

National News

Missiles vulnerable without ABMs: DOD

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Dec. 15, made the shocking revelation that the Soviets have the capability to wipe out 95 percent of U.S. land-based ICBMs.

Spokesmen for the Defense Department confirmed the Weinberger figures that afternoon. They added that unless some kind of missile defense system was put in place, U.S. missiles would remain vulnerable through the end of this decade, even if the controversial MX program went ahead.

Other DOD sources report that a fight is raging inside the Department over how fast the United States should move towards a strategy of "mutually assured survival," which would require deployment of a beam weapon anti-ballistic missile system. Despite public statements by some DOD officials that ABMs are not feasible, one source reported the majority of those in key planning positions recognize the technological feasibility of beam-weapon ABM systems.

"The problem is that with the economy the way it is and with the Congress so stupid, we are making decisions for economic and political reasons and not for technological or even national security reasons," said a DOD source. "There was a time when we could bring a new weapons system on line in less than four years, with a concerted push. Now, with all the quibbling in Congress and cutbacks in R&D funding, it takes us 6 to 10 years. The problem is that we used to have a wide lead over the Soviets in most areas. Now the Soviets are ahead of us and unless we change the way things are going they will stay ahead. If they get an ABM system first, we might as well think about surrendering or hope that they don't want to fight ever."

Weinberger's statements will be used by people inside the DOD to push for an ABM breakthrough as a way to end vulnerability, the DOD source stated. "I don't know whether the fools in the Congress will understand that they must act," he stated. "It is going to be expensive. It would cost bil-

ions to defend our Minutemen and we don't want to do just that: We would want to defend everything. . . . Every week we get calls from people, some people very high up in the government, who suddenly have waken up to the fact that we don't have any capability to knock down enemy missiles, if even they are fired by accident. They ask us, why is that so, and I tell them that it is because people were stupid 10 years ago and they are still pretty stupid today. . . ."

Shultz/Kirkland thugs continue plotting

Steven Bosworth, the newly named Chairman of Secretary of State George Shultz's Foreign Policy Planning Council, met with the Overseas Directors of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) at their ongoing secret strategy session at the AFL-CIO's secluded George Meany Center retreat Dec. 15. Spokesmen for the AFL-CIO, the State Department, and AIFLD have steadfastly refused to reveal details of the discussions at the Meany Center despite suspicions that AIFLD, which has been implicated in a number of coups against national governments, may be planning destabilizations against governments and trade-union organizations opposed to Shultz and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland's austerity policies.

Shultz and Kirkland have had a number of secret meetings over the past weeks to discuss a strategy for breaking international trade union opposition to wage-cutting and other austerity measures. Spokesmen for both men refuse to discuss details of the agreements.

AIFLD, formally a subsidiary of the AFL-CIO, is funded by a number of Nazi International-linked multinational corporations including W. R. Grace, and also receives \$9.5 million annually from the State Department's Agency for International Development.

At the Dec. 15 State Department briefing, Alan Romberg was asked if Bosworth's discussions at the Meany Center involved planning for active opposition to the formation of a Latin American debtors' cartel,

including plans to interfere with or overthrow the Belisario Betancur government in Colombia or other governments. He replied, "You can assume that no plans to overthrow governments were discussed," but refused to rule out the possibility that Bosworth was plotting other unlawful interference in the Latin American political process. Otto Reich, formerly of the Rockefeller family's Council on the Americas and now director of AID's Latin America Bureau, is scheduled to meet with the AIFLD group on Dec. 18.

A spokesman for AID revealed that Jack Muth, the State Department-employed labor attaché in the U.S. embassy in Colombia, is responsible for overseeing AIFLD's AID-financed programs in Colombia. Edwin Palenque, the director of AIFLD's Colombia operation, who is attending the Meany Center sessions, has used his office to conduct a campaign of slanders against *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche's Colombian associates. He has also actively organized for the Shultz-Kirkland austerity policy. Muth, responsible for guaranteeing that Palenque's activities are in accord with Shultz's policies, has himself bragged privately about his attempts to intimidate Pedro Rubio, an officer of the Colombian UTC trade union federation, into severing his relationship with Helga Zepp-LaRouche's Club of Life organization.

Manchester daily on LaRouche weapons plan

The New Hampshire daily *Manchester Union Leader* gave prominent coverage Dec. 16 to a small gathering of the National Democratic Policy Committee recently held in Manchester to organize support for beam-weapon research. This marked a break from past policy of the newspaper of blacking out the mass meetings that the Citizens for LaRouche held during the 1980 New Hampshire primary.

Entitled "Laser Offered as Nuclear Alternative," a partial transcript of the article follows.

"Lyndon LaRouche, an unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the 1980 presi-

dential primary, has mounted a campaign promoting development of the laser beam as a defense weapon against guided nuclear missiles. He will probably be raising the beam-weapon idea as an issue in the 1984 Democratic presidential primary . . . although the Rochester [New Hampshire] Democrat hasn't formally announced his candidacy. . . .

"Steve Komm of Boston, the New England coordinator for the beam weapon proposal, claims that the Soviets are already developing similar technology that could make the densepack basing plan for the MX missile short sighted. Komm, an associate of Dr. Steven Bardwell, the science adviser to LaRouche and editor of *Fusion* magazine . . . charged that liberal media has been suppressing information on beam weapons. . . . According to Komm, laser beams can destroy ICBMs from a distance of 1,000 miles. He blamed Henry Kissinger . . . and Robert McNamara . . . for stopping the development of nuclear defense weapons. When there were threats of technological breakthroughs, Kissinger rushed to say that that would be very dangerous and create a technology race, Komm said."

Space Shuttle locates Mexican minerals

Recently analyzed data collected during the second test flight of the Space Shuttle orbiter Columbia have revealed a deposit of minerals and ores in Mexico heretofore unknown to the Mexican government. The region of the mineral discovery is a desert area of Baja California which will now be prospected by the Mexican government and could have deposits of iron ore, gold, zinc, copper, lead, and silver.

The Shuttle Multispectral Infrared Radiometer (SMIRR) flown in November 1981 identified the region as having been subjected to magma-heat steam and hot water tens of millions of years ago. Similar sites in the western region of the United States have been found to contain similar deposits of minerals.

Since the region is a wilderness area not accessible except by air, the Mexican gov-

ernment used helicopters to reach the desolate area and researchers were able to verify the site.

Dr. G. P. Sales, director of the Consejo Recursos Minerales and leader of the Mexican team, said that follow-up geophysical and geochemical measurements would be made to determine the ore potential for the area.

Farmers plan a 'Parity-Cade'

Founding members of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) met in Colorado Dec. 10 to begin a "Parity-Cade" through six Midwest states. The motorcade will stop to hold rallies to inform the population on the impending collapse of American agriculture.

The AAM initiated the use of tractor motorcades in the late 1970s, when a series of demonstrations culminated in the 1977 farm strike. Farmers testified before the U.S. Congress on the then-serious financial crisis in American agriculture during that strike.

The AAM held a public rally in Campo, Colorado Dec. 10 to discuss organizing policy. Keynote speaker Eugene Schroeder, a founding member of the AAM, stated that the reason for the lack of a parity economy came from the international monetary policy that had destroyed the value of the U.S. dollar and decoupled it from gold. Schroeder cited the effect of the debt crisis on farmers in nations like Mexico, and urged that the "action program" of the AAM be based on a threat to use "debt default as a weapon" to make bankers agree to debt renegotiation, as Mexico did.

Former Minnesota congressional candidate and family farmer Patrick O'Reilly also addressed the meeting, describing his practice of targetting the Federal Reserve during his campaign. O'Reilly, who conducted his campaign on the basis of Lyndon LaRouche's four-point program for economic recovery, proposed rallies in front of Federal Reserve offices throughout the nation to target the destructive effects of Paul Volcker's high interest rates on American agriculture.

Briefly

● **JUPITER'S** moon Europa, covered with deep water and a mantle of ice, might support simple forms of life "if transplanted there," according to NASA scientists speaking before the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco Dec. 14. The scientists draw a comparison with conditions under the permanent ice of Earth's Antarctic lakes, where organisms propagate with little sunlight. Conditions on Europa have been inferred from Voyager photos and other measurements.

● **REP. ROBERT DORNAN** (R-Cal.) denounced Congress Dec. 13 for its refusal to act against pornography. "Fourteen years ago pornography was a \$5 million industry. . . . It is certainly an industry now of \$4 to \$6 billion. There is a rape every 5 minutes in the U.S., 25 percent of whose victims are under 12. This is tied in with narcotics. . . ." Dornan added that the U.S. moral decline could well lead to its defeat by the Soviet Union.

● **REP. PAUL MCCLOSKEY** (R-Cal.) announced to the Congress Dec. 14 that despite his "deep dismay over the nation's continuing economic decline, it is a pleasure and a deep relief to find" that "for the first time in 25 years, the nation's frog population is increasing." McCloskey is a leading GOP supporter of the Sierra Club.

● **THE NEW YORK TIMES** Dec. 12 editorially endorsed a proposal by House Speaker Tip O'Neill and Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) to tax the meager Social Security benefits of the nation's elderly. Showing its liberal compassion, however, the *Times* recommended that only 83 percent of the benefit income should be taxed.

● **DEFENSE SECRETARY** Caspar Weinberger has failed to improve his ability to explain the alleged mechanism which will prevent Soviet ICBMs from destroying closely spaced MX missiles. He told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the *incoming* missiles would be neutralized through "fraternization."