

# National News

---

## General exposes Soviet laser breakthroughs

Air Force Gen. John Piotrowski, chief of the U.S. Space Command, warned in Washington on Oct. 23 that the United States must take measures immediately to deter "Soviet aggression in space." Piotrowski said that the Soviets have developed lasers powerful enough to destroy U.S. satellites in low orbit, and to attack satellites at altitudes of 22,000 miles.

The United States needs to be able to launch replacement satellites, to counter Soviet actions in event of war, he said, adding that the Pentagon must convince Congress of the need to carry out anti-satellite testing and related actions, to deter "Soviet aggression in space."

Piotrowski told reporters that Soviet ground-based lasers could knock out reconnaissance satellites at an altitude of 400 miles and damage those at 750 miles. Within five years, he said, Soviet lasers will be able to knock out U.S. military communications in geosynchronous orbit, and could threaten American satellites that are part of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

---

## Twenty million Americans are hungry

A study released under the auspices of the Harvard School of Public Health, by the Physicians' Task Force on Hunger in America, documents that 20 million Americans do not get enough to eat. Worst affected are infants, the elderly, and former blue-collar workers who have dropped out of manufacturing into the service sector.

According to the study, the number of Americans living under the poverty level has increased by 36% since 1979. Of all 13 million new jobs "created" since 1981, 8.2 million bring in earnings of less than \$7,000 per year, so that even families with a relatively secure income are facing problems.

As the study reports, consumer prices

have gone up by 32% since January 1981, which means that many families cannot afford more than one meal per day.

The data for the study was drawn from field investigations in four regions: Texas and Louisiana, where oil and natural gas industries are in decline; Minnesota and Iowa, where farms are endangered; Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, where steel and mining jobs are disappearing; and California's "Silicon Valley."

---

## Peacelinks boosts ties to Mother Russia

Elizabeth Leach, wife of Iowa congressman Jim Leach, held a press conference on Oct. 27, announcing the results of a tour of the Soviet Union by the Peacelinks organization. The tour was touted as the first such exchange between U.S. and Soviet women's organizations.

Leach said that Peacelinks hopes that the agreement reached with the Russians will lead to increased visits to the United States by "grass roots" Soviet women and their families, and to publication exchanges in American and Soviet women's magazines.

Another member of the delegation was Elinor Bedell, wife of a former Iowa Democratic congressman.

---

## AIDS set to explode in New York City

The AIDS epidemic will explode in New York City within the next four years, overwhelming city hospitals with more than 109,000 patients, according to a secret city report published in the *New York Post* on Oct. 28.

The report estimates that 414,794 city residents are infected with AIDS, but have yet to show symptoms. "We are going to have a major rupture of the health care system—lack of beds, not enough nurses, doctors, beds, x-rays—none of them will be available if these projections are accurate,"

said Kenneth Raske, president of the Greater New York Hospital Association. "Patients may not ever get in or may not receive adequate treatment. . . . The occupancy rates in New York City hospitals now are at or near capacity and the emergency rooms are backed up."

The report was prepared under the auspices of New York City Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph, who has recently said that he would favor notification of spouses and sexual partners of those testing positive for the AIDS virus.

---

## U.S. denounces Iran's role in terrorism

The State Department on Oct. 27 issued a report on Iran's sponsorship of international terrorism, stating that "Iran is currently one of the world's most active states supporting international terrorism and subversion against other countries," and has been since "the revolutionaries who came to power in Iran with the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini" seized the U.S. embassy in Teheran in 1979.

"The Government of Iran regards terrorism as an integral tool of its foreign policy," the report charges, and "has shown exceptional readiness to use terrorism and subversion of other governments." The report lists numerous terrorist incidents in which Iran and its terrorist arms, such as Hezbollah and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, have been involved.

It was the U.S. State Department's own policy of fostering Islamic fundamentalism which toppled the Shah of Iran and brought Khomeini to power—a fact which, naturally, the report does not admit, but which *EIR* has documented. In our issue of Nov. 28, 1986, for example, we published documents showing that Carter administration officials had met in 1978 with Dr. Ibrahim Yazdi, one of Khomeini's closest associates, to brief him on U.S. efforts to overthrow the Shah. Such channels were maintained during the Reagan administration, by the covert intelligence operation which is now under scrutiny in the "Irangate" affair.