

National News

Navy Secretary wants to restructure NATO

The *Washington Post* gave major play Dec. 14 to the Defense Department internal Guidance Document which calls for a restructured NATO focused on intervention in regional conflict situations.

Navy Secretary John Lehman, a Kissinger protégé quoted as a major advocate of this policy, said he believed there can be a shift of NATO forces away from Europe to such areas as the Persian Gulf despite the Polish crisis. "We have a whole new geopolitical situation," he explained. "What's new is a consensus in the administration that the Soviet threat is global, and not just to central Europe."

Former General Maxwell Taylor has been publicly calling for NATO to intervene into Third World conflicts to impose population reduction.

Jurors question Abscam procedures

More federal dirty laundry has been aired in the Abscam prosecutions, this time over the abrupt transfer earlier this year of grand jury venue from Newark, New Jersey, to Brooklyn, New York in the Kenneth MacDonald and Angelo Errichetti cases.

MacDonald was formerly New Jersey Casino Control Commissioner, and Errichetti is a former state senator and mayor of Camden. They were indicted this June by the Brooklyn grand jury on charges of accepting \$100,000 to help an FBI agent posing as an Arab sheikh obtain a casino license in Atlantic City as part of the Justice Department's Abscam sting operation.

The Dec. 16 Newark *Star-Ledger* reported that an angry letter from the Newark grand jurors to the U.S. District Court judge, released in court papers, charges the switch of location was "a

strange decision," and that the government's reasoning "didn't seem to hold water" in view of the jurors' three-month effort. The letter questions whether the prosecutors thought they could not "get the preferred decision . . . in Newark."

The Feb. 27 letter was appended to a new brief filed by MacDonald to bolster his contention that the government "abused and manipulated the grand jury system." MacDonald contends the transfer occurred because the Justice Department was "judge shopping" and "forum shopping," and the prosecution has given different reasons to different parties for the move. His brief also claims that exculpatory evidence was withheld even from the Brooklyn grand jury.

Mossad termed source of hit-team disinformation

According to a nationally syndicated *Los Angeles Times* wire service story dated Dec. 12, the Israeli intelligence service, the Mossad, was the source of a series of fraudulent "leaks" regarding the deployment of Libyan hit teams to the United States to attempt to assassinate President Reagan and possibly other leading Cabinet officials.

While the Reagan administration has stated unequivocally that the initially released White House reports of the presence of Libyan teams were true, specific information that led to a series of extravagant media hypes was manufactured in Tel Aviv, possibly for the purpose of drawing the United States into a flight-forward military move against Libyan dictator Qaddafi.

The possibility cannot be discounted that the Mossad disinformation campaign is itself a component of the continuing assassination plot against the President. Perminex, the international assassination bureau responsible for the murder of President John F. Kennedy, incorporated within it a strand of the Mossad. That capability still persists.

It is precisely because of President

Reagan's initiatives in the Middle East and in comprehensive disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union that he is on the top of a high-level hit list, security specialists confirm.

Chief among the possible reasons for the leaks, according to the *Times* wire, "is that the Israelis wish to intensify the U.S. public concern about Qaddafi so that Americans would support a strike at Libya, perhaps at Qaddafi's Russian-supplied nuclear research center."

'Stop LaRouche' group holds press conference

Dennis King, Chip Berlet, and Russ Ballant called a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 16 to demand action to "stop the threat of [EIR founder] LaRouche." King is now working for the League for Industrial Democracy, which founded SDS; Berlet has written slanders of LaRouche for *High Times* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*; and Ballant works for the National Lawyers' Guild publication *Public Eye*. The press conference had been planned for three weeks; only "insiders" showed up, along with Metro-media and the cable affiliate of AP.

Among those present were Walter Sheridan protégé Dan Moldea; Chuck Fager, a former aide to Rep. Paul McCloskey who was fired after an *EIR* dossier identified him as "a KGB mole"; representatives of the Anti-Defamation League, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Citizens Energy Project; and Cliff Kincaid, a junior reporter for Accuracy in Media, a nominally right-wing group funded by the Heritage Foundation. The presence of *EIR* correspondent Laura Chasen caused a certain amount of anxiety after the three speakers figured out her identity.

King et al. complained that "no one" was taking their investigations seriously. "After eight years of exposing LaRouche's activities, we have finally gotten a break," said Berlet. "The Attorney General of Illinois has opened an inves-

tigation into the National Anti-Drug Coalition [co-founded by LaRouche], but it took one and a half years of a campaign by the Chicago *Sun-Times* to get them to do it!" King suggested that LaRouche-associated organizations might be forced to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, because *EIR* contracts reports for foreign governments.

One light moment occurred when Berlet (to the distress of Heritage's Mr. Kincaid) stated that they could establish no LaRouche links to the East bloc or KGB. When Laura Chasen suggested that they check into Chuck Fager if they are interested in KGB agents, Fager jumped up and exclaimed, "I'm the only person in this room with an official letter from the FBI saying I'm not a KGB agent!"

Moldea and Fager both delivered testimonials on how NSIPS dossiers and investigative techniques had caused them "mental anguish."

Keyworth: 'Stick to a few Space Shuttles'

In an interview in the December issue of *Astronautics & Aeronautics* titled "Dr. Keyworth Counsels Amputation," White House Science Adviser George Keyworth states that "Planetary programs may well witness a decline." During recent congressional hearings, the Science Adviser stated that though the Galileo mission to Jupiter is a desirable project, there may not be enough funding to complete it.

The Space Shuttle will be the "dominant" aspect of the Reagan administration's space program, Keyworth said, adding that "There may be a cutback in the projections for how fast new shuttles come on line." NASA is currently studying the economic benefits of buying shuttles in batches, rather than individually, to make up a full fleet in the 1980s; Sen. Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.) has been pushing for this kind of planning.

NASA Administrator James Beggs and space-agency program managers are trying to continue to plan NASA's programs on a 10-to 20-year basis. If they are forced to succumb to the vagaries of month-to-month budget changes and overall fiscal austerity, no new projects will be started, and many now under development will not be brought to fruition.

Beggs has included nearly a half billion dollars for new projects in his \$7 billion FY83 budget request, according to press reports. Included are development of enhanced launch capabilities for the Shuttle, space-station design studies, space platform projects, and other initiatives in the manned space program, to begin to exploit the capabilities of the Shuttle.

In the crucial planetary-science field, NASA is supporting the recommendations of the Solar System Exploration Committee, which has recommended a minimum of 11 planetary flights by the year 2000. This program, which would be based on already-developed spacecraft technology, would include unmanned exploration of the Moon, Mars, Venus, Saturn, Titan, Uranus, Neptune, and the comets and asteroids. The program is estimated to cost less than \$1 billion per year, half the level spent on planetary exploration a decade ago.

Teamster leader sentenced to 18-year term

A federal judge in Wilmington, Delaware handed an 18-year prison sentence to Frank Sheeran, former President of Teamsters Local 326 in Wilmington and a nationally known Teamster leader, for his conviction on labor racketeering and mail fraud charges.

Sheeran, a long-time associate of Jimmy Hoffa, had been the target of repeated unsuccessful government prosecution. He had earlier faced similar charges stemming from the same events in Pennsylvania; after failing to obtain a conviction there, prosecutors filed new charges in Delaware.

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** has held a series of intensive meetings with Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker over the last several weeks and is reportedly pressing Volcker to ease up on the Fed's tight money policy according to Capitol Hill sources. The latest meeting was Dec. 14, which was also attended by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan and White House domestic policy advisor Martin Anderson. According to a Federal Reserve spokesman, Volcker pushed for higher taxes to lower the budget deficit.

● **THE SPACELAB**, a habitable space station laboratory built by the European Space Agency for NASA, is scheduled to be delivered this month to the United States from West Germany.

● **JAMES WATT** has invited Lester Brown, an advocate of population reduction and negative economic growth, to give a guest lecture to top officials at the Department of the Interior. Watt's move was seen as a retreat from the furor he caused when he ordered his aides to curb their contacts with environmentalists.

● **THE AFL-CIO** of New Jersey has voted to cut off funding and other forms of support for the state Democratic Committee and Democratic Party. A resolution, passed unanimously on Dec. 15, charged Democratic Chairman Maloney and Rep. James Florio with having worked "against labor's choice for Speaker [of the State Assembly] despite labor's unprecedented efforts behind Florio's losing bid for Governor." Christopher Jackman, a Paperworker's Union official and state AFL-CIO Vice-President, lost his bid for a third term as Speaker. "This is strictly a lawyer's assembly," said Jackman, commenting upon his replacement. The AFL will still make contributions to individual candidates responsive to their constituencies.