

National News

EMP weapons testing curtailed

"The Defense Department, under a legal agreement reached May 13, must stop or moderate its electromagnetic pulse (EMP) experiments at laboratories in Virginia, Maryland, Alabama, and New Mexico until the government determines whether the energy is harming people and wildlife," the *Washington Post* reported May 15.

With the Soviets far along on a weapon that would use EMP radiation to kill troops and disable vehicles, the Pentagon had been simulating such pulses to determine how to protect the circuitry in its planes, tanks, and ships. However, Jeremy Rifkin's group, the Foundation on Economic Trends, sued on the grounds that experiments were proceeding without an assessment by the government on their potential harm.

Under a settlement approved by U.S. District Court Judge John Garrett Penn in Washington, the EMP facilities at Patuxent Naval Air Station in Maryland must be operated at low voltage of not more than one kilovolt per meter until environmental risks are assessed.

The Navy's Empress I EMP simulator in the middle of Chesapeake Bay may not be operated at all until its impact has been assessed.

Also shut down under the agreement were EMP simulators at Redstone Arsenal, in Alabama, the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, and a facility in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Bush purged President's FIAB

Martin Anderson, who was one of President Reagan's original domestic policy advisers, in his recently published book, *Revolution*, indicates that George Bush staged an intelligence coup inside the Reagan administration in 1985.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Britain Anne L. Armstrong, a strong ally of Vice

President Bush, had Don Regan's help in arranging for a gutting of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in October 1985.

"That action, which included firing Anderson and 10 other board members . . . made it possible for then-CIA Director William J. Casey and National Security Council aide Oliver L. North to mount their covert arms sales to Iran and funding for the Contras," said the *Washington Post*, quoting from the book.

The Iran-Contra operations were then conducted under the supervision of Vice President Bush's office, *EIR* has documented.

According to Anderson, Armstrong persuaded Robert McFarlane, then-National Security Adviser, that the board was unnecessarily large and split by disputes. As a result, President Reagan, under recommendations from Armstrong and McFarlane, wrote letters firing 11 board members.

After the letters were sent, the President reportedly asked Don Regan, "Don, why are we firing all these people?"

Columnist calls for mandatory AIDS tests

Washington Times columnist Cal Thomas called for mandatory AIDS testing on May 15. After relating the story of a woman whose husband had, for more than 20 years, lived a secret life as a homosexual, and who had infected her with AIDS but refused to tell her and refused to permit their doctor to tell her, Thomas inveighs against the inadequacy of the federal AIDS pamphlet that will soon be mailed to every household in the United States.

"As long as we pretend that information alone will curtail the spread of AIDS and reduce the chances of innocent people dying, little impact will be felt. The battle against AIDS must be stepped up to include mandatory testing of every American and the repeal of laws that prohibit a doctor from informing the wife or lover of an AIDS patient that he or she has been exposed to the disease."

Among other things, Thomas contends that the Centers for Disease Control in At-

lanta "estimates that the average homosexual AIDS carrier has 61 different sexual partners each year," and that recent government statistics "project that 1 out of every 30 men between the ages of 20 and 50 are HIV-positive."

Contra leaders 'chosen' by CIA

"They are the ones who put up the money, they are the ones who have chosen us," top Contra official Aristides Sánchez told other Contra leaders in a recent meeting.

After a dispute, he had called a CIA official in Washington and asked him to dictate a resolution of the problem to the Contras' directorate.

Fellow directorate member Pedro Chamorro had proposed dumping Enrique Bermúdez as military chief of the Contras. The CIA man whom Aristides had called demanded to be put on the speaker phone. He proceeded to launch into a 20-30 minute tirade, calling Chamorro's proposal "imbecilic" and "stupid."

Reagan doesn't deny belief in astrology

At a surprise press conference May 17, President Reagan categorically refused to say that he doesn't believe in astrology, and actually apologized to people who do.

But Reagan did deny that the timing of the signing of the INF treaty was astrologically charted. "Nothing of that kind was going on," he told reporters. "We're not binding our lives to this."

He quickly added, however, "I don't mean to offend anyone who believes in it, or engages in it."

Asked if he personally believes in astrology, Reagan responded, "I've not lived my life by it, but I won't answer the question the other way [i.e., "no"] because I don't know enough about it to say, is there something to it or not."

New York called AIDS 'disaster area'

New York City may need disaster assistance because of its AIDS crisis, according to the city's mayor, Ed Koch. The mayor announced that an estimated 400,000 city residents are infected with AIDS and between 200,000 and 320,000 of them will die in the next 10 to 15 years unless a cure is found.

"The federal government would have to act as though there were an earthquake," said Koch, "and pour in aid."

Health Commissioner Stephen Joseph added, "The epidemic doesn't stop in 1991 and the numbers will continue to rise for some years after that. No one knows at what point the epidemic will begin to level off."

Meanwhile, New York City is building a \$5 million AIDS research facility. "We need it because we are the ones who suffer most from the virus," said Health Commissioner Joseph, who added that the lab would provide "enormous" help to researchers looking for a cure. "My personal optimistic horizon is 5 to 10 years for effective treatment and 10 to 15 years on a vaccine," Joseph said. "We are somewhere between 9 and 12 months away from having the laboratory up and running."

Mayor Koch's capital budget allocates \$523,000 for planning the lab and another \$2 million for its construction. An additional \$2.5 million to operate the lab for three years is being sought from private foundations and government grants, according to Joseph. The lab will take up at least one full floor of renovated space at the Public Health Research Institute.

VA puts veteran on prisoner-of-war diet

The Chancery Court of Delaware was told May 17 that Sgt. Arnold Shumusic, a 23-year-old brain-damaged patient whose parents want to starve him to death, currently receives only 560 calories of nutrition a day at a Veterans Administration hospital. This

serves "to keep him more manageable, easier to move," the court was told.

Dr. Ellis, chief neurologist at the Ellsmere Delaware VA Hospital, testified that he did not know what a prisoner of war receives, but a person can survive on 700 calories daily.

This prompted Judge Allen to ask, "Wasn't he undernourished, doesn't that affect his ability to respond?"

Shumusic weighed 220 lbs. when admitted to the facility in July 1987. By March, he weighed only 102 lbs. Yet, he still is able to push away painful stimuli and grasp a friend's hand.

At one point, the White House said it was investigating the case, but later, reporters were told there was nothing that could be done about Shumusic's slow murder.

Gaffney warns of INF impact on SDI

Frank Gaffney, the former deputy secretary of defense, told a press conference in Washington May 17 that the INF treaty will have an impact on the Strategic Defense Initiative in two ways.

First, he said, the so-called Biden amendment would make every pronouncement about the interpretation of the treaty by an administration official binding on U.S. behavior under the treaty, whether or not the Soviets adhered to the same interpretation. This would be used retroactively to enforce the Soviets' "narrow interpretation" of the ABM treaty, strangling SDI development.

Second, the agreement to prohibit deployment of "futuristic weapons" between Shultz and Shevardnadze would affect SDI forward deployment systems as well as tactical defensive systems deployed by the Europeans or Israelis. The agreement prohibits use of emerging non-nuclear technologies, which, Gaffney said, Soviet Marshal Ogarkov has expressed particular concern about.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, he added, "seems to lack the vision to appreciate the potential of" these technologies, ranging from lasers to particle beams, high-energy explosives, radio frequency weapons, and microwave systems.

Briefly

● **VICE PRESIDENT** George Bush trails Michael Dukakis and faces a "very tight election," according to GOP pollster Richard Wirthlin. His survey shows that 55% of Americans believe that the country has "seriously gotten off the track" and needs a change at the top. Only 34% thought the country is going in "the right direction." Bush, he said, has also been damaged by the revelations of the Reagans' belief in astrology.

● **JUSTICE** Department officials will have the final word on whether to disclose classified information needed in the prosecution of the Iran-Contra conspiracy case, Special Prosecutor Lawrence Walsh disclosed in mid-May.

● **JEANE DIXON**, the queen of the astrologers, has determined that George Bush would make a "more compatible" and "harmonious" President than Michael Dukakis. In a *New York Times* commentary defending her occult trade, Dixon writes, "There is more compatibility between the country (Cancer) and the Vice President (Gemini), than there is between the country" and Dukakis, who's a Scorpio.

● **DON REGAN**, wearing a wide smile, was seen watching some "sidewalk theater" in Washington which featured Ronald and Nancy Reagan consulting their star charts and a crystal ball. Asked if he liked the skit, Regan nodded enthusiastically. Some of the actors asked him to stand by the table and have his picture taken, but two men accompanying him immediately cried out "No! No! You can't do that!"

● **FRANK CARLUCCI**, the Defense Secretary, in a speech to the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), characterized the SDI as important to the future of Israel and called on pro-Israel lobbyists and lawmakers to support increased funding for the program.