

National News

U.S. scientists challenge attacks on beam weapons

Three leading American scientists have challenged the opponents of President Reagan's beam-weapons defense program, proclaiming in an open letter that "no fundamental scientific or technical obstacles stand in the way of achieving the President's objectives."

The three are Dr. Robert Jastrow, founder and past director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies of NASA (interviewed in *EIR*, July 31); Frederick Seitz, past president of the National Academy of Sciences and president emeritus of Rockefeller University; and William A. Nierenberg, former chairman of the NASA Advisory Council and director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Their open letter is addressed to Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Theatre and Nuclear Forces, the subcommittee which oversees the Strategic Defense Initiative program.

The letter begins: "We are writing to you as scientists with experience in a variety of fields of research, to indicate our support for the President's proposal to defend the United States against a Soviet nuclear attack.

"In our view, an effective defense of this kind, even if less than perfect, will enhance the security of the American people by magnifying the risks which cautious Soviet leaders must contemplate in assessing the chances for a successful preemptive attack on the United States." The signers compare the promise of "a robust multi-tiered ballistic missile defense system" to "the promise of radar as a revolutionary new defense technology" in the mid-1930s.

They then detail their "strong disagreement with the judgments reached by a panel of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and by Dr. Ashton Carter in a background paper prepared for the congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA)." One of several points made is that both reports misestimate the number of orbiting satellites

required for a defense based on chemical lasers. The UCS estimates 2,400, the OTA report 500; "the correct number is less than 100."

"We wish to express our concern," the letter concludes, "that as a consequence of the unquestioning acceptance of a seriously flawed analysis conducted by a group of scientists without working experience in present-day problems of missile defense [the UCS], and yet speaking out in opposition to the judgments of the most qualified defense scientists in the country, the American people may be deprived of the opportunity to protect themselves against the most serious threat to their existence that has existed in the lifetime of this nation."

Ferraro family firm houses porn center

A feature in the July 24 *New York Tribune* titled "Ferraro Firm Tied to Major Smut Distributor" reports on an investigation revealing that John Zaccaro, husband of Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, is tied to one of New York's biggest smut purveyors.

Ferraro's husband John Zaccaro heads the real estate company P. Zaccaro & Co., which pays taxes on 200-202 Lafayette Street in New York City. In addition, the building superintendent told the *Tribune*, Zaccaro & Co. is real estate agent for the building.

Housed at 200 Lafayette Street are: Star Enterprises' shipping office, Media Distributors, and Bonate, Inc. The police describe all three as leading nationwide suppliers of pornography.

The *Tribune* article reports the companies are run by Robert "Debe" DiBernardo, who handles porn distribution for mobsters in the Gambino and DeCavalcante crime families of New York and New Jersey. Star wholesales Al Goldstein's filthy *Screw* magazine and numerous other publications like *Pleasure*, *Smut*, *Hot Stuff*, *Hooker*, *Whips and Chains*, and *San Francisco Ball*.

In her latest financial disclosure, Ferraro listed herself as secretary-treasurer of P.

Zaccaro & Co., with holdings in the company between \$5,001 and \$15,000. The congresswoman had failed to disclose details of her husband's financial holdings, which she says she doesn't have to do, although the Financial Disclosure Act of 1978 requires congressmen to file spouses' holdings if they derive any financial benefit therefrom.

The *Tribune* commented, "Ferraro has not explained how, as secretary-treasurer of her husband's company, she does not derive any economic benefit from Zaccaro's assets."

Hashemi brothers, three others indicted

Cyrus and Reza Hashemi were among five men indicted on July 19 for conspiring to violate U.S. export laws by shipping prohibited military equipment to Iran during the arms embargo. Two American businessmen and a former Iranian naval procurement officer, Cyrus Davari, were also indicted. Not indicted but mentioned twice in the indictment is J. Stanley Pottinger, a Justice Department official from 1973 to 1977.

The Hashemi brothers were exposed by *EIR* and other publications in July of that year. Cyrus's First Gulf Bank and Trust Company was named as a financial conduit for illegal funds from the Khomeini regime for U.S. terrorism.

In October 1980, according to the official indictment, the FBI wiretapped Hashemi's offices and overheard conversations with Pottinger conspiring to disguise illegal armament shipments. In November 1981, the FBI obtained a warrant and searched the offices of First Gulf. However, the actual indictment of the Hashemi brothers did not come until almost four years later. During the Carter years, they had high-level protection from the Justice Department as an outgrowth of the administration's deal to allow Iranian terrorists a free hand in the United States during the hostage crisis.

According to confidential sources, Cyrus Hashemi and Davari's arms smuggling operations involved Roger Tamraz, chair-

man of the First Arabian Corporation and head of Detroit's Commonwealth Bank. It is reported, but not confirmed, that Davari embezzled over \$8 million from Khomeini's arms procurement funds and secreted them in Hashemi's Trade Continental Bank in the Dominican Republic. Hashemi and Davari have both taken out Dominican citizenship papers. According to a Justice Department spokesman, the United States may seek their extradition.

Cyrus Hashemi sued *EIR* and other publications for libel after our 1980 exposé. One of his attorneys was J. Stanley Pottinger, now revealed to have been part of the gun-running operation. Hashemi's lawsuit against *EIR* was dismissed last year after he repeatedly failed to appear for deposition. He has appealed.

Congressional candidate not fit for office

The Manatt-controlled Democratic Party machine of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, put up a congressional candidate they knew was not physically fit to hold office, just to defeat a LaRouche-backed candidate in the April 10 primary race for the 17th Congressional District.

William R. Minnick, a retired schoolteacher who won the Democratic nomination by a mere 1,000-vote margin over LaRouche Democrat Sarah Phleger, has now asked the Dauphin County Democratic Committee to prepare papers allowing him to withdraw from the race because ill health prohibits him from campaigning. "I'm disabled, I have a bad heart," he told a local newspaper. In the article, Minnick explained that he had been asked to run specifically to prevent Phleger, "a supporter of Democratic presidential hopeful Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., from winning the party endorsement." David Brown, the county party chairman who is now preparing documents to allow Minnick to withdraw from the race, declined to comment.

Citizen-candidate Phleger, with little previous political experience, won 48.5%

of the vote in the primary race, sweeping the counties immediately around Harrisburg by a two-thirds majority. Her campaign mobilized voters to support her call for a beam-weapon anti-missile defense, reopening the steel mills, and opening up the Three Mile Island nuclear plant located in the heart of the Congressional district.

The county party's Executive Committee will now meet to select a substitute candidate from among those recommended by the State Democratic Committee—without an election. Though Phleger requested her county chairman to place her name in nomination, she is not under consideration.

'Bring back Kissinger' committee anonymous

Henry Kissinger's rich and powerful friends in Geneva, Venice, London, Austria, and other points continue to desire his installation as secretary of state, or some position of equivalent grandeur following the American elections in November. They have gone so far as to build a clandestine international committee to achieve this goal. Yet, our informants report, no individual of prestige anywhere in the United States is willing to be the point man for this initiative, treating the open association with him as the political equivalent of bubonic plague.

As a pro-Kissinger gentleman in Geneva told a caller July 25, "Kissinger is an outstanding man and operator. The problem is that there is such animosity against him in the United States! In Europe, Kissinger is very highly thought of. . . . The only chance for Kissinger is if Europe puts enough pressure on the United States to bring Kissinger back as secretary of state. For us and the Soviets, that is the guarantee we need that the United States is serious about arms control."

But across the Atlantic, a Kissinger colleague at the Aspen Institute warned an inquirer: "A pro-Kissinger lobbying effort would only backfire and be self-defeating. . . . Some of these Europeans just don't understand the realities of the United States!"

Briefly

● **THE SOVIET** consulate hosted the Democratic convention? Some think so. Early during the convention, four Democratic congressmen marched into the consulate for "high level" talks: Thomas Foglietta (Pa.), Sander Levin (Mich.), Gerald Kleczka (Wisc.), and Barbara Boxer (Calif.). Then there was the flurry of negotiations surrounding Jesse Jackson's invitation to Moscow. Finally, a number of Mondale insiders were observed entering the consulate.

● **REPORTERS** are portrayed as "sleazy, corrupt, predatory worms" in Hollywood movies, said *Time* magazine senior writer Roger Rosenblatt in a July 26 Yale lecture. The reason, he added, is that they are. "Ask anybody and they will tell you that journalists misstate facts, quote out of context, are unpatriotic . . . are not interested in good news, only in crime and the sensationalism of tragedy." He noted that the public was delighted when the *Washington Post* returned a Pulitzer because a reporter invented a 6-year-old heroin addict. Purported diaries of Adolf Hitler proved forgeries, and the administration kept reporters out of Grenada.

● **CASPAR WEINBERGER** told the *Washington Post* July 27 that there is "no point" in U.S.-Soviet arms-control talks in Vienna if the agenda is limited to discussion of space weapons. The Defense Secretary's statement contrasted sharply with pro-"arms control" propaganda from Secretary of State George Shultz and other Kissinger-linked sources in the administration.

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** in Texas addressed a group of "Democrats for Reagan" purportedly angry at Mondale for by-passing Sen. Lloyd Bentsen in his vice-presidential choice. With Bush at his side quipping that San Francisco's Moscone Center should be re-named "The Temple of Doom," Reagan also told a 10,000 person rally in Austin that the Democrats "are going so far left they've left America."