

National News

Astronauts: The Moon was a step to Mars

Three Apollo 11 astronauts said the follow-on to the Apollo lunar landings in the late 1960s should have been a mission to the planet Mars, at a press conference held at the opening of the Paris Air Show on June 9. They were clearly frustrated that that mission never proceeded.

Buzz Aldrin, the second man to set foot on the Moon after Neil Armstrong, stated, "The Apollo trip was more successful than we think, but I hoped it would lead to the conquest of Mars, and it didn't. I think in the future, people will wonder how a nation could put all that together and then totally withdraw."

Aldrin had some strong words for the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz linkup in Earth orbit: "Six years later [after Apollo 11] we put together a mission with the Soviets which gave us the hope of U.S.-Soviet cooperation. Instead, it gave the Soviets the opportunity to say the space race was now over and it had been a draw."

Former astronaut Mike Collins, who orbited the Moon while his colleagues walked on its surface, stated at the press conference, "I think of the Moon not so much as a planet, but as a direction . . . a stop on the way to Mars. I would like to see colonization of Mars as the long-term goal. It's very important."

The three astronauts are involved in two months of activities celebrating the 20th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon, on July 20, 1969.

Research council says, increase fusion funding

A committee of the National Research Council has recommended to the Department of Energy that the U.S. government's \$350 million annual budget for magnetic fusion research be increased by about 20%, held steady for the next five years, and then increased another 25%. The committee's re-

port, "Pacing the U.S. Magnetic Fusion Program," published June 1, was written before the recent announcements of possible cold fusion results.

The report acknowledges that the U.S. has lost its leadership in magnetic fusion research to the European Community, and says that the proposed increases are necessary if the U.S. is to participate on an equal footing in the next phase of international efforts, notably the International Thermonuclear Engineering Reactor (ITER). The report also recommended that U.S. private industry increase its participation in designing fusion systems.

Federal funding for magnetic fusion research is now about half as much in constant dollars as it was in 1977, which is comparable in size to the efforts in Japan and the Soviet Union, but significantly smaller than the European Community effort.

Attorneys in U.S. on human rights mission

Attorneys Mirella Cece, of Rome, Italy, and Jacques Stul, of Paris, France, carried out a fact-finding tour of the New York "LaRouche case" on June 7 and 8 on behalf of the international Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations. Also, on June 5, they attended the sentencing of LaRouche associate Rochelle Ascher in Leesburg, Virginia, and questioned prosecutors on jury bias.

Mr. Stul is a criminal attorney with 30 years experience in political cases. Mrs. Cece is the president of the European Liberal Christian Movement, a tendency within the Christian Democracy.

In addition to private meetings with the New York defendants and attorneys, Mrs. Cece was the honored guest at a Manhattan reception of New York City community and religious leaders, and at a luncheon with leaders of the Chinese community.

At the Manhattan reception on June 7, Mrs. Cece told the gathering that she was coming before them "as a lawyer, as a politician, and as your sister." She reported that her precise task in New York was to be able to return to Rome to file a detailed report on the major human rights violations in the

"LaRouche cases," both to the Italian Parliament and to the Vatican. She concluded that she was confident that the Parliament "will be, at least through certain factions, totally with our cause."

On June 8, Mrs. Cece did an interview with the Spanish-language daily, *Noticias del Mundo*, and held a roundtable discussion with Chinese leaders hosted by Mr. P.K. Chan, president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. Mr. Chan asked in the strongest terms, that Mrs. Cece do what was necessary to see a resolution passed by the Italian Parliament denouncing the butcheries being carried out by the Communist regime. Mrs. Cece's interchange with Mr. Chan was covered the next day in the Chinese-language dailies, *World Journal*, and the *Singtao Daily*.

That evening, before departing for Rome, Mrs. Cece issued a statement of solidarity with the Chinese struggle for freedom and a call for freedom for Lyndon LaRouche. This was read in full on Friday morning by a representative of Mr. Chan to a rally of 10,000 Chinatown residents.

Thornburgh's strike force plan opposed

U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh's plans to eliminate the Department of Justice's 14 organized crime strike forces, has run into strenuous opposition, mainly because it would greatly increase the powers of local U.S. Attorneys.

Four members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senators Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), are opposed to the plan, and the Senate is expected to have hearings on the proposal.

Sentencing guidelines draw wide criticism

Six months after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of new sentencing guidelines using a formula point system in an attempt to standardize federal sentences, large num-

bers of judges are saying the system does not work.

Judges are complaining that prosecutors have gained power that used to belong to them. Many first offenders are getting harsh jail time while chronic repeat offenders are getting minimal sentences by exploiting the "informant" clause, which permits leniency for "substantial" cooperation against other prosecution targets. In drug cases, the guidelines are filling up the jails with low-level "mules" who have no knowledge of the upper rungs of the dope ring which could be traded for leniency.

U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William W. Wilkins, Jr., who headed the Sentencing Commission, told the June 12 *Washington Post* that the system's effectiveness will depend largely on the integrity of prosecutors.

Herbert Hoelter, director of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives, says that defense lawyers need to understand that because judges now have less discretion, probation sentences are going to be harder to come by. "It's not an in-out decision anymore," he said. "It's not whether you go [to prison], it's how long you go."

Satanist arrested for cocaine trafficking

The Sacramento Sheriff's Department has arrested six people for cocaine trafficking, including a man described as a high priest of a Santeria cult similar to the Matamoros cult of Satanist murderers. The six were arrested in Redwood City and San Mateo with more than \$1 million worth of uncut cocaine, cash, and cars.

At the Redwood City, California home of Angel Rivera, originally identified as a Cuban, but now said to be a Puerto Rican, police found two human skulls, one with an embedded machete, and numerous Santeria shrines surrounded by animal remains. Sheriff Craig of Sacramento said that Rivera had worked undercover for the Drug Enforcement Administration; a spokesman for the DEA refused comment.

On the day of the bust, Rivera bought cocaine from three Colombians who were

staying in San Mateo. It is believed that Rivera travels all over California conducting Santeria-cult ceremonies. A spokesman for the sheriff's office stated that he was reputed to be a very high-level priest of the cult, and that the cult operated a religious store in San Francisco called "Botanical Arubya."

LaRouche bio to be published in Spanish

A Spanish-language edition of Lyndon LaRouche's autobiography, *The Power of Reason: 1988*, will be published in July by *EIR*.

The autobiography has been translated by *EIR* Ibero-American intelligence director Dennis Small, and includes a new special introduction to the Spanish-language edition written by LaRouche entitled "I Become a Celebrated Political Prisoner." The book, *El poder de la razón*, prepared during Small and LaRouche's incarceration in the Alexandria, Virginia jail, will be printed simultaneously in the U.S. and a number of Ibero-American countries.

Kissinger subpoenaed in N.Y. 'LaRouche case'

Henry Kissinger was served with a subpoena to appear in the New York State trial of four associates of Lyndon LaRouche, while he was appearing at the Rockefeller honors banquet June 13.

Just as Kissinger was presenting an award to another former Secretary of State—George Shultz—the process server accosted the surprised Kissinger at the New York City affair.

Kissinger was subpoenaed because of what the LaRouche associates say is his history of illegal operations against the LaRouche movement. In 1982-83, Kissinger wrote a series of letters complaining to then-FBI Director William Webster about the LaRouche movement's exposure of his activities and requested that Webster intervene.

Briefly

● **SEN. DANIEL** Patrick Moynihan (D-N. Y.) was booed off the stage at a rally of 20,000 Chinese demonstrators at the U.N. on June 9. He enraged demonstrators by urging the crowd to support President Bush's mealy-mouthed approach to the China crisis.

● **THOMAS P. MELADY** has been nominated by President Bush as the next ambassador to the Vatican. Former president of Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Melady is president of the Connecticut Public Expenditure Council in Hartford.

● **THE NATIONAL** Democratic Policy Committee, a political action committee representing the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party, was denied a stay of the collection of multimillion-dollar contempt fines by the First Circuit Appeals Court in Boston June 6. An emergency request to the U.S. Supreme Court will seek to stay the collection until the Supreme Court decides whether a PAC can be fined out of existence without even an evidentiary hearing.

● **JESSE JACKSON** could be a good mayor of Washington, D.C. if he will push non-black issues, Bill Rice writes in a *Washington Post* commentary June 11. "While his national stature as a black leader might help propel him to victory . . . it is Washington's white minority that presents Jackson with an opportunity to move into the political mainstream."

● **THE SENATE** overwhelmingly confirmed Richard Burt on June 14 as chief U.S. negotiator on strategic arms reductions, rejecting charges by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) that Burt has demonstrated a "pattern of negligence" toward security. The Senate also confirmed Iran-Contra figures John D. Negroponte as ambassador to Mexico and Bernard W. Aronson as assistant secretary of state.