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# National News

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## Carter administration runs guns to Iran

A leading Iranian gunrunner and terrorist now occupies the Office of Naval Research in Washington.

According to highly placed Washington sources, one Captain Soltodeh, along with 15 Iranian military officers, are privately coordinating gunrunning through the U.S. government office undisturbed, despite the crisis in U.S.-Iranian relations. Washington business sources report that on a daily basis he conducts undisclosed numbers of gun-running transactions which reportedly are funneled to underground Iranian terrorist groups.

Not unrelated, Iranian sources disclose that despite the State Department's official order for the immediate expulsion of 183 Iranian diplomats, none have left.

Earlier this week, high level officials within the Justice Department stated that they had confirmed that hundreds of Iranian terrorists had come into the U.S. with false visas. The Justice officials stated that they "had tracked down at least fifty of them and several had been arrested." The source noted that they "were on hit jobs." The White House, say top Washington sources, has ordered that the Justice Department investigation be halted. "Carter does not want to offend the Iranians."

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## Baker asks force reductions in Indian Ocean

Republican presidential candidate Senator Howard Baker was recently asked by the Christian Science Monitor if he, as president would like to see a continuation of the military presence which the current Iranian crisis has allowed the U.S. to develop in the Middle East.

Baker replied: "No, I would very

much want to see them reduced as soon as possible."

"I'd like to see the Soviet activity and the American naval activity in the Indian Ocean reduced. I'm not one of those who think we should have no activity in the Indian Ocean. I support, as I have always supported, some naval presence at Diego Garcia, for instance. But the whole idea of (the U.S.) sending a carrier task force to the Indian Ocean and the Soviets sending guided-missile cruisers to the Indian Ocean can be no good for anybody. ..."

"My preference would be to see those naval forces removed from that area as soon as possible—and to be done on a bilateral basis."

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## Carter deploys "peanut brigade"

The Boston Globe reports that Jimmy Carter is currently trying to repeat his 1976 campaign success through the revival of his old campaign gimmick, the doorbell ringing, always smiling "peanut brigade," imported from Georgia. However, according to the Globe, the peanut brigadiers seem to be encountering heavy sledding. The Globe writes:

"Peanut Brigade members march on, no matter what the reaction. They are heartened by expressions of support, undaunted when kicked off someone's doorstep. The personal touch, they say has its effect. ...

"Pope (a peanut brigadier) strode briskly up Beaver Street to the home of Beverly Garon and, after a brief conversation, came away smiling. 'She says she will vote for Jimmy Carter.'

"Contacted that evening and asked if she intends to vote for Carter, Garon said 'No.' Asked why, she replied, 'I just figure we need a change.'

"Garon also said the fact she was visited by a Carter worker will not affect how she votes."

Perhaps the clearest statement of the reason for the smiling peanut brigade's lack of appeal to New Hampshire voters

was given by another resident, Mary Martello, after her visit from Pope: 'I don't go for door to door soliciting. I didn't really listen to the gentleman too well ... I'd rather weigh the issues.'

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## Byrne pushes municipal crisis in Chicago

Chicago's Mayor Jane Byrne challenged a strike called here yesterday by the 2,500 member Amalgamated Transportation Union. Byrne opened three of the city's eight transit lines during rush hour using untrained supervisory staff. The move followed a closed door meeting of the Chicago Transportation Authority with the Mayor.

Byrne is trying to buy popular support for her strike breaking by offering free fares for any of the city's 800,000 commuters who choose to ride during the strike. The ATU is warning riders that the supervisors are untrained in recently established operating procedures and that any injuries that might be suffered by riders under these conditions would not be covered under existing transportation authority insurance policies.

The ATU strike is the first in over 50 years, and was called in response to a Byrne-backed demand by the CTA to eliminate the union's cost of living escalator, established in 1969 under the Daley administration.

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## Every dollar for LaRouche is now worth two

The presidential campaign of Democrat Lyndon H. LaRouche was certified eligible for presidential primary campaign matching funds by a unanimous vote of the Federal Election Commission Dec. 18. LaRouche qualified to receive federal financing for his presidential campaign by raising \$5,000 in contributions

## Briefly

● **JOHN CONNALLY** stated in an interview with public broadcasting radio in Iowa that he hopes that former Council on Foreign Relations Director George Bush wins the Iowa primary. "I don't expect to win. I expect ambassador Bush to win," said the GOP presidential candidate. "I expect Governor Reagan to be right behind him. I expect to be third or fourth. If Reagan is not beaten by any of us, he's unstoppable."

● **EDWARD KENNEDY** has appointed Erie County Democratic boss Joe Crangle as one of his three national campaign directors. Crangle is blamed by many Erie County Democrats for causing one of the worst defeats in the party's history in Buffalo by bringing in the unpopular Senator to campaign for Democratic candidate for County Executive Frank McGuire. McGuire was defeated in that election last November by a 2-to-1 margin.

● **JAMES GANNON** of the *Des Moines Register* has ruled out the appearance of Democratic contender Lyndon LaRouche in the upcoming nationally televised presidential debates to be held in Iowa. Gannon had no quarrel with the fact that LaRouche is a major candidate but stated: "LaRouche is a bona fide candidate, who has qualified for matching funds. He's running in New Hampshire and elsewhere. He's not running in Iowa. He won't be on my show. It's my judgment."

● **ROY COHN** will host a fundraiser for GOP hopeful Ronald Reagan in mid-January. Cohn is known as a lawyer for various organized crime figures, such as the recently slain Carmen Galante, and for the notorious drugden Studio 54. Cohn himself has been indicted on numerous criminal charges over the past 20 years, but has thus far evaded conviction.

of \$250 or less in each of 20 states for a total of more than \$100,000. LaRouche is the second Democratic candidate—Jimmy Carter being the other—to be certified for matching funds.

The LaRouche matching funds submission, with individual contributions averaging approximately \$80, marks the LaRouche campaign as the most broadly based in the country. This compares to average contribution sizes in the hundreds of dollars for the four other presidential candidates who have made matching funds submissions.

LaRouche's presidential campaign committee, Citizens for LaRouche, announced today that it is confident that the level of grass roots support for the candidate, as evidenced in the matching funds submission, will add momentum for a LaRouche victory in the early primary in New Hampshire on Feb. 26. LaRouche and President Carter are the only two candidates to date who have met the matching funds \$5,000 threshold requirement in that state.

Citizens for LaRouche also stated that it believes the certification of LaRouche's matching funds eligibility will dispel all rumors emanating from the Kennedy and Carter campaigns which dispute LaRouche's position as the major contender in the New Hampshire primary.

A spokesman for the LaRouche campaign said Citizens for LaRouche will submit at least an additional \$150,000 for matching funds before the first of next year.

### LaRouche fears for life

The campaign organization of presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche reported Dec. 16 that during the past week there has been a step-up in the circulation of charges that LaRouche is a "CIA agent." The organization claims this rumor has been widely circulated in West Germany, Italy and among Third World leaders and governmental circles. Intelligence circles are studying this in

light of a pattern of recent warnings that LaRouche is targeted for assassination by the Khomeini dictatorship.

In Stockholm, Sweden, LaRouche was recently threatened by an official representative of the Khomeini government and a second threat was received from an Iranian secret-service agent in Copenhagen.

Reportedly, these threats are taken seriously by the LaRouche forces in light of LaRouche's energetic efforts to prevent the Khomeini dictatorship from ever coming to power, and the continuing work of the candidate and his associates to expose and eliminate Khomeini's allies in other Islamic and non-Islamic countries.

Currently, LaRouche has received Federal matching funds, but does not yet receive Secret Service protection.

### Christopher threatens military action on Iran

In a briefing to reporters in Washington, State Department official Warren Christopher said yesterday that the U.S. is considering a naval blockade of Iran to force the release of U.S. hostages. In addition, he said, other measures including intensified economic warfare are being considered. He stressed that America's allies would be pressed to join into any such action.

Europe, especially France and West Germany, is very reluctant to endorse or become involved in any economic confrontation with Iran for fear that a chain reaction of financial warfare countermeasures including oil embargoes could wreck their economies. The State Department's threat of unilateral military action is considered a warning.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim continues diplomatic efforts that might be taken to resolve the crisis—but no one appears optimistic. If the Security Council denies any U.S. sanction requests, the U.S. may seek NATO-linked sanctions.