

## Reagan's opponents in Congress deflated

by Susan Welsh

The Soviet downing of Korean Air Lines flight 007 has left Washington, D.C. opposition to President Reagan in disarray, as both left-wing freezemen and right-wing ideologues scramble to maintain their political credibility. Many liberal Democrats have adopted a legislative policy typical of the Russian Army's time-honored tactic: retreat and wait for snow. Action on the congressional nuclear freeze resolution, a ban on anti-satellite weapons, and other measures dear to the hearts of the Harrimanite Dems will be stalled as long as possible, and opponents of the MX missile program say that they will try to delay a House vote on it for at least a month, hoping for more auspicious conditions.

The President's liberal political opponents, the same people who are promoting "peace-loving" Yuri Andropov while denouncing Reagan's beam-weapon defense policy, are now accusing the President of "too weak" a response to the Soviet massacre, in the Sept. 5 televised address to the nation in which Reagan denounced the Soviets' "crime against humanity" and outlined measures the United States would take in response. Henry Kissinger, in an interview on NBC's "Today" show Sept. 6, criticized the Reagan administration's handling of the crisis and particularly the decision to go ahead with a scheduled meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. "I do not think that is the week in which he should be meeting Mr. Gromyko," Kissinger said. "The danger you're in in a situation like this is that the rhetoric and actions go out of whack, and that the Soviets listen to the threats and look at the actions, and don't find them related to each other. . . . I think that's one of the dangers right now."

Senator Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and sponsor of a resolution to ban all weapons in space, was "disappointed" in Reagan's speech, according to a spokesman for his Washington office. "The speech Monday night conveyed the horror of the incident but there was nothing in the speech that the Soviets would be worried about."

Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), also of the Senate Armed

Services Committee, "thought the speech was not adequate," according to an aide. "He had already called for the complete cessation of trade with the Soviets until they change their behavior. This is the latest in a series of inhumane acts by the Soviet Union—Afghanistan, Poland, the Mideast. We cannot deal with this regime on a business-as-usual basis. We should also see if we can get out of the grain deal."

Liberal House Democrats are complaining that the President linked his address on the Soviet action with an appeal for passage of his defense program. Said an aide to Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), the President is using "heated rhetoric" and making "rhetorical statements" about an issue which should not properly be grounds for a "superpower battle." Abandoning the MX missile program, as a gesture in recognition of the fact that nuclear war may be close, could be an appropriate "show of strength," the aide remarked. A spokesman for Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.), a leading advocate of the nuclear freeze resolution in the House of Representatives, said that the congressman had made no comment on the President's speech, but disapproved of his linking the MX missile issue. "We're not hurting the Soviets by spending money on the MX missile," he said. "It's a waste of \$20 billion."

### Stonewalling

A Capitol Hill defense policy staffer, commenting on the plans of the nuclear freeze lobby, said that their strategy is to delay. In any defense-related vote taken within the next 30 days, he said, they will have "no prospect of success." They hope to delay the MX vote until mid-October or later. Rep. Addabbo (D-N.Y.) believes he has the votes to do this. Rep. John Seiberling (D-Oh.) and Rep. Clement Zablocki (D-Wisc.) are working to stall a vote on funding for anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons programs. On the Senate side, Edward Kennedy and Mark Hatfield now believe that they may have to give up on getting the freeze resolution out of committee, and therefore are thinking about trying to get the nuclear freeze resolution incorporated in an amendment tacked on to some other bill later in the fall.

The only vote which the freeze supporters say will come up early, as scheduled, is that on chemical weapons program funding, which Zablocki thinks he has the votes to squelch.

### No time for disunity

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., commenting Sept. 7 on the statements of Senators Tsongas and Levin, said that he was happy to see that they had realized that Yuri Andropov was not the peace-loving individual these Senators had previously believed. LaRouche urged that the Senators be the first to clean up their own past and repudiate the nuclear freeze movement, and particularly their own previous opposition to the President's anti-ballistic missile defense policy. At a time of great international crisis like the present, LaRouche said, we can ill afford counterproductive disunity within America's national political leadership.