

# National News

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## Cuomo urged to declare AIDS emergency

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo has been urged by the New York State Department of Health to declare the AIDS epidemic a full-scale state of emergency.

A 120-page report prepared by the State Health Department and reported in the Dec. 21 *New York Times*, urges that reluctant out-of-city local communities be ordered to house and care for New York City AIDS patients, and that such facilities be immune from lawsuits.

The report suggests that Hart Island in the Bronx and several East River islands be considered potential treatment centers. And the report also calls for increased use of voluntary but confidential testing, and intensified services for parolees, probationers, and state and local inmates.

In the Health Department's odd perspective, New York City is projected to have exactly 90,503 AIDS cases by 1994, with AIDS patients occupying 4,300 hospital beds, compared with 1,800 now, meaning that one of every seven surgical-medical hospital beds is occupied by an AIDS patient. Another 1,400 to 2,200 patients will need care in nursing homes, and yet another 15,000 patients will need home care. Expanded treatment for 7,000 drug addicts is also urged by the report.

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## CIA says START will be harder to verify

The CIA has informed the Joint Chiefs of Staff that verifying a strategic arms reduction treaty will be more difficult than previously anticipated.

Lawrence Gershwin, the CIA's top intelligence analyst for strategic weapons, outlined in a 600-page report, according to the Dec. 20 *Washington Times*, three main problem areas. These difficulties are verifi-

cation of the elimination of mobile Soviet cruise missiles, and determining how many nuclear warheads are contained in each Soviet missile.

Director of Central Intelligence William Webster said in a speech the week of Dec. 13 that verifying the elimination of Soviet missiles under a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty would require intelligence gathering at more than 2,500 weapons locations throughout the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, U.S. spy satellite photos have revealed two new Soviet radar installations, one in Sevastopol in the Crimea and one in Eastern Siberia, according to columnists Evans and Novak Dec. 20, which will widen Soviet defenses against U.S. missiles to nearly 90% of Soviet territory.

"Gorbachov has promised military leaders full speed ahead on missile defense as a trade-off for the reduced conventional defense he outlined in his Dec. 7 U.N. speech," the columnists claim. They also note that such development of Soviet defense further complicates decisions on the make-up and deployment of the U.S. land-based strategic force.

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## Bush fills out cabinet appointments

President-elect George Bush announced nine nominations during December for his cabinet or major federal agencies, leaving only the Department of Energy without a nominee.

On Dec. 22, Bush announced the nomination of Dr. Lewis W. Sullivan to head the Department of Health and Human Services, despite the concerns of pro-life groups. Sullivan stated that he opposes abortion in all cases except pregnancy resulting from rape, incest, or when the life of the mother is in danger.

Bush also announced the nomination of former congressman and Undersecretary of State Ed Derwinski to head the new cabinet level Department of Veterans' Affairs; former U.S. Attorney Samuel K. Skinner to

head the Department of Transportation; Rep. Manuel Lujan (R-N.M.) to head the Interior Department; and William Reilly, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

On Dec. 19, Bush nominated Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and earlier in December, John Tower to head the Department of Defense, and Clayton Yeutter to head the Department of Agriculture. Bush later named Elizabeth Dole to be Secretary of Labor.

Bush also announced on Dec. 28 the appointment of CIA Deputy Director Robert Gates to be his Deputy Assistant for National Security, serving under Brent Scowcroft.

Representative Lujan, at the announcement press conference, stated in response to questions that the idea of bringing water from Alaska or Canada to supply the nation's water needs "would be interesting to look at."

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## NASA looking at four Moon-Mars plans

NASA, the nation's space agency, announced at a Dec. 19 press conference that it is officially considering four Moon-Mars mission scenarios as possible long-term goals for the space program.

John Aaron, acting head of the Office of Exploration in Washington, stated that for any of these goals to be possible in the 21st century, it will require "modest investments in the 1990s" to "preserve this nation's capability to act in the first decade of the new century."

Aaron reported that the Office of Exploration is looking at the possibilities of a manned mission to the Mars moon Phobos in 2003, or a quick-trip manned mission to Mars in 2007, or a lunar base in 2005, with a subsequent Mars outpost in 2015 using that lunar base as a launching pad and home base. "We are not calling for a crash program," Aaron explained, but said that investments are needed to "build the ships" to explore and settle the Solar System.

NASA is under pressure to present a pro-