

National News

Time-Life features 'Destroying Missiles'

Recent high-level, open scientific debates at the national laboratories have featured Dr. Hans Bethe, IBM Chief Scientist Dr. Richard Garvin, and Stanford's Dr. Wolfgang Panofsky for the "nuclear freeze" faction, against Dr. Edward Teller and Livermore Lab scientists Lowell Wood and George Chapline. The debates are going badly for the anti-beam weapons network, all veterans of Bertrand Russell's 1950s "Pugwash conference" Anglo-Soviet disarmament campaigns. Reflecting the shift of this battle behind the headlines, Time-Life's mass-circulation popular-science magazine, *Discover*, carried a lengthy June feature entitled "Destroying Missiles With Energy Beams," based exclusively on interviews with scientists actually working on directed-energy weapons in the national laboratories. The article is detailed, accurate, and up-to-date, focusing particularly on the near-term potential of the "x-ray laser" and the longer-term promise of electron beams for ABM defense.

'Global 2000 attacks science itself'

Don Young (R-Alaska) has become the first U.S. congressman to attack the infamous *Global 2000 Report* for attempting to destroy science itself. *Global 2000*, prepared under the Carter administration, asserts that world resources will be utterly depleted by the turn of the century unless there are drastic cuts in present levels of consumption. The report claims that it will be necessary to reduce the world's population by 2 billion persons by that time.

"This document represents science of the worst kind—political science," Young said in a statement in the *Congressional Record* May 25. "By fabricating conclusions from sketchy data, by disregarding man's contin-

ual quest for creative solutions to problems, and quite simply, by ignoring some very well established facts, *Global 2000* went farther toward discrediting science than any other document since Lysenko's biological and genetic study or Galileo's recantation."

Young warned that "today in the United States, there is a growing political influence by those who practice . . . 'fudging' of scientific data and assumptions. The institutional environmental community—by that I mean those who earn their bread by creating controversy—in Washington and throughout the United States is systematically slanting data, fabricating ultimate conclusions from fragmented information, and scaring the American public out of their wits through 'scientific' studies with no basis in fact."

Peace movement, building 'third party'

Former Deputy National Security Adviser William Hyland, a Henry Kissinger protégé, and Leslie Gelb, a member of the Palme Commission on Disarmament and of the State Department during the Carter administration, led the "Women's Leadership Conference on U.S.-Soviet Relations," which also featured four members of the Soviet think tank IMEMO. The conference was held at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. June 1.

Both Hyland and Gelb asserted that the policies of the Carter administration and the Soviet Union were responsible for the current crisis in U.S.-Soviet relations. The time was now ripe, Hyland stated, for the greatest improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations since the Eisenhower initiatives of 1953-55 after the death of Stalin. However, the President must act before the fall, while Andropov is still consolidating power and while the United States has the threat of the Pershing II deployment in Europe to force an arms deal with the Soviets.

Hyland stated that one of the main accomplishments of the Brezhnev era was a military build-up designed to ensure that the Soviets never suffer a humiliating defeat like

the 1962 Cuban missile crisis again. But, Hyland claimed, the Brezhnev build-up has so weakened the Soviets economically, Andropov must make a deal with the West.

Leslie Gelb stated that historically the problem in dealing with the Soviets has been that the United States is "psychopathic on the subject of the Soviet Union." Gelb said that the American attitude was exemplified by Reagan's statement after the Williamsburg summit that he held out hope for good long-term relations with the Soviets and that any short-term problems would be their fault.

"But," exclaimed Gelb, "there is hope. . . . We now have a new brilliant idea from the Scowcroft Commission, that in order get more arms, you must have arms control. . . . The idea [of the nuclear freeze movement] is to institutionalize a third-party presence in the administration. Most senior administration officials are not lovers of arms control, and the initiative will not come from within."

In response to a question from an *EIR* correspondent on the effect of President Reagan's March 23 proposal for U.S. and Soviet development of space-based defense against nuclear weapons, IMEMO spokesman Henry Trofimenko stated, "We don't want this. We don't want to militarize space." Trofimenko admitted that the Russians were doing work on directed energy ABM weaponry, but said they wanted to ban it.

Supreme Court rejects Abscam appeals

The United States Supreme Court has refused to hear the appeals of seven former elected officials convicted under the FBI's unconstitutional undercover sting operation, Abscam. Unless the Court agrees to hear remaining Abscam appeals, America's most fundamental 200-year-old axiom of "innocent until proven guilty" or the right to due process of law will have been abolished.

On May 30, the high court denied the appeals of former U.S. representatives Michael Myers and Raymond Lederer of Pennsylvania, Frank Thompson of New Jersey,

and John Murphy of New York. In addition, former mayor of Camden, New Jersey, Angelo Errichetti, former Philadelphia city councilman Louis Johanson, and lawyer Howard Criden were denied their appeals.

Abscam, authorized by Congress to stop stolen art trading and securities frauds, was used by the Carter administration Justice Department to target elected officials.

The FBI conducted Abscam by selecting targets and harassing them into compromising themselves. In addition, FBI special agents and their middlemen committed perjury and used forgery to convince their victims of the authenticity of their offers.

Abscam has been systematically upheld by the courts. In the words of one defense attorney, "this decision signals an ominous dissent from the principles of due process to uncontrollable manipulation in the hands of unelected, unaccountable law enforcement agencies."

Balanced budget drive attacking Constitution

"We are leading an insurrection against the elected Congress," David Keating, a spokesman for the National Taxpayers Union (NTU) told a journalist June 2. The NTU is doing the grass roots organizing for a constitutional convention on the balanced budget amendment. "We have the right to force changes in the constitution from below, if the Congress refuses to act."

Keating and the NTU have forced resolutions through 32 state legislatures. If 2 more states pass the resolution, a convention will be called, despite the fact that the Congress has refused to pass the amendment.

Keating says that chances are good that two states will pass the resolution sometime next year. Kentucky is the prime target, with California, Washington, and Ohio also targeted.

There are no procedures established for such a convention, because none has occurred since the original constitutional convention in 1787. Keating says that to make the idea of amending the Constitution

through this route more acceptable, he has secured "full cooperation" from various fundamentalist and New Right groups, including the Moral Majority, that they will not attempt to open up the convention to other amendments, such as the much discussed "right to life" or "school prayer" amendments.

Such single-issue national organizing could be used to build pressure for a systematic overhaul of the constitution, as proposed by the Sen. Edward Kennedy-linked Project 87, which calls the American constitutional republic "outdated." Project 87 spokesman Lloyd Cutler advocates a British parliamentary system. Keating predicted that the amendment process could become a vehicle for the "expression of radical religious-linked ideas to debate them as they impact on our government."

Carter pledges life to 'global environmentalism'

Former President Jimmy Carter keynoted the conference of the "Global Tomorrow Coalition," held in Washington, D.C. June 2. Carter announced his intention to devote his life to achieving the goals of global environmentalism, including the nuclear freeze movement. The coalition is an umbrella organization committed to carrying out such policies, as advocated in the *Global 2000 Report*.

Carter pledged that he and former President Gerald Ford, who Carter claims is also an active supporter of Global Tomorrow, will use their international connections to influence world leaders. Carter stated that he wanted to see the United States take world leadership in four areas: world peace, disarmament, human rights, and environmental quality. As when he was the Trilateral Commission's agent in the presidency, Carter not only failed to mention the scientific and economic leadership the country must take at this time, but also called President Reagan's directed-energy defense proposal "ill-advised."

Briefly

● **THE AFL-CIO** joined the post-industrial environmentalists in the Natural Resources Defense Council in a lawsuit to overturn 18 EPA decisions on pesticide manufacturing, in late May. The suit charges that these decisions showed favoritism toward chemical companies because they were arrived at in closed-door sessions between EPA officials and chemical company representatives.

● **WILLIAM RUCKELSHAUS** called the "explosion of the population and the pressure that this is putting on our resources" the most serious environmental problem facing the world today, in an interview with the *New York Times* May 30. He added that he thought rapid population growth did "not threaten the survival of man, but rather the survival of human freedom." Ruckelshaus also said he favors setting up a national commission that would devise universal ethical criteria that could be used instead of specific scientific criteria in determining environmental disputes. Such a commission should be composed of poets, historians, and philosophers, with at most a minority participation by scientists, Ruckelshaus said.

● **THE CALIFORNIA** State Senate voted up on May 27 a bill, 32-2, to give relatives or friends of terminally ill and unconscious patients legal authority to order disconnection of life support equipment. The measure was introduced by euthanasia advocate Sen. Barry Keene (D-Elk). According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the passage of the Living Will Bill is a direct response to the recent decision in Superior Court in Los Angeles to try two Kaiser-Permanente doctors for the murder of a brain-damaged patient there. The only opposition came from Sen. Ed Davis (R-Chatsworth), who opposed the bill on the grounds that it would "leave in the hands of some other human being the right to pull the plug and let the guy die," and Sen. Milton Marks (R-San Francisco).