

National News

Pentagon moots renouncing arms treaties

The Reagan administration is considering renouncing the arms-control agreements which have so severely damaged U.S. defense capabilities in the past decades. The administration is responding to the Soviets' extensive violations of those treaties.

Richard Perle, assistant secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, told the Senate Armed Services Committee March 14 that the United States may "have to consider whether to resort to classical defense without treaties." Soviet violations, Perle said, "rule out the type of ineffective agreements based upon wishful thinking that we have negotiated in the past—and which some propose today." For Moscow to understand the costs of such violations, "the full funding of the President's strategic weapons program is essential."

Perle added that renunciation of the ABM Treaty is "one of the possibilities" the administration is considering. Delay in final decisions, Perle said, is attributable partly to "political reasons," especially concern that President Reagan would appear to be expanding the arms race.

On March 15, the Defense Department rejected a U.S.-Soviet treaty banning space weapons. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Defense Department and intelligence community regard verification of such a treaty "extremely difficult, if not impossible," and added that on the Soviet side, "for all we know there are anti-satellite weapons up there now."

Reagan agrees to defense cuts

At a hastily convened White House news conference March 15, President Reagan announced he had agreed to \$57 billion in de-

fense cutbacks over the next three years. Following meetings with the Republican congressional leadership and, according to Capitol Hill sources, intense pressure "from the friends of Henry Kissinger," Reagan has accepted a "deficit-reduction" package virtually identical to ones he flatly rejected three weeks earlier.

The President announced that the defense budget will be kept to increases of no more than 5.1, 5.0, and 4.9% over the next three years. Reagan originally requested an increase in real defense spending for 1985 of 13%. The White House claims that major strategic weapons systems will be largely unaffected, and that most reductions will be in readiness, operations, and maintenance. With the Kissinger-enforced concession on the defense budget, House Speaker Tip O'Neill is preparing to demand further cuts in military spending, calling Reagan's announcement "a small concession" but "the first crack in the wall."

Dysentery outbreak in steel town

Over 200 people have been hospitalized in McKeesport, Pennsylvania in an outbreak of dysentery which is forcing 45,000 citizens to boil their drinking water or buy bottled water. Dysentery also threatens Scranton, where 157,000 people are now boiling their drinking water.

McKeesport, the site of the largest tube steel plant in the nation, does not have adequate water treatment facilities. According to local press reports, the city's water treatment plant has "changed little or not at all since the day in 1898 it was opened. . . . It has the original pumps, the original and declining filter beds. . . ."

Since at least 1977, efforts had been under way to upgrade the decrepit system, but battles over the ownership, maintenance, and restoration of the system blocked the plan.

Dr. Joseph Bary of McKeesport commented, "The *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* says that McKeesport has 31,012 people according to the 1980 census, and the current unemployment rate is 12.2%. That is ridicu-

lous. The town is dying. There were 62,000 people here 20 years ago. The unemployment today is more like 75%. Nobody is working. Most have been off more than a year and their benefits are exhausted. The eye-care, dental, health, and medical benefits are exhausted. Hospital and health workers are out of work because people can't afford treatment. They had to close three floors of McKeesport Hospital because of disuse.

The U.S. Steel National Works was the major employer in McKeesport, with 4,300 workers. As of March 5, there were 308 workers there.

NASA director tours for space accords

NASA director James M. Beggs visited Western Europe and Japan this month on a tour as President Reagan's personal emissary to reach agreements on joint development and deployment of space technology.

Two memoranda of understanding were signed by Beggs and Prof. Ernesto Quagliariello, president of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), on March 7 in Rome, to develop the Tethered Satellite System (TSS) and to develop and launch the Laser Geodynamics Satellite-2 (Lageos-2).

The TSS is a data-gathering system that will be carried into orbit by the U.S. Space Shuttle and released from the payload bay on a tether. It will be a new reusable, multipurpose means for conducting space experiments in earth orbit.

NASA will develop the TSS deployer, and perform the system-level engineering and integration. CNR will develop the two-module TSS satellite and provide system-level support to NASA. The two agencies will jointly plan and carry out the initial tethered satellite mission to verify system engineering and conduct scientific investigations.

CNR will build the satellite; NASA will provide ground support and launch from the Space Shuttle in 1987.

The United States formally asked Japan March 12 to participate in its project to build

a manned space station in the early 1990s. NASA director Beggs was in Tokyo to meet with Japanese government officials including the director general of the science and technology agency Michiyuki Isurugi. Beggs was in Japan as Ronald Reagan's personal envoy. Beggs told the press that the United States wants Japan to invest between \$805 and \$894 million in the \$8 billion program.

Kissinger protégé to Philippines

The State Department appointed Steven Bosworth, former head of the department's Policy Planning Council and a long-time Kissinger protégé, as ambassador to the Philippines March 9. The replacement of current U.S. ambassador to the Philippines Michael Armacost will coincide with legislative elections scheduled for May. These elections have been hailed on all sides as a "make-or-break" test of the government of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Armacost will replace Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who is entering "private life." Bosworth will be replaced by Kissinger's reputed ghostwriter and longtime subordinate, Peter Rodman.

Washington sources expect that Bosworth will push for a final pullout of U.S. military forces from the Pacific Basin, initiated by Kissinger under the Guam agreement following the Vietnam War. In the Philippines, pressure is being mounted to force the United States to abandon its facilities at Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay.

The International Monetary Fund's re-financing package on the Philippines' \$26 billion foreign debt will be immediately on Bosworth's agenda.

Cancer deaths are reduced

With the exception of lung cancer, U.S. death rates for cancer have decreased 5% for white males, 12% for white females, and

13% for non-white females during the post-war period. These are the findings of *U.S. Cancer Mortality Rates & Trends: 1950-1979*, a report published by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Cancer Institute.

The study is of particular interest since the reduction of deaths from cardiovascular and infectious disease leaves cancer as a more significant cause of death. Cancer is an age-related disease, and the more successful a society becomes at prolonging life, the higher the number of diagnosed cancers that can be expected—at least until breakthroughs occur in the understanding of life and its growth and aging cycle.

The encouraging statistics for cancer patients can for the most part be credited to advanced medical treatments. The study found the incidence of death from non-lung cancer increasing 15% for non-white males—the most impoverished and least medically treated category of the population.

A 1,500-patient study at a major cancer center, Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York shows that after cancer therapy, the majority of patients now resume normal life. Precisely two-thirds returned to their usual activities, 90% required no nursing care, and only 1.5% required full-time nursing care. These figures reflect advances in medical treatment which are spinoffs of high-technology industrial growth.

Lung cancer in the same period increased dramatically, as smoking became more popular among both sexes. However, smoking is not the only cause of this difficult-to-treat cancer. The campaign launched under the Carter administration for energy-efficient homes has resulted in a buildup of radon in many new houses. Radon is an invisible, radioactive gas formed from the decay of radium naturally found in the soil. Since energy efficiency is accomplished by restricting air exchange, the radon becomes trapped within such homes. Breathing basement air all day in these homes is the equivalent, in lung cancer risk terms, of smoking 2½ to 10 packs of cigarettes a day. Scientists estimate that between 2,000 and 20,000 Americans die each year from radon-related lung cancer enhanced by the energy-efficient homes.

Briefly

● **PAMELA HARRIMAN** was touted as "Washington's new first lady—the Englishwoman at the heart of the Democratic campaign" by the London *Times* March 11. Pamela's husband Averell said last year that he found Gary Hart the "most attractive" of the Democratic presidential candidates.

● **'FIRST CAMERA,'** the NBC television "magazine" which presented a slander of Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, will be taken off the air April 1. The show had the lowest ratings of 93 prime-time national network programs and was said to have been kept alive recently merely to carry the LaRouche slander. It will be replaced by "Father Murphy."

● **CHARLES T. MANATT,** Democratic National Committee chairman, opened the public section of the National Democratic Strategy Council meeting March 12 with the announcement that everyone was welcome to attend, "everyone except Lyndon LaRouche." After the meeting, however, DNC staff scurried around to make it clear to the representative of the National Democratic Policy Committee, the PAC LaRouche helped found to eliminate the Jimmy Carter legacy in the Democratic Party, present that he was "more than welcome" to attend their meetings "any time." Susan Kelly, wife of DNC Treasurer Peter Kelly, asked later if Manatt had attacked LaRouche in the earlier private session, said, "No, this is the first time, thank God."

● **A CHICAGO** "Daley Democrat" commented angrily March 14: "These presidential campaigns are all being run by TV. I've never seen anything like it. There aren't any machines any more. I'm disgusted!"

● **GEN. GIULIO MACRI** of Italy was in Washington, D.C. in mid-March, addressing diplomatic and military audiences on the need for a joint U.S.-European effort to develop beam-weapons defense.