

National News

Danny Graham pushes 'glasnost' in U.S.S.R.

Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Danny Graham, the head of Washington's "High Frontier" group, went on a hush-hush trip to the Soviet Union in mid-June, to attend a conference on the theme of "After Reykjavik: Planning the 1990s." The meeting was sponsored and funded by the Soviets' World Disarmament Campaign and the U.N. Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA).

According to a spokesman for the DDA, Graham spoke on the need for both the United States and the Soviet Union to develop strategic defense capabilities, and proposed "satellite glasnost": a joint satellite data pool to share the data in the U.S. Library of Congress, Soviet encyclopedias, and the collected works of Lenin and Marx.

American reporters were generally prohibited from attending the meeting. Among those attending were Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh, Deputy Chairman for Treaties and Legal Affairs of the Defense Ministry Chervov, U.S. arms negotiator Edward Rowney, and Sir James Eberle of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

In Congress, 'Reason has slipped its leash'

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, in a statement released June 19, said that the 1988 budget proposed by Congress was proof that "reason has slipped its leash on Capitol Hill."

"The 1988 budget emerging from Congress will deny this country an adequate defense," he said. "It is exactly the wrong way to go, and is a clear sign that reason has slipped its leash on Capitol Hill. In addition to threatening us with a tax increase of more than \$19 billion next year and \$65 billion over the next three years, those who support this budget insist on at least a \$16 billion cut in defense spending—and more likely—a \$23 billion cut. . . ."

"All this amounts to is simply a bald and

irresponsible political document that disregards our national security. The congressional leadership is telling the President . . . 'Mr. President, we, the Congress, are ready to do something dangerous if you are willing to do something unwise, and if you don't, we'll do something worse.'"

General Rogers: Go slow on arms control

Outgoing NATO Supreme Commander Gen. Bernard Rogers sharply questioned the U.S. administration's flight forward toward a "zero-option" arms-control deal with Moscow, in a commencement speech in the Federal Republic of Germany on June 17. "Somebody ought to stand up out there and say to NATO, 'Time out, dammit!' We have moved too quickly and it is time for us to sit back and think and reorganize ourselves," he said.

"Somebody has to say, 'We go no further until we know what we are doing and what the long-term impact is going to be,' not just what the short-term advantages for governments and their credibility are."

"When the future of Western Europe is at stake, I don't know why it is so necessary to make decisions . . . to rush into this, other than the fact that certain administrations are going out of existence by certain time frames," Rogers said. "Is it more important to have these things accomplished on certain people's watch, or is it more important in the long term to ensure what we are doing is right to the future of Western Europe? I happen to think the latter is more important, but then I am only a dumb infantryman trying to make a living as a commander in Europe and with only 10 days to go."

Rogers was particularly incensed by "the preemptive concedes in high positions in the United States government," who do not push maximum U.S. positions with Russia because they think "the Russians won't accept this." Rogers insisted that "the alliance has to say enough is enough and recognize the fact that nuclear weapons are necessary into the foreseeable future."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitz-

water read a statement to the press June 18, objecting to Rogers' inference that President Reagan was putting political considerations ahead of national security.

Police face AIDS danger from suicide victim

A recent rescue attempt by police in the Richmond, Virginia area has sparked discussion among police and rescue workers about the necessity for gloves and other precautions to protect the workers from AIDS, according to a report in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* June 18.

Three officers sought to aid a victim of a suicide attempt, who had slit his wrists. They applied compresses to his wounds, and some of the blood spilled on their hands and clothing. During the ride to the Medical College of Virginia (MCV), the man revealed that he had AIDS. The officers were told to bathe immediately and destroy their clothes and shoes. They are scheduled to be tested for AIDS in 90 days.

Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz of the MCV hospital's Division of Infectious Diseases said the officers' chance of catching AIDS is "very minimal," but police officials are not so sure.

Physicist compares SDI report to Nazi science

Frederick Seitz, the former president of the American Physical Society and the National Academy of Sciences, on May 19 sharply criticized the APS's April report denying the feasibility of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

"Physicists with long memories," he said, "will recall that when the Nazis came into power in Germany in the 1930s, the German physics journals—which had been, until then, among the finest in the world . . . began to publish works of questionable quality. That was one of the earliest indications of the decline of German science in the pre-World War II period."