

National News

Scowcroft traveled to China secretly in July

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft made a secret trip to China in July 1989, just one month after the massacre at Tiananmen Square in early June, even though the White House had banned all high-level contacts, Cable News Network revealed Dec. 18.

The White House confirmed in a written statement that the mission took place. The Red Chinese government said Dec. 19 that the secret visit had been made at the request of the United States.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.) said he was astonished to learn that Bush had sent them on "another mid-night mission to meet secretly with the very Chinese leaders who had ordered the bloody suppression" of the democracy movement. Mitchell called for "full disclosure" of the administration's contacts with the Chinese government "so Americans can fairly judge the wisdom of its China policy."

Iran-Contra 'smoking gun' implicates Bush

A previously undisclosed Iran-Contra document has been discovered confirming that then-Vice President George Bush, former Secretary of State George Shultz, and others, sanctioned and implemented a "quid pro quo deal" with the Honduran government in exchange for that nation's role in facilitating the Contra support operation, the *Washington Post* reported Dec. 16.

Both Bush and Shultz had vehemently denied the charge and viciously attacked efforts in Congress, led by Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), to investigate the issue during the confirmation hearing of Donald Gregg as U.S. ambassador to South Korea.

On Nov. 27, State Department officials carrying out a court-ordered pre-trial discovery request in the John Poindexter trial, found a document dated Feb. 7, 1985 in "sensitive files maintained by the department executive secretariat, an administrative unit attached to the secretary's office."

The document carries George Shultz's initials in the approval box. The memo, written by Langhorne A. "Tony" Motley, then Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, describes a White House meeting that day of senior officials where "it was agreed that some combination of efforts was needed to encourage the Hondurans to remain firm in their support for the FDN [Contras] during the coming weeks." The memo details the expedited U.S. economic and military aid to Honduras and proposes that a letter be written from then-President Reagan to President Suazo confirming U.S. commitment to him and "calling for his cooperation in the difficult days ahead."

The memo states, "Although the President's letter would not be explicitly linked to specific reassuring actions listed above, our intentions and expectations would be made clear in an oral demarche to President Suazo." The plan ultimately approved by Reagan included a proposal for several personal meetings with Suazo, including a March 16, 1985 visit by Bush.

Asked by a reporter on May 4, 1989 if he had delivered such an "oral demarche," President Bush said, "Honduras—there was no quid pro quo. Everybody that attended the meeting says there was no quid pro quo. . . . The word of the President of the United States, George Bush, is there was no quid pro quo."

Democrats ask conflict of interest probe

A group of 12 House Democrats said Dec. 13 that they have asked White House Counsel C. Boyden Gray to start a conflict of interest inquiry into Bush administration officials who may be simultaneously advising the U.S. and foreign governments.

In a letter to Gray released by Majority Leader Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), the Democrats singled out two members of the White House Council of Economic Advisers—its chairman, Michael Boskin, and Gary Saxonhouse. The letter says Boskin and Saxonhouse have been listed as serving on the boards of Japan's Ministries of Finance, and International Trade and Industry, respectively. "This raises serious ques-

tions about conflicts of interest," they wrote.

The letter asks Gray to identify any other senior officials who serve in any paid or unpaid capacity for any department, agency, or instrument of a foreign-owned government or company. Kissinger Associates has several foreign government and foreign corporate clients.

Columnist Jack Anderson also revealed on Dec. 19 the close relationship between the administration and Texas Air officials, including Bush's top lobbyist to Congress, Frederick D. McClure, who was a vice president and lobbyist for Texas Air. It was McClure who signed a letter from the White House informing Congress that Bush had refused to appoint an emergency panel to investigate Frank Lorenzo's Eastern Airlines.

Soviet weapons threaten U.S.

A new Pentagon report reveals, according to House Armed Services Committee members and Pentagon experts, that an entire class of U.S. weapons systems is now obsolete because of a new Soviet missile system.

The Soviet missile utilizes a homing system which allows it to lock in on and track the radar emissions of weapons that use radar to acquire their targets. The new development places the F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18 fighter planes, the AWACS early warning radar plane, the J-STARS targeting system, AEGIS cruisers, and DDG-51 Destroyers, at great risk. All would have to turn off their radars in order to avoid the missile.

The United States has produced only one similar missile, the HARM, and it is only designed to hit ground-based radar guidance systems. The U.S. electronic warfare program has been thrown for a major loss as a result of a serious misjudgment of Soviet technology strategy, which focused on the development of analog systems that are resistant to U.S. digital-based anti-radar jammers.

The weapon adds a further layer of protection to the nearly invulnerable air defense capability of Warsaw Pact forces, and, by threatening the J-STARS aircraft, makes NATO "smart weapons" (which depend on

the targeting radar carried in the plane) of little use against operations behind Soviet lines.

EPA head Reilly faces criminal allegations

Two senior officials of the Environmental Protection Agency, William Sanjour and Hugh Kaufman, have filed two sets of criminal allegations against the head of the EPA, William Reilly, charging him with improper, if not illegal, conduct in reversing EPA policy. They charge that the EPA inspector general has engaged in covering up the scandal.

Reilly apparently decided to reopen EPA's case against the state of North Carolina for blocking new hazardous waste sites, on the urging of his friend Jay Hair, head of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

Hair and Dean Buntrock, a member of the NWF board and chairman and CEO of Waste Management, Inc. which stands to make a lot of money depending on EPA decisions, had a meeting with Reilly in March to plot strategy. One of the pieces of evidence is a handwritten note to Reilly by Hair, jotted below a news story on North Carolina refusing to take other states' hazardous waste. Hair wrote, "Bill—if at all possible I would like to arrange a breakfast meeting with you, Dean Buntrock and myself to discuss national implication of above situation *and* for you to get to know Dean better. How 'bout Breakfast March 16-March 17, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington (site of our annual meeting), Thanks, Jay."

Feds seize Operation Rescue bank account

The federal government seized the payroll accounts of Operation Rescue, the national anti-abortion organization, in a Dec. 21 raid. The order is calculated to impose an economic death sentence.

Operation Rescue spokesman Barbara Duffy stated, "It's a real shocker. Our attor-

neys were told by federal officials that they would not take any action before first notifying them. No warning was given whatsoever. It's frightening to think that the government of the United States could and would do such a thing."

Operation Rescue had complied with an ultimatum to turn over financial records to the U.S. Attorney's office, or to post a \$50,000 appeal bond. Financial records were turned over, and several attorneys posted the \$50,000 bond.

The original case involved a ruling by New York Southern District Court Judge Robert Ward against Operation Rescue leader Randall Terry for refusing to honor an injunction against protests, and his refusal to pay a fine of \$50,000 to the National Organization of Women.

Rumsfeld warns: Malta okays Brezhnev doctrine

The Dec. 2-3 Malta Summit decision by President Bush and Gorbachov to accelerate conventional force reductions in Europe "is tantamount to accepting and legitimizing" the Brezhnev Doctrine, which asserted Soviet hegemony over the entirety of Eastern Europe, former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in an interview with *EIR* Dec. 6.

"It's pretty clear to me that the people of Eastern Europe don't want any Soviet troops in their countries," Rumsfeld said. "The question in my mind is, why in the world would the U.S. rush to accelerate conventional force reductions when they will lead, at best, to a 50% cut in Soviet forces in Europe? This is tantamount to ratifying and legitimizing the *remaining* Soviet forces in Eastern Europe. If you think back to the old Brezhnev Doctrine, we are just about to accept it!"

"It's policy that should concern the U.S., not personality," Rumsfeld said, in criticizing the Bush administration's fixation on Gorbachov. "I can envision a situation in which the apparent reforms will be halted, and an authoritarian reaction will set in." "This is not the time to be making \$180 billion worth of cuts" in our defense budget, he said.

Briefly

● **A SOVIET SCIENTIFIC** delegation led by Yuri Nazarkin, chief Soviet negotiator at the START talks in Geneva, has arrived in the United States to discuss the SDI program at Los Alamos laboratory, the Alpha Laser, and to visit U.S. facilities in Capistrano Village, California, Radio Moscow reported Dec. 16.

● **THE BUSH** administration intends to impose an "eco-tax" which would raise over \$1 billion a year to help balance the budget, according to the *Los Angeles Times* Dec. 12. Chemical companies would pay for the right to produce "toxic" pesticides, compounds that allegedly deplete the ozone layer, and the "key pollutants that contribute to acid rain."

● **THE REAGANS'** tax returns are being investigated to determine whether they owe more taxes for gifts and loans of items like jewelry and designer dresses, the Internal Revenue Service announced Dec. 5.

● **OVER \$1 BILLION** in ecological fines was levied by the Environmental Protection Agency during 1989, climbing from \$175 million in 1987, EPA officials announced Dec. 19.

● **JOHN POINDEXTER'S** Iran-Contra prosecution was again delayed by Federal Judge Harold Green from Jan. 22 to Feb. 20, in order to review former President Reagan's White House diaries and notebooks to see if they contain evidence relevant to the defense.

● **THE UNITED MINE** workers union was hit with \$33 million in additional contempt fines on Dec. 8 by Russell County, Virginia Circuit Judge Donald A. McGlothlin, the son of the state legislator whom UMWA local president Jackie Stump beat in a recent state election. A total of \$64 million in fines, a level approaching an "economic death penalty," have been imposed. Some misdemeanor offenses are resulting in \$100,000 fines.