

# National News

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## Soviets want Weinberger out

Under the title "Reds Want Weinberger's Scalp," the syndicated column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak on Nov. 23 leaked an item from a "secret file" which reportedly came into the hands of U.S. intelligence agencies. The file contained the Kremlin's evaluation that the removal of Defense Secretary Weinberger or Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Perle from the administration would be interpreted as a "favorable development" or a "positive sign" in Moscow. The Kremlin view was put forth by none other than Georgi Arbatov, head of Moscow's U.S.A. and Canada Institute.

The Arbatov report contends that Weinberger has drawn up a "master plan" to destroy the Soviet Union, not by nuclear means, but by economic and political subversion, military rearmament too rapid for the Soviets to match, and tough restraints on sales of technology. Evans and Novak add that the State Department's private judgment of Weinberger and Perle is just as negative as that of the Soviets, but that the Arbatov report may have the effect of strengthening the Pentagon planners and producing a backlash in the administration's "struggle for the mind and soul of Ronald Reagan."

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## Admiral LaRocque plans invasion of Nicaragua

Admiral (ret.) Gene R. LaRocque presented a brief of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua before January in the *New York Times* on Nov. 25. LaRocque is a retired officer of the United States Navy, and runs the Center for Defense Information, a Washington think-tank which is a center of the so-called "peace movement."

LaRocque states: "For military and political reasons, the period between now and the opening of the new Congress would be ideal for introducing forces into Nicaragua. Everything is in place: plans made, troops

trained. . . . Two years of exercises in Central America have adequately familiarized the services with the terrain and waters offshore. Our forces would enter Nicaragua in an orchestrated maneuver from sea, land and air. In a matter of days, or at most several weeks, Managua would be 'secured.' . . . It would be a relatively simple operation, partly because Nicaragua is in a peculiar geographical position that makes it nearly indefensible against large-scale attack. . . .

"After Managua was secured, there would be little the surviving Sandinistas could do to mount effective counterattacks. . . . The Center for Defense Information estimates that 500 to 1,000 Americans would be killed. Nicaraguan military men and civilians killed would depend upon how quickly the country capitulated. . . . The Soviet Union could be ignored, as it is incapable of assisting the Nicaraguans, in our backyard. . . ."

LaRocque then says that the only argument against it is that if it went wrong, the American people might not like it and "it could end up making more Communists than it killed."

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## NBC correspondent goes to State Department

Bernard Kalb, a long-time diplomatic correspondent with NBC-TV, has been appointed spokesman for Secretary of State George Shultz and the State Department, replacing John Hughes, who will return to his former post at the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Kalb's elevation is another reflection of the massive battle which the State Department, in collusion with others in the Reagan administration, is waging against the Strategic Defense Initiative. In addition to its operations against beam-weapons advocate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Kalb's latest employer, NBC, has been overtly colluding with Moscow to whip up sentiment against the administration's anti-missile program. In September, NBC broadcast a series of anti-SDI propaganda specials straight from Moscow. The network is now filming a multi-

million dollar extravaganza in the Soviet Union about Peter the Great. Industry sources say it represents an unprecedented level of collaboration between the U.S. media and the Soviets.

Prior to going to work for NBC in 1980, Kalb worked for the *New York Times* and then for CBS. He was assigned to the State Department in 1975, where he struck up a lasting relationship with Henry Kissinger. He and his brother Marvin Kalb authored a biography of Kissinger which attempts to whitewash the most egregious features of his personal and political activities.

Kalb will take up his State Department post on December 16—just in time for the reopening of U.S.-Soviet arms talks with which Shultz is planning to wreck the SDI.

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## Armand Hammer off to Moscow

Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko has reportedly asked Kissinger-ally Armand Hammer to fly to Moscow for a discussion of U.S.-Soviet relations which will pave the way for the Jan. 7-8 talks between Shultz and Gromyko in Geneva. Hammer recently told an Israeli Bonds dinner that he wanted to persuade the Reagan administration to return to the policies of the détente era.

The 86-year-old Hammer, who has performed the role of a back-channel negotiator many times before, had consultations with the State Department on Nov. 27 to prepare for his trip. Administration officials said they did not think Hammer would be carrying any special message from Reagan to Chernenko

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## Ferraro still under investigation

Geraldine Ferraro, Walter Mondale's running mate, and her husband, John Zaccaro, are now the subject of at least eight separate investigations into their possible financial misdealings—any one of which could send them both to jail.

## Briefly

Various alleged illegalities on the part of Ferraro and Zaccaro which came out during the campaign are now being probed by government agencies.

- The Federal Elections Commission is investigating whether Ferraro helped launder a \$130,000 illegal contribution to her 1978 campaign.

- House Ethics Committee chairman, Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), reluctantly agreed to launch an inquiry into whether Ferraro improperly withheld details of her own and her husband's business affairs from the financial statements members of Congress by law must file.

- The Justice Department is investigating allegations of Ferraro financial improprieties. Informed sources think the department has appointed a special prosecutor to the case, but is waiting to see how the Ethics Committee acts before deciding whether to pursue its investigation. If the Committee does nothing, the special prosecutor is free to go ahead with his own probe.

- The New York State Commissioner of Insurance is deciding whether to act against the couple for submitting false information on applications to renew their insurance licenses. Filing false papers is a felony.

- At least one grand jury probe, plus other investigations, are examining whether Zaccaro borrowed money illegally from estates of elderly persons he was appointed to protect, and whether he got an illegal loan from the Port Authority Credit Union in September 1983.

According to John Banzhaf, a professor at Georgetown University Law School, these charges involve felonies. Some, he says (like the possibility Ferraro and Zaccaro laundered \$130,000 into her 1978 campaign) are "serious acts that could put someone in prison."

### NASA's next shuttle to carry special payload

In an unusual departure from its usual high-publicity shuttle flights, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will carry a "national security" payload

managed by the U.S. Air Force for delivery into orbit, part of a growing involvement by the Department of Defense in the shuttle program.

Another sign of upgrading of the national security operations of the U.S. was an announcement by the National Security Agency on Nov. 26 of the establishment of an advanced computer center in suburban Washington that will attract the world's top scientists to do highly classified research. NSA Director Lt. Gen. Lincoln Faurer said the Supercomputing Research Center "will have a profound impact upon the state of supercomputing technology in this country and on our national security."

### U.S.S. *Nimitz* deployed to Cuba

A military confrontation between the United States and Cuba is suggested by the announcement on Nov. 30 that the U.S.S. *Nimitz* aircraft carrier is heading toward Cuban waters.

The *Nimitz* was dispatched, according to reports from U.S. Navy sources, to rescue an oceanographic ship which had lost power and drifted into Cuban waters. The nuclear-powered carrier set sail so abruptly from its Virgin Islands port that 1,100 of its crew were left "on the beach," the Pentagon told *EIR* on Nov. 30, confirming reports received earlier from an *EIR* subscriber in the Virgin Islands. Officers of the ship had told the subscriber that there was a "Caribbean-wide alert" declared. The Pentagon said its policy was to never disclose alerts, but it said that the *Nimitz*, escorted by the guided missile cruiser U.S.S. *Arkansas* was deployed on "contingency operations." He explained: "That could mean anything."

Shortly before 5 p.m., the Navy revealed that a small U.S.-flag research ship had lost power and drifted to within five miles of the Cuban coast before a Cuban ship responded to its SOS. The *Nimitz* was dispatched to "protect it," according to the Navy. The Navy said that the Cuban ship mysteriously cut the tow rope when a U.S. Coast Guard vessel approached, went into Cuban waters and pulled the ship out.

- **JOSEPH NYE**, a Harvard professor and former Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) official, in a *New York Times* Op Ed has called for the formation of a bipartisan "joint legislative executive Soviet Assessment Commission" whose task would be to "increase the consistency of our policy toward the Soviet Union." Although Nye admits that "changing Soviet tactics" have triggered U.S. policy changes, he complains that "exaggerated American attitudes" vis-à-vis the Soviets have hindered the smooth functioning of foreign policy in this area.

- **SAN FRANCISCO** Judge Roy Wonder issued a judgment to reopen nine notorious homosexual bathhouses which were earlier closed because of blatantly open sexual activities. Those favoring closing the bathhouses argued that promiscuous male homosexual activities practiced there spread AIDS in that area where 243 people have died from the disease since 1981.

- **PHILIP GEYELIN**, a *Washington Post* columnist with close connections to the Council on Foreign Relations, called on Nov. 28 for President Reagan to take Kissinger's recent messages to heart by restoring a "national consensus on the nature and aims of our foreign policy." Geyelin complains that the chances of implementing Kissinger's "shimmering vision" are unlikely unless the President ignores "the tugs of his traditional constituency." What is necessary, writes the columnist, is "a bending of deep held beliefs, a triumph of pragmatism over abstract ideology . . . and the forfeiture of a free hand."

- **DENNIS KING**, who got his start "ghost writing" term papers and PhD theses and has made a journalistic career libeling Lyndon H. LaRouche, has been promoted: He has been officially appointed editor of *New America*, the official organ of the Social Democracy in the United States.