

# National News

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## Nunn, Aspin seek U.S. pullout from Europe

Officials at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and representatives of U. S. Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and Representative Les Aspin (D-Wis.) are initiating collaboration on a project to see how NATO can be "restructured" and the American commitment to Europe "reshaped," in a way that would make American troop withdrawals from Europe psychologically acceptable, a SIPRI source reports.

The idea behind the project is that some form of U. S. withdrawal from Europe is "on the political agenda now" and must be taken as virtually inevitable, under conditions of growing financial-economic chaos. So, the question has become, in this source's words, "not *whether* there will be a withdrawal, but under *what circumstances* it will occur. We can more easily cope with a withdrawal for financial reasons, than a withdrawal out of anger and pique at the Europeans. . . . There's a lot of psychology involved. . . . We are trying to find a conceptual package, that involves redeployment, restructuring, a kind of 'New Deal' of American commitment to Europe."

This "package" is being put forward as a "pro-NATO" alternative to a more precipitous American withdrawal from Europe.

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## Army helicopters zapped by radio waves

The U.S. Army's most advanced troop-transporting helicopter could be knocked out of the sky by routine radio waves from microwave towers, radio antennas and radars, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported on Nov. 8, citing Pentagon officials and documents.

Radio waves are believed to have been the reason for the nosedives of five Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters since 1982, resulting in the deaths of 22 servicemen.

"We've got a very sophisticated electronic aircraft, and if the radiation we're putting up in peacetime—microwaves, antennas, TVs—is causing the aircraft to flutter and wobble, then—and I don't like to talk about this, because it is kind of a breach of security—we're going to have problems in wartime," said former Army Major Jerry A. McVey. McVey led the investigation into a still-unexplained Black Hawk crash last year.

According to the *Inquirer*, radio waves can now penetrate the helicopter's wiring and electrical components and generate false commands leading to failure of the aircraft. "Pilots should be made aware that flights near microwave antennas or shipboard radar may cause uncommanded attitude changes," the Army told its pilots in August, following extensive tests earlier this year.

The Navy has prohibited its Black Hawks from coming within "a significant number of miles" of radio towers, for fear of accidents.

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## NASA chief warns against more cuts

NASA administrator Dr. James Fletcher, speaking to the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on Nov. 6, warned that further cuts in the budget for space exploration could dangerously jeopardize the program, and make it impossible for the United States to catch up to the Soviet Union.

"The Space Station, the key to our future in space, has been mired in congressional budget debates this year," he said. "Although we hope and expect it will be fully funded for the next fiscal year when the crucial development phase begins, its funding could be cut in future years, imperiling our prospects of having a permanent presence in space by the mid-1990s. Even then, that will put us at least a decade behind the Soviets, whose Space Stations have given them the opportunity to occupy space permanently since 1971, when the first Salyut was launched. . . ."

"It is no longer a question of whether we should have long-term goals in space. The

question is, can we afford not to lead? And if we are to lead, we must focus now on what those goals should be."

In remarks in Salt Lake City quoted by UPI on Nov. 11, Fletcher stressed that those future goals should include establishment of a base on the Moon, flights to Mars, and exploration beyond. "Why Mars?" he asked. "We should go there for the same reason we went to the Moon—it's a new frontier. And, it will expand human horizons, give us new knowledge and benefit this country and all mankind," Mars, he added, "is almost inhabitable now. It wouldn't take much change for us to live there."

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## Idaho takes public health approach to AIDS

Since Idaho reported its first AIDS case two years ago, that state has treated the disease like every other communicable disease, according to Dr. Fritz R. Dixon, the state's chief public health officer. Dixon was quoted in the *Washington Post* on Nov. 10.

With virtually no opposition, Dixon barred anonymous testing and required doctors, hospitals, and laboratories to report the name and address of anyone who tested positive for the virus. "I don't get complicated about it," said Dixon. "Everytime we don't find somebody with AIDS, that person may infect others and they will die. It's as simple as that. If every state did the same thing as Idaho, there wouldn't be such a problem."

State epidemiologist Charles D. Brockopp estimates that 7% of Idaho's one million people have been tested, with about 100—mostly gay men—testing positive. There are presently 18 full-blown cases of AIDS and 9 cases of AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) in Idaho.

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## Physicists disown their anti-SDI tract

Virtually all of the authors of a report on laser and particle beam weapons, issued in

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April by the American Physical Society, have publicly denounced a statement by the APS council, maintaining that the council politicized their work and undermined its credibility, *Science* magazine reported Oct. 9.

The statement argued against early deployment of any elements of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and said, "the SDI program should not be a controlling factor in U. S. security planning and arms control." The council cited the panel's report that directed-energy devices fall short of the performance levels required.

In a letter published in the October issue of *Physics Today*, 14 out of the 17 authors stated: "We object to being included in the council's statements on matters neither we nor they studied."

### Nitze caught in drive to limit the SDI

A proposal to limit the Strategic Defense Initiative, crafted in part by U. S. arms negotiator Paul Nitze and a panel of American scientists, may be submitted by Soviet negotiators in Geneva or Washington just prior to the Dec. 7 U. S.-Soviet summit, according to a Copley News Service story appearing in the *Washington Times* Nov. 9, citing administration officials.

Nitze, who sponsored the "back-channel" efforts by the Committee on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC), was given a draft of a paper proposing "technical thresholds" for SDI tests. He reportedly made changes that he considered would "have a better chance of acceptance" by the President. In August, Nitze was told to stop encouraging private groups proposing limitations on SDI, including the CISAC, but instead has reportedly continued and even accelerated his contacts with the group.

Wolfgang Panofsky, the chairman of the CISAC, confirmed that a meeting had taken place in Wilnius, Lithuania on Oct. 26-28 with a Soviet delegation that included Roald Sagdeev, director of space research for the Soviet Academy of Sciences. Attending the meeting from the United States were Spurgeon Keeney, chairman of the Arms Control

Association, and IBM researcher Richard Garwin, who is also associated with CISAC.

The Committee on International Security keeps its negotiations with the Soviets secret, but it is understood that both Soviet and American participants will report back to their respective governments.

An investigation of the Committee's role in SDI negotiations is now under way by Congress, the National Security Council, and the Department of Justice. There have also been demands for an investigation of the behavior of Nitze, who denies using the Committee as a back-channel for negotiations with Moscow.

### Senator Hatch hits Reagan's palace guard

Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) on Nov. 10 blasted the "gutless wonders" on the White House staff, whom he accused of pulling the rug out from under the nomination of Douglas Ginsburg to the Supreme Court, because of his use of marijuana a decade ago. President Reagan should find out who was responsible for undermining him, and "bust 'em right out of the White House as soon as he can," Hatch said. ". . . If I'm sending a message to the White House, it is that some of us have had it up to here with the lack of leadership."

A deeper symptom of that "lack of leadership"—contrary to Hatch's view—was the decision to nominate the radical libertarian Ginsburg in the first place.

The next day, Hatch complained that he was unable to get a message to the President on the issue. "It was the first time in the whole time I've known the President that I couldn't get through to him. I was just flat shut out from my own President."

"Many of us up here [on Capitol Hill] feel he's being shielded from his real friends and being fed a steady diet of philosophy not in tune with his own. . . . I believe he is in danger of having much of what he has stood for over the last seven years go down the drain in this last year," Hatch observed.

● **WEINBERGER'S** resignation could lead to a "more productive era" in U. S.-Soviet relations, especially if Frank Carlucci proves to be more "flexible and pragmatic" than Weinberger, said the Soviet news agency TASS on Nov. 9.

● **THE STATE DEPARTMENT** sabotaged the delivery of communique sent to the Pentagon on the recent police murders in West Germany, Pentagon sources report. The U. S. embassy in Bonn reportedly assigned the cables low priority designations.

● **'SEXUAL TRANSMISSION OF AIDS** is unproven, said Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. on Nov. 10. "I adopt the argument of a leading Brazilian physical and public health official, Dr. Ricardo Veronesi," he said. "To those who say that there is no laboratory proof, that an experiment has been conducted, in which a statistically significant number of persons were infected with AIDS by insect bites, it should be noted, that there has been not a single reported laboratory experiment, in which a statistically significant number of persons were infected with AIDS by sexual transmission."

● **A FEDERAL Appeals Court** on Nov. 6 dismissed a contempt citation against Irangate figure Albert Hakim for refusing to surrender the records of eight foreign companies linked to the arms scandal. The three-judge panel held that a lower court had erred in rejecting Hakim's Fifth Amendment claim, that he might incriminate himself by complying with a grand jury subpoena for the records.

● **"A NOTE** in the typewriter at *High Times's* editorial office explained the recent mass-suicide by editors and staff. 'After Ginsburg's and Gore's confessions, dope is hopelessly discredited.' " *EIR's* editors are not sure how to evaluate this anonymously submitted item.