

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Senators rip Soviet arms control violations

Six Republican senators have sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger asking him to report to Congress on the military implications of Soviet arms control violations.

The March 1 letter was initiated by James McClure (R-Idaho), and signed by Jake Garn (R-Utah), Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Bob Kasten (R-Wis.), Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), and Steve Symms (R-Idaho), all of whom were active last year in convincing Congress to mandate a presidential report on Soviet non-compliance which was delivered in January 1984.

In addition to asking the Defense Secretary to follow up the January report with a "precise study of the military implications of all nine of the Soviet SALT and other arms-control violations," the senators "also urgently request[ed] a similar report on the military implications of all 40 of the old and the new Soviet SALT and other arms control violations not included in the President's report, including Soviet activities violating the Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement" under which the U.S.S.R. agreed not to install offensive weapons in Cuba.

The senators concluded by suggesting that an appropriate U.S. response to the Soviet arms-control violations might be "to consider accelerating the initial operational schedule for a space-based, layered antiballistic-missile defense, and certain offensive 'quick fix' options such as deployment of stockpiled Minuteman III ICBMs."

At a late-March hearing of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, McClure asked Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle when a reply from Secretary Weinberger might be

forthcoming. Perle noted that too much time had already elapsed and promised a speedy answer.

Warner, Exon call for closed session on ASATs

The Soviet Union has "not one but two and possibly three systems" for destroying U.S. satellites, ranking senators on the Armed Services Committee reported at an April 2 press conference. John Warner (R-Va.) and James Exon (D-Neb.), chairman and ranking Democrat respectively of the Strategic and Theatre Nuclear Forces Subcommittee, released President Reagan's report to the Congress on anti-satellite weapons (ASATs) and requested an executive session of the Senate to review its classified sections.

"The report clearly confirms that the Soviets have not one, but two and possibly three systems, which have been tested and could well be in operation to knock down our satellites," said Warner. "They have orbital systems, they have lasers that they've tested and possibly they're into the particle-beam area." Warner was apparently referring to information in the classified section of the report.

Describing the report as providing "for the first time a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the prospects and pitfalls of ASAT arms control," the senators declared, "a careful reading of this document can result in only one conclusion—the prospects, regrettably, are limited and the pitfalls are plentiful."

Larry Pressler (R-S.D.), a leading opponent of both ASATs and anti-missile beam weapons, had introduced an amendment to a supplemen-

tal appropriation for agriculture debated on the floor of the Senate during early April that called on the administration to negotiate a "mutual and verifiable ban" on ASATs. Both the defense-oriented Warner and the moderate Democrat Exon announced their opposition.

Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), the only senator who belongs to the neo-Malthusian Club of Rome, charged April 4 that the President's report on ASATs fails to make "any serious attempt to assess the benefits of space arms control." During one of his last audiences with Western political figures, the late Soviet President Andropov told Pell and a Senate delegation that the Soviet Union was willing to pursue a total ban on the testing and deployment of new ASATs—but as the President's report implied, it would leave the Soviet Union far ahead of the United States.

Resolution attacks bailout of New York banks

The first congressional reaction has appeared to the U.S. commitment of a \$300 million bridge loan to Argentina conditional upon that country's reaching a new austerity agreement with the International Monetary Fund. Representative Denny Smith (R-Ore.) introduced House Resolution 477 on April 4 to halt what he characterized as any further U.S. bailouts of debtor nations without explicit congressional approval. In the Senate, Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) promised to introduce an amendment to bar the substitution of "U.S. government commitments to foreign entities for the obligations of U.S. commercial banks."

Smith attacked the U.S. loan as a bailout for the New York banks and said the \$8.8 billion handout Congress gave to the IMF in 1983 was "pouring good money into a fund which is only chasing after bad money. . . . I think many in Congress felt that by supporting an increase in the U.S. quota to the IMF, we would be heading off a financial crisis that would ring loud and clear throughout the entire international financial community." But "whoever said there is 'no free lunch' never came to the public trough where the New York banks feed. It is certainly not Merrill Lynch's money that bailed out these banks for their bad debts."

However, Smith made no proposal for dealing with the \$300 billion in unpayable debts currently owed by the major Ibero-American nations nor for heading off a global financial panic.

Jeremiah Denton pushes FBI expansion

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose director William Webster recently declared the United States was not faced with a significant threat from international terrorists, is being pushed forward to take control of U.S. anti-terror capabilities under three bills currently before Congress.

On March 22, Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary's subcommittee on Security and Terrorism introduced two bills. The Antiterrorism Act of 1984 (S. 2469) creates the offense of terrorism for the first time, and provides the FBI with primary investigative jurisdiction. The Anti-Nuclear Terrorism Act of 1984 (S. 2470) gives nuclear-power-reactor operators access to FBI

criminal history files, and thereby assigns the FBI the power to screen individuals having unescorted passage to sensitive areas of the nuclear plant.

Denton's top aide, Joel Lisker, is linked to the corrupt Anti-Defamation League and corrupt factions in Israel's secret service, the Mossad. Under his influence, Denton's subcommittee has pursued a do-nothing approach to terrorism, trotting out the same string of witnesses—Arnaud de Borchgrave, Claire Sterling, and Robert Moss—who have repeatedly discredited themselves with a wide-ranging cover-up of the role of Europe's blue-blooded "families" in terrorism, through institutions such as the Italian freemasonic lodge Propaganda-2.

Also before the Senate is the Antiterrorism Rewards Act of 1984 (S. 2309), introduced by the ADL's Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) on February. This would create a \$10 million slush fund, formally administered by the Attorney General, but in fact under the control of the FBI, to be handed out to "informants" who provide information or services concerning terrorist acts abroad directed against U.S. persons and property.

Goldwater initiates repeal of war powers resolution

Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) introduced legislation April 4 to repeal the War Powers Resolution (WPR), which had placed congressional restraint on the ability of the President to conduct foreign policy and on the exercise of his powers as Commander in Chief of U.S. armed forces. The Goldwater bill, S. 2030, is cosponsored by Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.) and Steven Symms (R-Idaho).

Goldwater said that in his opinion the War Powers Resolution "is unconstitutional," but that even if it were not unconstitutional, it "is impractical and dangerous . . . in order to avoid a terrible constitutional confrontation at some time of grave international crisis in the future when a firm and prompt U.S. response is required, I believe we should repeal the WPR now. It attempts to deny flexibility to the President in the defense of American citizens and their freedoms."

Goldwater warned that the WPR "may cause hesitation at a moment in history when immediate action is necessary. It may encourage and incite this country's adversaries to take action harmful to the vital interests of the American people in the belief that the President will not be able to carry out a sustained response to foreign threats." He pointed out that the resolution technically allows Congress to "direct the withdrawal of American forces from hostilities one hour after the President has deployed them" if Congress decides to act with unusual speed.

On April 4 the Senate defeated 59 to 36 an amendment sponsored by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) that would have banned use of U.S. combat troops in El Salvador or its airspace without congressional consent, except to meet "a clear and present danger" of attack upon the United States or to protect or evacuate U.S. citizens. After an agreement worked out between Sen. Dan Inouye (D-Hawaii) and the administration to provide only \$62 million in military aid to El Salvador and \$21 million to guerillas fighting the Nicaraguan government, 10 Democrats voted against the troop restrictions largely on the basis that they were unconstitutional.