

## Congressional Closeup by William Jones

### Lugar wants action on requests to join NATO

In a speech before the Atlantic Council's Board of Directors in Washington on Dec. 10, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) urged the Clinton administration and the West not to bow to Russian pressures on the requests of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic to join NATO.

"The real question is whether western policy can afford to be driven by the zigs and zags of the power struggle in Moscow," said Lugar. "I think the problem with those who propose putting Russia first in western policy calculations is that for them there is never a good time for the alliance to address any of the tough issues it faces. . . . To give Russia a de facto veto over the alliance's future would be a major strategic blunder."

Lugar warned against Russian attempts to "reincorporate" Ukraine into a Russian sphere of influence. "An independent Ukraine acts as a geostrategic buffer between Russia and the states of Central Europe, shielding them from Russian encroachments and expanding their freedom of action," he said. "If Ukrainian independence were curtailed and Ukraine were reincorporated into a Russian geographic sphere, both Poland and, to a lesser extent, Hungary would find their political room for maneuver both internally and externally constrained."

Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called President Clinton's Partnership for Peace plan "rather amorphous and vague," in a television interview on "Face the Nation" on Dec. 19. "I think we've got to start defining terms," said Nunn. "For instance, it's broad enough now to include Russia and the Ukraine, saying, in fact, that we may take in Russia at

some point in the future in NATO. I think that's sort of like we call down South a 'y'all come' party. It's so broad that it doesn't get down to reality. . . . Reality is if we get to the point where Russia is about to be taken into NATO, there probably is no longer a need for NATO as a threat-based security alliance. It would be another kind of organization altogether, so I think we shouldn't pretend that that card is on the table now."

### Hamilton outlines issues facing next Congress

In a briefing to the Foreign Service Association shortly before Christmas, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.) outlined the foreign policy issues facing the next session of Congress. Although he thought that the recently signed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would probably pass, he said that he felt less and less confident with each passing day. "This will be the second major trade vote in a year," he said, noting the North American Free Trade Agreement, which passed "with the narrowest margin of votes."

On continued Most Favored Nation status for China, Hamilton said, "Without more effort, there will be no MFN." Aid to Russia, he indicated, might also prove to be more difficult with the surge of support for Vladimir Zhirinovsky. The expansion of NATO, with more strident cries from the eastern European nations for joining NATO, would be a "major issue," he indicated.

He reported that the mood on the Hill has become unenthusiastic about international institutions. Hamilton related that the Foreign Affairs Committee had had a closed session with

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali who "was hard-pressed on Somalia. . . . That's the first time I've seen that happen." Peacekeeping funds have been heavily axed in favor of reducing the budget deficit. In this light, he said it would be "foolhardy to expect passage of the new foreign aid reform bill."

### Brown skeptical on joint U.S.-Russian space station

In a press conference on Dec. 14 just hours after returning from a trip that included a visit to the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairman George Brown (D-Calif.) stated that he will *not* support cooperation with the Russians on a space station "if it makes us dependent on Russian cooperation. . . . The way it's structured, we're in that position."

Pushing aside Vice President Al Gore's statement that he "fully supports" the White House joint station plan, Brown said that he has "a few more reservations about the program." One concern, Brown said, is the state of the physical infrastructure at the launch complex. Brown and Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) reported that the launch facilities at Baikonur are in poor repair and would need "considerable investment." Morella added that seeing the facilities "creates legitimate concerns."

Brown said he did not discuss with the Kazakh or Russian space officials how much investment is necessary, or who would pay for it. He stated that before American astronauts are launched in a Soyuz spacecraft from Baikonur to visit the Russian Mir space station, "I would want fairly substantial American crews over there

checking out the facilities. I'm a little leery about putting Americans in that situation."

## **Leach adamant against reform of Federal Reserve**

Rep. James Leach (R-Iowa), the ranking Republican on the House Banking Committee, opposed Clinton administration plans to centralize all banking regulatory agencies, including the Federal Reserve, under a newly created Federal Banking Commission, in a speech before the Institute of International Bankers on Dec. 6. Leach warned that the proposal of Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen to bring all banking authority under a single entity would "presidentialize" authority over bank regulation and raise "the coercive specter of presidential money managers à la Maurice Stans demanding political contributions from large institutions.

"Given the experience of the last several decades, the Nixon shake-down as well as Keating largesse," Leach said, "there should be little doubt that such a politicization could too easily be abusive, requiring early reform of the administration's alleged reform."

However, Leach admits that reform is needed, especially because of the cancerous growth of the financial derivatives market. "Interestingly, the multitrillion-dollar derivatives activities of the 10 largest American commercial banks alone amount to double the annual GNP of the United States which, in turn, is more money than all the money in the world," Leach noted. "If this doesn't define a pyramidal house of cards, particularly in the event of a market shock sparked abroad by warmongers or at home by

private-sector speculators or public-pandering protectionists, what does?"

Leach argued that bringing the Federal Reserve under the control of the federal government would precipitate a financial collapse. "To undercut the Fed at this sensitive juncture in international negotiations on trade and finance is to undercut U.S. national interests and politically destabilize international finance," he warned.

## **New foreign aid bill pushes population control**

The State Department presented on Dec. 3 its draft proposal for a radical revision of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The proposal is a monstrosity which would take U.S. foreign policy back to the era of Teddy Roosevelt's "gunboat diplomacy," and use U.S. foreign aid as a bludgeon to force countries to accept the zero-growth, environmentalist agenda and to open their economies to looting by international finance.

The new policy is based on the New Age concept of "sustainable development." Those countries which are willing to accept an environmentalist, population control agenda, will be prioritized as aid recipients. Those that don't will be left out in the cold.

Brian Atwood, State Department Agency for International Development administrator, said that the United States would "identify 50 countries that represent sustainable development and go with them."

The draft reads, "Sustainable development programs" shall be "concentrated in countries that have a demonstrated need for such programs, that will make effective use of such programs, and that have a commitment to achieving clear development objec-

tives. . . . The United States assistance will assess the commitment and progress of countries in moving toward commonly agreed upon development objectives . . . and will be prepared to shift scarce resources from unproductive programs, sectors or countries to those which have demonstrated the commitment and ability to use them effectively."

The aid will also be geared to "protecting the global environment, supporting democratic participation and stabilizing world population growth. . . . Continued excessive growth in world population rates, will undercut sustainable development efforts." Such genocidal goals will be accomplished through a closer collaboration with non-governmental organizations and American universities and colleges, which will be encouraged to set up programs in countries receiving U.S. aid, also in order to "assist them" in "democratization."

At the State Department press conference on Dec. 3, one reporter asked if aid to sub-Saharan Africa would be "one of these barnacles that was to be lobbed off," as Assistant Secretary of State Lynn Davis had put it. Aid to Africa will "be proportionally as strong as before," insisted Davis.

The proposal, however, regrets the fact that "the obstacles to sustainable development in Africa are daunting," because sub-Saharan Africa possesses numerous species and major forest reserves "which will become increasingly threatened in the absence of sustainable development." The proposal encourages Africans to address the overall goals of the program by "stabilizing population growth, preserving the environment, and strengthening democratic governance." Then money will be available from the Development Fund for Africa.