

National News

Army warns of transport disaster in real crisis

The deputy commander of the U.S. Army's transportation command warned of disaster if the shortcomings in military sealift that were exposed by the supply operations for Operation Desert Storm are not corrected, *Shipyard Weekly* reported in early May.

Vice Adm. Paul D. Butcher said in an interview in the April 29 *Inside the Navy*, "If people go around saying we did great during Operation Shield, I say people did fantastic with the assets we had, but don't let that mask the problem. . . . The Ready Reserve Force was predicated on the principle that we would break out [the ships] all at one time. . . . Because we had 161 days to do it, we broke out the ships incrementally to accommodate the lack of machinists, boiler technicians, engineers, and so forth. If we had to break out all of the ships simultaneously [as is envisioned for an emergency reinforcement of NATO], we would not have been successful.

"If you have ships and no shipyards, you're going to be in bad shape. If you have shipyards and no ships, you're going to be in bad shape, and if you have people and no ships or no shipyards, you're going to be in bad shape. You've got to have all three of them."

Bush's health becomes growing concern

George Bush's health is a growing issue as more health problems surface in the wake of the atrial fibrillation suffered on May 4.

"George Bush's irregular heartbeat is not the first cause for concern about his health," recalls the "Diary" columnist of the May 8 *London Times*. "During the 1950s, while on a business trip to London, he keeled over in his hotel room. The hotel doctor diagnosed food poisoning, but according to Bush's memoirs, *Looking Forward* (1988), he knew it was more serious. He immediately flew back to America to

consult his physician in Texas, Dr. Lillo Crain, who told him he had a bleeding ulcer, and would be dead in five years if he did not change his lifestyle." Bush recalls being told by his doctor that he was a "classic ulcer case."

The *London Times* warned May 10 that the nature of Bush's problem may presage blood clots and a stroke. Dr. Thomas Stuttaford writes that Bush's "untypically irritable remarks to aides, inadvertently broadcast, after he had answered press questions on the Iranian hostages, and his slimmness and even his boundless energy may have been clues to the cause of his atrial fibrillation, thyrotoxicosis. . . . One disturbing old medical belief is that strokes are slightly more common in patients in whom the atrial fibrillation is caused by thyrotoxicosis than in those in whom it is the result of other causes. . . . The disorganized beat results in the blood swirling around the chambers so that clots form. Small clots, or fragments of a larger one, may escape into the circulation of the brain, where in a minority of cases they block an artery and cause a stroke."

Adding to these problems is Bush's "excessive exercise." Stuttaford says, "perhaps the Western world would sleep easier" if Bush "renounced competitive jogging, volleyball, PT [physical training], and weight lifting."

Germany's Deutschlandfunk radio says that Bush may be suffering from "Basadow's sickness," which involves an overactive thyroid and which makes the sufferer psychologically unstable. It notes that Bush's doctors have insisted that he reduce his physical activity.

Inslaw judgment reversed on technicality

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia struck down a federal bankruptcy court's judgment of more than \$7 million in fines and costs against the Department of Justice for the theft of Inslaw, Inc.'s proprietary software. The appellate ruling was solely based on a technical finding that the bankruptcy court did not have proper jurisdiction to rule on the broader issues of the

federal government's grand larceny conspiracy against Inslaw.

Inslaw president Bill Hamilton said May 7, "Since the Bankruptcy Court's ruling on the conspiracy in January 1988, Inslaw has uncovered evidence that the conspiracy by U.S. government officials against Inslaw was much more widely ramified than Inslaw knew at the time of the trial in 1987. The new evidence indicates that the motive for the Justice Department's theft of Inslaw's software was to put Inslaw's software in the hands of private sector friends of the Reagan-Bush administration and then to award lucrative government contracts to those political supporters. Other evidence suggests that these political supporters actually sold Inslaw's software to intelligence and law enforcement agencies of foreign governments throughout the world, with the active assistance of the United States government at the highest level."

Inslaw has 45 days to decide whether to ask a full appellate court review of the panel's decision, to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court, or to file a new suit in a different federal court.

Jewish group attacks ADL gun-control stand

Aaron Zelman, a Jewish anti-gun control activist from Milwaukee, Wisconsin who founded "Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership," which claims a membership of about 1,000, has denounced the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and its collaborators as "stupid and pro-criminal."

In an ad in the *New Gun Week* magazine, Zelman charged: Rep. Charles "Schumer [D-N.Y.] and his collaborators are promoting antisemitism and tyranny. Schumer and other Jewish gun-grabbers—notably the B'nai B'rith and its Anti-Defamation League—are stupid. They cannot see that their gun control activities fuel the fires of real antisemitism, as tens of millions of American gun owners of all races and creeds increasingly find their civil right to own guns reduced by these pro-criminal Jews."

Zelman told the May 1 *Jerusalem Post*, which reported that Zelman has been at-

tacked by the ADL as "anti-Semitic," "We don't think it is in the best interest of Jews or any other minority to be in a situation where the police and the governments are the only ones who have guns."

Wetlands 'criminal' jailed in Maryland

Maryland District Court Judge Frederic Smalkin sentenced William Ellen of Matthews, Maryland to six months in prison, four months in a halfway house, a year probation, and 60 hours of community service for filling in a wetland on the Eastern Shore, according to AP April 17.

Ellen was convicted in January of five counts of knowingly violating the Clean Water Act by filling in federally protected wetlands on the Tudor Farm Hunting Preserve where he was a project manager. "Today's sentencing of William Ellen should send a clear message that environmental criminals will go to jail," said Breckenridge Willcox, U.S. Attorney for Maryland.

Episcopal bishop seeks U.S. aid cut to Israel

Bishop C. Charles Vaché, the head of the Southern Virginia Episcopal Diocese, is calling on his 34,000 members to lobby for the U.S. to cut off aid to Israel, the May 9 *Richmond Times Dispatch* reported. "The treatment of Palestinians under the Israeli government approaches that of the Jews under Nazi Germany," he charged.

Bishop Vaché said he is speaking out because the churches have been "sinfully silent." He charged "that the Israeli treatment of Palestinians approaches genocide of the type which the Jews experienced in the late '30s and early '40s in Germany. Many of the same tactics are now being used against Palestinians."

The Bishop said the U.S. should "limit its aid to Israel until full civil and human

rights are granted to the one and a half million Palestinians residing in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights." He pointed out that in 1967, there were 27,000 Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem; "now there are only 7,000. . . . Israel should be forced to abide by United Nations resolution that calls on Israel to withdraw from the Occupied Territories."

Among the atrocities, he said, were discrimination through issuance of different colored license plates, being subjected to arrest and detainment for months without being charged or having access to a lawyer, confiscation of property, bulldozing of homes because occupants threw rocks at Israeli forces, and curfews that keep Palestinians from going to work, shopping for food, or getting emergency medical aid.

Euthanasia bill nears passage in Missouri

"Right-to-die" legislation is nearing passage after negotiators struck a compromise with Gov. John Ashcroft, the May 11 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported. Missouri had previously resisted such Nazi-modeled euthanasia measures.

Ashcroft agreed to sign the bill if it included three changes requested by the Missouri Catholic Conference. One change requires that incapacitated people be given one more chance to reconsider whether they want food and water withdrawn. The bill would let people designate someone to make their health-care decisions for them should they become incapacitated. Tubes supplying food and water could be withdrawn only if the person specifically gave the proxy that authority in writing.

Under the agreement, before food and water is withdrawn, the proxy or the person's doctor would attempt to explain that food and water is about to be withdrawn, and determine whether the patient agrees to the decision, or insert in the patient's file a certification that the patient is "comatose or consistently in a condition which makes it possible for the patient to understand" the intention to withdraw food and water.

Briefly

● **GEORGE BUSH** told Baltic leaders May 8 at a meeting at the White House that they should cut a deal with the Kremlin. "I don't want to see any breach in a [U.S.-Soviet] relationship that is very strong, that's served us extraordinarily well in recent times during the [Gulf] war," Bush told Lithuanian President Landsbergis, Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis, and Estonian Premier Edgar Safisaar.

● **HERBERT STEIN**, a former economic adviser to President Nixon, said he has heard enough about the success of military missions against Iraq: "I wish we'd receive daily reports now about the number of kids in our schools that have learned to write the word c-a-t."

● **HAMPTON** University students sat on their hands to protest George Bush as their graduation commencement speaker on May 12.

● **J. TONY BOWMAN**, a former Navajo Indian Tribal Judge, has endorsed the call by Helga Zepp-LaRouche for a new political prisoners organization inside the U.S. "Once a political prisoner myself and still under harassment by U.S. and Navajo Court officials, I join in her effort to bring an end to the abuse of the courts by the Anglo-American establishment to silence their political opposition," he said. Bowman also called for the freedom of Lyndon LaRouche.

● **RAMSEY CLARK** renewed his call for a war crimes tribunal against U.S. military commanders who ordered the air attacks on civilian infrastructure and killed at least 25,000 civilians in the war, the May 11 *Süd-deutsche Zeitung* reported.

● **THE BUSH** administration will not request funds for the Afghan rebels in its 1992 budget, senior U.S. officials reportedly told the May 11 *New York Times*. Three of the seven groups in the U.S.-supported Afghan resistance coalition opposed Bush's war in the Gulf.