

# National News

## Cuomo gets CFR's stamp of approval

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who recently spent a week in the Soviet Union meeting with top Russian officials, has gotten "thumbs up" from the New York Council on Foreign Relations. On Oct. 14, about 250 members of the elite Eastern Establishment organization turned out in Washington to hear Cuomo pontificate on Establishment foreign policy, and to purvey the line that it is in the United States' interest to ensure that Gorbachov's *perestroika*—"restructuring" for war buildup—is a success.

According to the *New York Times*, CFR members turned out in force because of "the uncertainty in the 1988 Democratic race for President and the hope by many in [Washington] that a stronger candidate, perhaps Mr. Cuomo himself, might enter the contest or be drafted."

The CFR was apparently impressed by Cuomo's performance. Not that there was any substance to his remarks. "It was his presentation, his style of thinking and talking that people mentioned to one another," remarked investment banker Peter Peterson, a former Secretary of Commerce and leading light in both the CFR and Trilateral Commission.

Cuomo also drew praise from former Defense Department employee Richard Perle. "What he said was unexceptional," said Perle. "But the manner in which he said it was exceptional. He was unusually candid. He's forceful and lively. I agree that that was what people were talking about."

## Teller slandered on x-ray laser

The Southern California Federation of Scientists issued a press release Oct. 14 accusing Dr. Edward Teller of having consistently lied about the potentialities of the x-ray laser—a leading research item in the Stra-

tegic Defense Initiative program.

The Federation claims to base its charges upon anonymous documents received over the recent period. They charge that Teller and his collaborator, Dr. Lowell Wood of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, "conveyed both orally and in writing overly optimistic, technically incorrect statements to the nation's policymakers regarding the potential of Excalibur," codename for the project.

This is the second time that such charges have been leveled at Teller and his collaborators in the last two years. The original charges, appearing in the *Los Angeles Times*, were based on a laughable misinterpretation of test results, in which the x-ray laser performed so much better than anticipated that diagnostic equipment was unable to even measure the results. The *Times* accordingly reported that the x-ray laser had not performed as anticipated—overlooking the fact that it had performed better than anticipated.

In its July 18, 1986 issue, *EIR* published lengthy excerpts from a General Accounting Office report which completely cleared Lawrence Livermore of charges that it had attempted to defraud the government, by exaggerating claims for its x-ray laser experiments.

## Congress to target Contra drug-running

The next phase in U.S. congressional investigations into the Contras will focus on drug-running and gun-running by the Nicaraguan Contras—and on charges that American officials condoned the crimes, the London *Daily Telegraph* reported Oct. 20.

According to the *Telegraph*, U.S. Rep. William Hughes, chairman of the crime subcommittee, has said the panel is widening its investigation of possible crimes by and for the Contras. He is quoted, "We are developing some very troubling information."

The crime panel is also tracking allegations that federal officials knew of and discouraged prosecution of the crimes.

## Panama deports U.S. colonel

The former commander of the U.S. Military Assistance Group in Panama, retired Army Col. Charles "Chico" Stone, was put on a plane at 3 a.m. Oct. 16, with a first class ticket courtesy of the Panama government, and deported to the United States. He was caught "distributing subversive leaflets" against the government in Panama City, as a "private citizen."

U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis was shown a videotape of Stone's participation in an opposition demonstration on Oct. 10, after which both the embassy and the U.S. Military Southern Command declared that Stone was acting as a private citizen. The embassy identified Stone as a "former employee," and the Command said he was "former military personnel." Therefore, they had "no comment."

This was only the latest incident proving that the U.S. government amounts to the only "democratic opposition" in Panama. On Sept. 13, a U.S. embassy employee, David Miller, who had been in the Philippines for the overthrow of Marcos, and in Haiti for the overthrow of "Baby Doc" Duvalier, was also arrested for participating in an opposition demonstration.

The Oct. 20 edition of the *Washington Post* amused observers by beginning its article on the Stone affair, "The government controlled by military strongman Gen. Manuel A. Noriega has escalated its campaign of political attacks on Washington with a series of actions to harass U.S. diplomats, servicemen, and other citizens in Panama, a U.S. spokesman said."

The nonexistent character of the indignant "opposition" was demonstrated anew shortly after Stone's arrest. On Oct. 22, more than 10,000 American military personnel and civilian workers were advised to stay out of Panamanian cities during a national work stoppage and mass demonstration promised by opposition leaders. Col. Gar Thiry, a U.S. military spokesman, warned Americans in a broadcast on the military

Southern Command Network to stay at home and out of Panama's cities unless they were on official or emergency business.

Thereupon, only 400 people turned out for the demonstration, and were easily dispersed by riot police.

## Soviet space station has military objectives

A new Defense Department assessment has concluded that the Soviet Union is likely to "dramatically increase" the tonnage of space hardware it launches over the next 5-15 years, and that the Mir space station is dominated by military objectives, according to the Oct. 12 *Aviation Week and Space Technology*. The report was also critical of the absence of military objectives characteristic of the U. S. space program.

"The projected rate of growth in the space program, driven by such things as an ambitious manned program, future communications satellites, new reconnaissance systems, and space-based weapons, is expected to outpace overall Soviet trends in both military spending and gross national product well into the future," the report states. The report is being prepared for public release soon.

The increased Soviet orbital tonnage will result from use of the new SL-16 and SL-17 Energiya boosters, the Soviet version of the space shuttle, and greater use of the SL-12 and SL-13 Proton versions.

For example, the Soviets launched three Proton missions in a recent four-week period. The latest, on Oct. 1, was a mission into geosynchronous orbit with a payload designated Cosmos 1,888.

The report states of the space station: "The Soviet Mir space station has been and probably will be largely dedicated to military purposes. . . . Many of the experiments will use visual observations, cameras, radars, spectrometers, and multispectral electro-optical sensors—devices that could support, among other things, anti-satellite and ballistic defense system deployment."

The report was critical of past U. S. space decisions, "because the Western democra-

cies, particularly the U.S., have directed a large part of their space resources and technology toward other goals. . . . We have allowed the Soviet Union to come dangerously close to achieving its military objectives in space."

## Admiral Crowe: U.S. can't afford depression

Adm. William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned attendees at a conference of the American Stock Exchange in Washington Oct. 19, that the United States cannot afford the luxury of another Great Depression. Even as he was speaking, the stock market was suffering a record loss.

"In the 1930s, there were no other world powers to threaten us," Crowe said. "But today the Soviet Union has amassed an awesome military power worldwide. . . . The military equation is not controlled by the U.S. alone, but by what our major adversary is doing."

He said the Soviets are superior to the United States in nuclear forces, operate on all the major oceans, and are actively engaged in "low-intensity operations" that include terrorism and limited conflicts on the borders of areas representing U.S. strategic interests.

One day later, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger suggested that the stock market crash was partly due to fears that U.S. defense spending is too low. Weinberger opened a speech to an American Stock Exchange meeting in Washington Oct. 20 by noting that the Defense Department had been blamed for the stock market blow-out. "But we had a counter explanation," saying that if the U.S. defense budget was too low, the United States would be unable to guarantee the security of its chief trading partners.

"We feel that the whole problem was caused by the extreme nervousness of investors who felt that the defense budget was going to be low—and that's the explanation that satisfies me." Weinberger made the same comment on two nationally televised talk shows earlier in the day.

## Briefly

● **ALEXANDER HAIG**, a GOP presidential hopeful, told the *Washington Post* that President Reagan's "excessive" defense spending is responsible for the budget deficit, the trade deficit, and the stock market collapse.

● **GEORGE SHULTZ** has officially withdrawn his invitation to the Organization of American States to hold a foreign ministers' meeting in San Francisco in November, the State Department has announced. In a letter to OAS Secretary General João Clemente Baena Soares, Shultz cited the U.S. government's "unprecedented financial difficulties."

● **REAGAN POLLSTER** Richard Wirthlin has announced that he will be working for Bob Dole's 1988 presidential campaign—in an apparent change of heart. Only a few weeks earlier, he had told reporters that George Bush was favored to be the 1988 GOP presidential nominee.

● **A.G. AGANBEGYAN**, chief economic adviser to Mikhail Gorbachov, has replaced Gorbachov's chief adviser, Ivan Frolov, as the man who will tour the United States in October as a guest of the Esalen Institute's Soviet-American exchange program.

● **HENRY KISSINGER**, in an interview with British press, attacked the proposed INF treaty as "an historic joke," then called it "inevitable," and then called upon the Senate to ratify it as the best way to keep the peace movement "off the streets." His curious statements were carried in the *Daily Telegraph* Oct. 18, and in the *Washington Times* a day later.

● **THE NEW YORK** Council on Foreign Relations has established a new "Project on European-American Relations," according to informed European sources. The project is chaired by Cyrus Vance, who also chaired the "1980s Project," which formulated the disastrous policies of the Carter administration.