to qualify for the 1988 ballot. An initiative committee, Prevent AIDS Now In California (PANIC), has registered with the secretary of state.

The wording of the new AIDS initiative is almost exactly that of Proposition 64. It defines AIDS as "infectious and communicable," and would thereby place this disease on the reportable diseases list, meaning that existing public-health codes that apply to every other communicable disease, would apply to AIDS as well.

In a July 14 editorial, the *Los Angeles Times* slammed the new initiative, calling it "a mischievous move," and noting that LaRouche sees AIDS as an issue that could carry him to the White House.

As for quarantine of infected persons, the *Times* calls this "unworkable . . . because of the dimension of the infected population, estimated at 1.5 million nationally and at 345,000 in California."

PANIC sponsors estimate that there are actually now 1 million people in California infected with the AIDS virus.

Scientist protests shutdown of Fusion

Dr. Stephen O. Dean, president of the industry lobbying group Fusion Power Associates and former head of the Department of Energy's magnetic confinement division in the fusion program, mailed a letter dated July 4 to scientists, congressmen, the media, and officials of the Department of Energy, protesting the shut-down of *Fusion* magazine.

The Fusion Energy Foundation, publisher of *Fusion*, was placed in involuntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy on April 21, in an illegal action by the U.S. Department of Justice, allegedly to collect on contempt fines owed to a federal court in Boston. In fact, the fines were still under appeal, and the FEF, as a tax-exempt foundation, is not subject to the bankruptcy code.

Dean wrote, "The procedures used by the government agents have included involuntary bankruptcy (they were, in fact, quite solvent), the confiscation of personal papers and research materials . . . the closing of the *Fusion* post office box . . . and refusal to allow *Fusion* magazine to use its own mailing list to communicate with its subscribers."

"Fusion Energy Foundation has not been convicted of any crime. . ." he continued. "I trust that most of you are still enjoying your constitutional rights on this Fourth of July weekend."

Big threat to Bohemian Grove cultists: women!

The shenanigans at the Bohemian Grove, the biggest "stag party" in the United States, have drawn the scrutiny of European newspapers. The London *Daily Mail's* U.S. correspondent wrote on July 9: "Tomorrow, the most conspicuous men in American public and corporate life begin their annual mid-summer frolic among the tall redwoods 65 miles north of San Francisco. Over the next two weeks, wealth and power will be in rare repose as politicians, military chiefs, and the leaders of commerce and industry relax in rustic informality, walk about with nothing on, dress up in drag for their burlesque shows, and are generally uninhibited. . . ."

"But members of the Bohemian Club gather this year with their fun threatened. The California Court of Appeals has ruled that it is discriminatory for the club to continue to exclude women from its staff of 300.

"The club, which has never allowed a woman on its 2,700 acres, either as member or servant, has argued that the female presence would compromise the Bohemian purpose of promoting male fellowship, and it is appealing the judgment to the United States Supreme Court. . . ."

"Edmund Brown Sr., a former California governor, testified that he liked to walk around camp naked, another member said that in the club's Low Jinks show he had played a wood nymph in a body stocking