

"The Soviet Union has an unconventional warfare capability, *spetsnaz* units, to which it has assigned the mission of crippling the West's industrial infrastructure, particularly its vulnerable energy systems, before an outbreak of hostilities," Bodolato said. "Although the main *spetsnaz* target appears to be Western Europe, the potential for such action in the United States cannot be ruled out."

Michael Gent, president of the North American Electric Reliability Council, an industry association, said that the utilities had been asked by the National Security Council in 1983 to set up a nationwide security system after terrorist attacks against U.S. targets. "They were concerned that trained teams of foreign-sponsored saboteurs could attack a number of key electric system facilities and cause extended and widespread outages that would compromise national security and seriously disrupt the economy," Gent testified.

A staffer for the committee, which is conducting hearings to examine the vulnerability of telecommunications and energy resources to terrorism, testified that duplicating systems would prevent full-scale loss of service, but major disruptions could occur from widespread attacks.

Unexpected reversal in LaRouche case

A motion by defense attorneys brought about an unexpected reversal by the government on Feb. 9, in the Alexandria, Virginia federal case against Lyndon LaRouche and six associates. The "Alexandria Seven" were imprisoned on Jan. 27, on conspiracy charges. LaRouche and his five male associates won the right to remain together in the Alexandria jail for 100 days, to assist their counsel in preparation of their appeal, rather than being dispersed to federal prisons all around the country.

Defense attorneys had attempted to get Assistant U.S. Attorney Kent Robinson to agree to this arrangement earlier in the week, but Robinson, unmoved by argu-

ments of fairness and due process for these defendants, refused to cooperate.

Defense attorneys determined that they would have to file a motion before Judge Albert V. Bryan to get the relief they were seeking for the prisoners. Once the government was served with the motion, Robinson reversed his position, and asked the judge for the prisoners to be allowed to remain in Alexandria for 100 days. Judge Bryan reportedly signed the order immediately.

One in 200 N.J. newborns carries AIDS

The results of a statewide study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control testing newborns in New Jersey for AIDS infection has shown that one in 200 are carriers of the virus, the *Newark Star Ledger* reported Feb. 10.

The study tested the blood of virtually all babies born during a three-month period. Dr. Molly Joel Coye, the state's health commissioner, reported that this was "the first time in the nation" that such a study was conducted on a statewide scale. Of the nearly 30,000 newborns tested, 0.49% tested positive for antibodies to HIV.

"The numbers in our study are disturbing, but extremely useful, because they help us more accurately project the future needs of HIV positive mothers and children for health service. These levels of infant exposure to the AIDS virus tell us that there will be a rapidly growing need for the network of services we now have in place," Dr. Coye told the press.

According to Coye New Jersey ranks second only to New York in the number of pediatric AIDS cases. New Jersey ranks fourth among states in the number of AIDS cases.

The *Hudson Dispatch* added that, by Jan. 31, 187 children under the age of 13 had developed AIDS. Of those, 149 were black or Hispanic, and 171 were the children of parents who were at a high risk of contracting AIDS, mostly because they were intravenous drug users.

Briefly

● **RICHARD ARMITAGE** has been chosen to replace Gaston Sigur as assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. Armitage, 43, has been assistant secretary of defense for the past five years. In 1985, he was involved in the overthrow of the Ferdinand Marcos government in the Philippines.

● **LAWRENCE Eagleburger**, the nominee for deputy secretary of state and a Kissinger associate, is likely to be hit by a scandal because he "was until last month director of a bank facing charges for money laundering," according to the *Sunday Times* of London Feb. 5. LBS Bank of New York was indicted by a grand jury in Philadelphia in November 1988, after a government sting codenamed "Operation Flying Kite."

● **HENRY KISSINGER**, along with former French President Giscard d'Estaing and former Japanese Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone, is drafting a book for the Trilateral Commission which will be a review of East-West policy. The book is supposed to be the main foreign policy intervention of the Commission into the Bush administration, and will be released at their April meeting in Paris. Assisted by Bill Hyland, Kissinger will concentrate on arms control policy.

● **A PARTICLE BEAM** test on a rocket will take place soon, according to a statement by O'Dean Judd of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, made at a Feb. 8 press conference sponsored by the Global Foundation.

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** presided over a meeting of the National Security Council Feb. 10 to review U.S. policy options toward Afghanistan after Feb. 15, the date when the last Soviet troops are supposed to have pulled out. Among the issues said to have been discussed was whether the U.S. should "rethink" its large covert military aid program to Afghan rebels.