

# Business Briefs

## Space

### India to get satellite technology from Soviets

Indian space authorities are on the verge of obtaining the crucial cryogenic engine technology from the Soviet Union. The high-powered engine, embargoed by the Western nations, is required for launching the heavier class of Insat-II satellites slated to be the backbone of the Indian satellite network in the decades to come.

There is a possibility that the first geo-stationary satellite launch vehicle (GSLV) being developed to launch the Insat-II satellites, will be assembled with the purchased Soviet rocket stages. Sources said that the package being offered includes, apart from know-how and the rocket stages, assistance for setting up facilities to manufacture the engines in India. The final agreement may be for licensed production of the cryogenic engines.

## Energy

### Leader of Argentina's nuclear industry dies

Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero (ret.), former director of Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), passed away on Dec. 22, at the age of 63.

A doctor in physics, Castro Madero was committed to the principle that Argentina had the right to build a nuclear energy industry as a means of guaranteeing its industrial development. As he stated repeatedly, including in an interview with *EIR* in the early 1980s, Argentina knew that it had to quickly build the scientific infrastructure to master this technology, before foreign powers intervened to prevent it from doing so.

Prior to joining the CNEA in 1976, Castro Madero served as the director of the Naval Research and Development Service and held several posts at the International Atomic Energy Agency. As head of the CNEA, he oversaw the implementation of several projects which

significantly advanced the country's nuclear capacity, including the building of a heavy-water plant, the completion of the Embalse nuclear plant, expanding the potential of the Atucha I plant, and beginning of construction on the Atucha II plant.

His greatest achievement came in November 1983, just prior to leaving his post: He announced that Argentina had joined the ranks of nations which possessed the complete nuclear fuel cycle, and was capable of producing enriched uranium. Although that announcement caused hysteria among international malthusian cliques, with accusations from abroad that the country would shortly be building an atomic bomb, it was an achievement of which the admiral was extremely proud. He saw it as a crucial step toward achieving energy independence.

## Economic Integration

### Big Swiss bank asks for big European projects

Switzerland's second largest bank is pushing for major infrastructure projects in Europe, East and West.

The latest monthly review of the Swiss Bank Corp., in an extended analysis entitled "New Dimensions in European Transportation," outlines the requirements of a European economy of some 430 million, rising to more than 700 million if the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and the Balkans are included. In order to ensure unhindered development of this economic region, with its expected explosion of trade demands on present rail, highway, port, water, and air infrastructure, "the economic integration of this larger Europe requires efficient infrastructure as its necessary basis."

The article goes into the estimated ten-fold increase in goods transport volumes between Eastern and Western Europe by the end of this decade, and the urgent necessity in this light, "for an immense investment in rails and their organization. The main burden of this will reside with the German Federal Railway, [to accommodate] the enormous transit loads through Germany."

## Water

### Resource crisis growing in U.S. Southeast

The growing water needs of the city of Atlanta, Georgia, are causing a "water war" in the Southeast, the *Washington Post* reported Jan. 2. Atlanta currently uses 377 million gallons per day (mgpd), and faces year-round water restrictions if the supply is not increased, according to the Atlanta Regional Commission. Under a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water reallocation proposal, Atlanta's water flow would be increased to 662 mgpd.

However, much of the additional water would come from rivers which flow into Alabama and Florida, both of which object to the plan. Alabama has filed a federal suit to block the plan, and Florida has threatened to join it. The 662 mgpd proposed for Atlanta would be 106% more than the current water usage for the entire state of Alabama.

"It is no longer a controversy. This water thing has reached a boiling point. We are in a water war," said Rep. Glen Browder (D-Ala.)

## Science

### Big Bang theorists admit disarray

Some of Britain's custodians of cosmological truth admit, in the Jan. 3 British journal *Nature*, that essential features of the Big Bang theory of the universe don't square with the evidence.

The two failed features of the theory are, first, the assumed existence of a large proportion of "cold dark matter" in the universe—that is, matter exerting gravitational force but not detectable with available technologies, because it radiates energy too weakly; and second, the "inflation" fix—that is, the supposition that the universe underwent, for no known reason, a sudden expansion in the first fraction of a second after it "began" before settling down to the rate of expansion astronomers think they observe today. The inflation fix was

## Briefly

invented to cure a host of earlier weaknesses in the theory.

The admission of failure arises from a new, highly accurate analysis of the Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) survey, which shows that clusters of galaxies are more widely distributed in the universe and are more dense than previously thought. Moreover, large-scale structures composed of galaxies are too large to have been formed by any known "forces" in the time since the Big Bang.

The universe is supposed to have "begun" with a smooth distribution of matter in which galaxies later condensed. If this were true, another satellite observatory, the Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE), now in orbit, should be detecting the inhomogeneities in the background radiation left behind by this clumping process. So far it has not, contributing to the despair of the cosmologists. By the summer of 1992, the data from COBE should show variations as small as one part in a million. If no blips have been found by then, according to Michael Turner at the University of Chicago, "we have to commit ritual suicide," the Jan. 2 *Wall Street Journal* reported.

### Development

#### Frenchman demands Mideast Marshall Plan

French political influential Michel Noir has declared that "Europe has no other choice than to launch a true Marshall Plan to help the countries of the East and the Maghreb . . . in order to bring to these people the indispensable formation of trained cadres and economic development." Noir made these comments in an interview with the weekly *Paris-Match* Jan. 5.

Noir's proposal—which he does not elaborate—complements the call by French Socialist Party deputy Michel Vauzelle, who recently went to Baghdad, for a Euro-Mediterranean zone of peace and development.

Noir recently created a sensation in France by resigning from the Gaullist RPR, and forming his own political organization. At that time, he warned that France itself was in danger of being destroyed by petty political and

party intrigues. Now, he is in discussions with certain Socialists toward forming a new political coalition.

### Defense

#### U.S. industrial base shrinking and vulnerable

The problem in U.S. industrial defense capability is not that it is dependent upon foreign suppliers, but that it sometimes can't be, according to the current issue of *Aerospace and Defense Science* magazine. Cases such as the shutdown of the Avtex Fibers plant in Virginia and the explosion at the solid rocket fuel factory in Nevada two years ago showed the vulnerability of key defense and space systems dependent upon a single source of supply for a key component. Unfortunately, there were no other suppliers, foreign or domestic, that could fill in the gap when production was halted.

Author James Miskel points out that the single source supplier often is still in business, not because it does the best job, but because the company was unsuccessful in diversifying out of defense production. As defense spending is cut back, the number of key single-source supplies will only increase.

### Infrastructure

#### Soviet progress depends on transport

There will be no economic progress in Russia without basic investments in the transport sector, Friedrich Wilhelm Christians, chief executive of Deutsche Bank, has told Germany's *Der Spiegel* weekly.

"There is a lack of fundamental logistical structures, which the Russian themselves are to blame for," he said. "There is no functioning transportation system, and this has been the case from the era of the czars on. . . ."

"The Soviet Union needs a different economic system. But this won't work without a functioning system of transportation and communication."

● **MALARIA VACCINE** inventor Manuel Elkin Patarroyo has left Colombia, because the government eliminated financial backing for his research. His vaccine is currently being used in Venezuela, Brazil, and Ecuador. He will continue his research in Spain or Sweden, he said on an interview on RCN radio in Bogotá.

● **AN AIDS** conference in Bangkok Dec. 17-21 was boycotted by the World Health Organization because of Thailand's regulations prohibiting entry to persons with AIDS. Thailand has the most serious AIDS epidemic in Asia, with infection ranging up to 50% among male and female prostitutes. Thousands of Japanese, American, and European "sex tourists" visit these prostitutes every year.

● **FLORIDA'S** planned high-speed rail link connecting Miami, Orlando, and Tampa, is on hold. It was to have been built by a consortium of 35 companies, which hoped to privately raise the \$3.5 billion for the 150 mile-per-hour train.

● **INDIA AND BHUTAN** have signed a memorandum of understanding on the second and third phase of the Chukha Hydroelectric project. The first phase of the project, which has received about \$140 million in Indian assistance, involved construction of a dam to divert the waters of Bhutan's Wangchu River for electricity generation. Surplus power is to be sold to India.

● **'HOMELESSNESS** is a fixture of New York life," declared a front page article in the *New York Times* Dec. 30. According to Nancy Wackstein, director of the Mayor's Office of Homelessness and Single-Room Occupancy, there simply is not enough money in the budget to fulfill her mandate to provide shelter for everyone in need.