

National News

Infrared satellite makes new discoveries

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced Feb. 21 that it had received the first set of images from its orbiting Infrared Astronomical Satellite (IRAS), revealing highly organized and structured sources of infrared radiation within the Large Magellanic Cloud of a type never before observed.

Focusing on the nebula 30 Doradus within the Large Magellanic Cloud, 155,000 light years from earth, IRAS revealed the fine-grained structure of the "Tarantula" region as composed of long thin filaments of ionized hydrogen plasma. Within this region, IRAS also detected numerous centers of infrared radiation, which may be embryonic stars in the process of coalescing.

Such observations of the self-organizing process of astronomical plasmas is giving scientists new insight into the high-energy plasma dynamics necessary for the construction of controlled thermonuclear fusion reactors.

IRAS will continue to operate for the next eight months, in the course of which it will map the entire sky with its infrared telescopic images. Such an all-sky map, says NASA, will "revolutionize astronomical knowledge."

FALN terrorists freed in New York City

Five terrorist suspects were released without bail on Feb. 16 after a secret New York grand jury investigating the criminal activities of the Puerto Rican terrorist group FALN found them guilty of "criminal contempt." Judge Charles P. Softon ordered Maria Cueto, Ricardo Romero, Steven Guerra, and Julio and Andres Rosado freed, pending probable sentences of up to 10 years.

The FALN planted anti-personnel bombs in five locations in New York City last New Year's Eve. Three policemen were seriously injured by the bombs.

To protest "state repression of freedom fighters," the FALN has mobilized its sup-

port networks—including the elite of the Anglican church, in addition to the usual radical lawyers, criminologists, and terrorist sympathizers. On Feb. 9, Bishop Paul Moore of New York City's Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Right Reverend Roger Blanchard of the Massachusetts diocese, and the Right Reverend Coleman McGehee took the stand as character witnesses for FALN member Maria Cueto. Cueto, Rosado, and Romero were all members of the National Council of Churches Hispanic Affairs Commission, headed by Bishop Moore.

Evidence, including fingerprints found at a FALN bomb factory in Queens, N.Y. which blew up in November 1978, led to the five suspects. According to FBI sources, the five are without doubt "the remaining incarcerated leadership of the FALN."

AFL-CIO executive hears austerity lobby

The AFL-CIO Executive Council, meeting in Bal Harbour, Florida the week of Feb. 21, heard pleas for support from union-buster Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) and from backers of *Global 2000* population-reduction policies Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) and Secretary of State George Shultz.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland refused to allow Democratic Party figure Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. to present his program for ending the world depression to the council. Spokesmen for Kirkland refused to acknowledge that they had received a telegram for LaRouche requesting to address the council meeting, in accordance with stated AFL-CIO policy to hear from potential 1984 Democratic presidential candidates.

A leader of the nuclear freeze movement, Cranston is said to be the favorite of the Club of Rome faction in the labor movement, led by Club of Rome members Howard Samuel, the head of the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department, and Executive Council member Glenn Watts, the president of the Communication Workers of America.

Hollings's credentials to speak before the Executive Council consist of being an outspoken proponent of union-busting state right-to-work legislation and an opponent of labor-backed labor-law-reform legislation. Like Cranston, Hollings is a member of the

pro-population control Draper Fund and was a supporter of the *Global 2000 Report*.

Sources say that Hollings's good standing with the Kirkland leadership comes through his frequenting the salon of Mrs. Pamela Harriman in Washington. With Ted Kennedy out of the Democratic race, Kirkland is expected to ram an endorsement of former Vice-President Walter Mondale through the Executive Council when it meets next fall and then to push the endorsement through a special AFL-CIO convention in December. Mondale did not even bother to come to the Executive Council meeting, angering some AFL-CIO officials.

Secretary of State Shultz, fresh from making a speech in Atlanta affirming the U.S. commitment to International Monetary Fund-backed policies of population reduction, spent all of Feb. 28 with the Executive Council.

Steelworkers ratify Kirkland's giveback

By a vote of 169 to 63, local presidents of the United Steelworkers union ratified the largest giveaway of wages and benefits in trade union history on March 1. Since the union constitution provides for no direct membership ratification of contracts, the pact will now immediately go into effect.

Preliminary calculations put the loss of wages and benefits at a minimum of \$2.8 billion, including an immediate 9 percent cut in basic pay for all workers and an end to all cost-of-living adjustments through July 1984. One week's paid vacation will also be given up.

Sources report that AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland ordered the Steelworkers to accept this contract to feed George Shultz's claim of a recovery. The union was offered the consoling lie that what it was doing would help get the whole economy back on its feet. Instead, the agreement will set the stage for a new round of looting of the domestic wage bill.

In exchange for this contract, the Steelworkers got a non-binding piece of paper from the steel companies claiming that they would reinvest savings from wages and benefits in modernizing plant and equipment or to preserve working capital. At present, U.S.

steel production is hovering at around 50 percent of capacity, with some 140,000 workers on layoff. According to steel industry analysts, there is no chance of a recovery of the U.S. steel industry, even under the rosiest of economic forecasts, that would put any significant number of these workers back to work. In fact, some analysts say that there is plenty of room for further shrinkage—even if modernization on a small scale takes place.

New York Times leak aimed at U.S. military

In the wake of Robert McNamara's and Cyrus Vance's call for \$168 billion in defense spending cuts, the *New York Times* leaked March 3 a supposed evaluation by CIA and State Department officials that Soviet military spending has been much less than official CIA estimates. Leslie Gelb, an official in the Vance State Department, and Richard Halloran report that the figures used by the Reagan administration to demonstrate a Soviet military buildup have exaggerated Soviet defense spending levels by several billion dollars per year for the last six years.

While the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency disputes the figures being leaked by CIA and State Department officials, the *Times* crows that the debate "could be politically explosive since the Reagan administration has been talking about growing Soviet expenditures to help justify increases in American arms outlays. The military budget is already under criticism from both parties in Congress, from business groups, and prominent former officials."

A spokesman for Rep. Richard Ottinger's Congress for Peace Through Law group (which has been renamed the Arms Control and Disarmament Caucus—ACDC) enthusiastically greeted the news of the *Times* leak in an interview March 3. He predicted that it would have "a devastating impact" on upcoming defense budget hearings and read it as the opening of an all-out war against the defense budget and Secretary Caspar Weinberger. ACDC is also pressing for closed hearings on the "secret" defense budget, to go after any programs the Defense Department may have funded outside

of publicly documented expenditures.

Governors honor Harrimans old and new

The real purpose of the "evening of celebration with our Democratic governors," sponsored by Pamela Churchill Harriman's "Democrats for the 80s" and the Democratic National Committee, held at Washington, D.C.'s elegant Mansion House Hotel March 1, was apparently to pay homage to the party's *éminence grise*, eugenicist Averell Harriman. The speakers touched on the real factional situation in the Democratic Party only once, when DNC chairman Charles T. Manatt made the following announcement to the 32 Democratic governors, a dozen or more senators, and dozens of top Democratic Party contributors packed into a tiny conference room for the \$1,000-a-plate fundraiser:

"Each dinner like this . . . will draw the Lyndon LaRouche crowd. It's important for people from out of town [to know that] if someone starts creating a disruption, a fracas, it's the Lyndon LaRouche crowd that's doing it from back there in the press—not all of the press, but only one or two. If it happens, we want you to know it's a great disrespect to the Harrimans, to our party, and to all of us."

Former DNC chairman Robert Strauss, a favorite of Pamela Harriman, reassured the crowd that Manatt would remain in office. Rumors had been circulating during the cocktail hour that Manatt, a favorite of Averell Harriman, was about to be fired from the DNC chairmanship for incompetence. "I just want to say what a fine chairman we have," Strauss stated, "and how lucky we are to have chairman Charles Manatt."

Democratic governor of Utah and chairman of the National Governors Association Scott Matheson, who had built his career as an attorney for the Harrimans' Union Pacific Railroad, produced a loud round of applause by telling the dinner guests that what the Democratic Party really needed in the 1984 election campaign was a "50-year-old Averell Harriman." The 90-year-old Harriman sat very still in response to this suggestion, but his wife turned noticeably paler than usual.

Briefly

● **KAI ERIKSON**, the "expert consultant" hired by Suffolk County, New York Executive Peter Cohalan to prove that no viable evacuation plan is possible for the Shoreham nuclear plant, and that therefore the plant should not open, turns out to be a supporter of the terrorist-linked American Indian Movement.

● **JOHN GLENN**'s presidential bid suffered some bad publicity in New England when his chief Massachusetts fund raiser, Paul Porter, was arrested in connection with a drug deal involving two tons of marijuana. In 1980 Porter was a fund raiser for Jimmy Carter, whose campaign was also plagued by numerous drug scandals.

● **ALAN CRANSTON** formally endorsed the Wharton School's candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, Wilson Goode, on Feb. 26. Goode represents in Philadelphia the same local-control, terrorist-connected apparatus that Democratic primary winner Harold Washington represents in Chicago. Presidential aspirant Cranston, who endorsed Washington, is setting into motion a rerun of the Chicago election farce in Philadelphia.

● **CHERI PRESTON**, Republican candidate for city commissioner of Wichita, Kansas, placed in the top 6 out of a field of 20 in the March 1 elections, thereby qualifying for the April run-off election which will select 3 of the 6 for City Commissioner. Mrs. Preston, who is backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee, will emphasize a beam weapons defense program as the basis for a real jobs program, for national security, and for a science-driver approach to reviving the U.S. economy.

● **PAT MOYNIHAN** is boycotting the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade because the official parade marshal supports the Provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army. Irish nationalists are quoted in the press as calling the senator "a voice of the British Foreign Office."