

## Congressional Closeup by Kathleen Klenetsky

### Senate votes to destabilize Philippines

With a May 15 vote of 89 to 8, the U.S. Senate went on record supporting the destabilization of the government of the Philippines. Massachusetts Democrat John Kerry, who travels in such KGB-infested circles as the Institute for Policy Studies, introduced an amendment to the foreign aid bill which called on the United States to make future aid to the Philippines contingent on the clearing up of "human rights" abuses and on concrete steps toward restoration of democracy.

While Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on the Far East, convinced Kerry to "moderate" his language by including mention of U.S. national security interests and Philippine internal security interests, it was evident to even supporters of the amendment that its effects would be destabilizing.

Senator Dan Inouye (D-Hawaii) voted for the Kerry amendment with "strong reservations," pointing out, "This amendment, if read literally, could undermine rather than revitalize democracy in that very troubled republic."

Inouye stated that the amendment contains a blanket condemnation of the government and of the military for carrying out political murders, "euphemistically referred to as 'extrajudicial killings.'" But the government and the military are the very institutions which must safeguard the security and rights of the Philippine people.

During the floor debate, there was no discussion of the role of the International Monetary Fund which, through its austerity policies, has undermined the economy of the Philippines.

Senator Howell Heflin (Ala.) was the only Democrat to vote against the amendment, along with Republicans Chic Hecht and Paul Laxalt of Nevada, James McClure and Steve Symms of Idaho, Alan Simpson and Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming, and Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

### House Democrats in 'Castro scenario'

At a hearing on May 16, House Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman David Obey (D-Wisc.) told Treasury Secretary James Baker that he and other Democrats would not support the administration's request for multilateral development bank (MDB) funding, unless the administration could deliver a majority of House Republicans in favor of the proposal. If Obey makes good on his threat, both the FY1985 Supplemental Appropriation and the 1986 funding for such institutions as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank, and other facilities will not be passed by the House of Representatives.

While a cut-off of U.S. support for the World Bank and IMF is in U.S. national security as well as economic interests, the Democrats apparently intend to show that the administration is "insincere" and callous in its relations with the developing sector, precisely the image that Fidel Castro is trying to paint as he attacks the IMF and the United States.

Obey, who is also the chairman of the influential Joint Economic Committee, told Secretary Baker that the House Democrats were tired of "carrying the ball" for the administration by helping to pass the bills which con-

tinue U.S. funding for the IMF and the MDBs. Obey stated that Democrats were tired of being "sandbagged" by Republican congressional candidates who got political mileage out of Democratic support for the (administration-backed) IMF and MDB bills.

"Either you deliver a majority of the Republicans on this subcommittee, in the full committee, and on the House floor, or I will vote for zero funding for these institutions," Obey warned.

Baker admitted that it would be nearly impossible to convince a majority of the Republicans to support the legislation.

A major focus of opposition to the MDBs is Rep. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.), the ranking Republican on the Foreign Operations subcommittee.

### Senate wants to hand Bolivia to dope mob

In a non-recorded voice vote, the U.S. Senate agreed to cut off foreign aid to the embattled nation of Bolivia because of its "failure" to curb illegal drug production and trafficking inside its border.

Conveniently ignoring the fact that the government of Bolivian President Siles Zuazo has been massively undermined by the international debt crisis and the austerity prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund—the same IMF which pushes nations to cultivate drugs as a source of revenue—Sen. Paula Hawkins (R-Fla.) introduced an amendment to the Foreign Aid bill which will terminate U.S. foreign aid assistance to Bolivia, unless it cuts its narcotics production by 10% in one year.

Hawkins and her co-sponsors also ignore the fact that the Bolivian government labors under a constant threat of a coup by the powerful political and military forces in league with the IMF and the drug traffickers. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) immediately supported the Hawkins amendment, which assured its passage.

In her floor statement, Hawkins pontificated, "Bolivia must be forced to accept its responsibility in this situation. . . . We in the U.S. must not accept this situation from Bolivia. With the enactment of this legislation, we would be saying to the Bolivians: You continue to produce and market your coca crop, you will lose U.S. aid, all of it."

Hawkins, who has aired valuable information about the international narcoterrorist network including the Robert Vesco-Cuban connection, seems to be in the employ of Israeli interests on the Bolivia question. A Kissinger-allied political faction in Israel wants to bring down the Bolivian government and replace it with one amenable to this faction's goal of becoming the major arms supplier and drug trafficker in Central and Latin America.

## **Helms accuses Burt of Soviet collaboration**

In a May 15 speech on the floor of the Senate, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) accused Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Richard Burt of collaborating with the Soviets. Helms stated that Burt has been "collaborating with the Soviets on covering up aspects of the Major Nicholson murder, reportedly including his advising

the Soviets on press relations." Burt is mooted to be the next ambassador to Bonn.

The broadside attack by Helms came on the occasion of the resignation of the U.S. Ambassador to Romania, David Funderburk, reportedly a Helms protégé, who charged the State Department with refusing to recognize Romania's growing ties to the Soviet Union.

In his speech, Helms claims that the reason for administration softness on Romania is that policy is controlled by Richard Burt. Helms says, "Burt appears to have an ambition to excuse the failures of Communist countries, and build a closer relationship at any cost." Besides collaborating with the Soviets on the Nicholson affair, Helms also charges that Burt has blocked efforts to raise the issue of Soviet arms-control violations.

In what may be a related move, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) attacked the Drug Enforcement Agency and the State Department for laxity on the issue of Bulgarian drug and gun running. D'Amato told a Senate hearing on terrorism, "Anyone who believes that the Bulgarians have improved their efforts to stop drug running, must also believe that the Moon is made of green cheese."

Capitol Hill sources report that Burt is the major impediment to an investigation and airing of Bulgaria's role in "narcoterrorism."

## **Speak for yourself, Dale**

Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) announced on May 14 that the United States should abandon current arms-control negotiations with the Soviets

and instead "set up a children's exchange, because the adults aren't doing very well." It is yet to be ascertained if Bumpers has invited Henry Kissinger to chaperone the male portion of the delegation.

## **Bradley calls for dollar intervention**

The U.S. Senate called on the Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board to take steps to lower the value of the dollar, in a vote on May 15. The amendment calling for such steps was sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), the ex-New York Knickerbocker player who seems to have been drafted by the Bank for International Settlements and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when he retired from basketball.

The amendment expresses the sense of the Senate that the administration should coordinate with other major central banks or the Group of Five to bring down the value of the dollar, through foreign currency market intervention and other means. The policy of supranational coordination to regulate the value of the dollar, through intervention and through reducing the U.S. deficit, is one of the main vehicles by which the IMF is seeking to exert increased surveillance over the U.S. economy.

The critical vote came in an effort to table the Bradley amendment, which lost 39 to 58. Those voting against the amendment were all Republicans. A few Republicans, such as Heinz and Specter of Pennsylvania, Mathias of Maryland, and Boschwitz of Minnesota, voted against tabling the amendment. It then passed by a voice vote.