

of its co-sponsors, among whom are five former members of Aquino's cabinet and the President's brother-in-law, Sen. Agapito Aquino.

The number of co-sponsors, 12, is sufficient to guarantee passage in the 24-member Senate under the new Filipino Constitution. Sen. Neptali Gonzales, vice-chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, says enactment of the measure would probably result in the withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Philippines.

However, backers of the measure argue that it will not adversely effect relations with the United States. Sen. Heherson Alvarez says, "It's not my intention to vote against the bases. . . . Most Filipinos would prefer to keep the bases." Senator Alvarez argued that the nuclear ban could be used as leverage to negotiate favorable terms for the renewal of U.S. basing rights.

AIDS issue raised in U.S.-Philippine dispute

AIDS "will be a very important issue" in the upcoming negotiations concerning the future of the two U.S. military bases in the Philippines, according to Richard Walden, an attorney representing a military doctor in an AIDS-related court-martial proceeding in Manila.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, a two-year study by defendant Lt. Cmdr. Thomas O'Rourke and several Philippine Health Department officials indicates that the U.S. military bases are primarily responsible for spreading AIDS into the Philippines.

The U.S. Navy on Aug. 21 announced that it had filed court-martial charges against O'Rourke, in part for refusal to identify prostitutes carrying the AIDS virus. This is the first case in American jurisprudence of a doctor being prosecuted for protecting the anonymity of AIDS carriers, according to lawyer Walden. O'Rourke is also charged with unauthorized absence, falsification of documents, illegal distribution of controlled drugs, and theft of drugs.

His lawyer claims that the Navy was harassing O'Rourke because his research blames American sailors for the spread of AIDS.

Germany's Späth leans toward Social Democrats

Lothar Späth, the Christian Democratic governor of the West German state of Baden-Württemberg, hinted in an interview with the daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* published Aug. 22, that all is not well with the economic policy of the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Späth is seen as the most likely candidate to replace Kohl, in a "grand coalition" government that would include the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Späth said that he does not rule out a "major conjunctural downturn." Pointing to imbalances in the Bonn government's tax reform plans, which would further reduce the state's annual tax revenue, Späth recommended a policy of building budgetary reserves "in case of a considerable downturn."

This is the first time that a prominent member of Kohl's party has even hinted at the possibility of trouble ahead; the official line in Germany, as in the United States, is that the "recovery" is taking hold.

Späth also reiterated his recent attacks on Kohl's Free Democratic Party coalition partner, urging the Christian Democrats to distance themselves from the FDP.

The Social Democrats, too, are pressing Kohl on the issue of tax reform. Hans Apel, the deputy head of the SPD's parliamentary group, said Aug. 19 that his party is "certain there is not only broad opposition in the population against this tax reform, but also inside the Christian Democracy." Apel expressed confidence that "these Christian Democrats" would vote "with the SPD, against their own chancellor," if it came to "a moment of truth in the Parliament."

The issue may come to a vote by the end of September or early October, which could mark the end of the Kohl administration.

Briefly

● **SAUDI ARABIA** charged Iran with orchestrating the recent riots in Mecca, at a press conference of the Saudi ambassador to Bonn on Aug. 27. The Saudi authorities pointed to the role of Hojatoleslam Charrubi, private secretary to Khomeini, in planning the "pilgrim riots." Charrubi was arrested and expelled from Saudi Arabia a few days before.

● **ARGENTINE PRESIDENT** Raúl Alfonsín praised Soviet leader Gorbachov, in a television interview Aug. 25. "Gorbachov is making a Revolution in Russia; he is consolidating his power; he is an example to be imitated," Alfonsín said.

● **MANFRED WÖRNER**, the West German defense minister, has been officially proposed as the next NATO secretary-general. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced Aug. 25. Britain's Lord Carrington, the current secretary-general, is scheduled to step down in 1988. Also in the running are Kaare Willoch of Norway, Giulio Andreotti of Italy, and Leo Tindemans of Belgium.

● **PANAMA'S PRESIDENT** Eric Delvalle has appointed Juan Sosa as the next ambassador to the United States. Sosa is a member of the *Modelho* group, which opposes Gen. Manuel Noriega, the chief of the Panama Defense Forces. Noriega would have preferred that roving ambassador Aquilino Boyd be named to the critical post.

● **"I DO NOT TRUST** Gorbachov's *glasnost*," said Cardinal Lubachinsky, exiled primate of Ukrainian Catholics, to the Italian daily *La Repubblica* on Aug. 21. "I fear that Ukrainians living in the Soviet Union will undergo even more persecutions now," he said. "The much publicized *glasnost* is only a means to confuse ideas in Western countries, and actually the present Soviet leader is a communist as much as his predecessors." Lubachinsky has been living in Rome for 30 years.