

National News

Special U.S. forces to combat narco-terrorists

U.S. Special Forces are training Ibero-American elite military units in drug interdiction and search-and-destroy procedures as part of a program designed to fight narco-terrorism there. According to a July 17 article in the *Miami News*, the Pentagon program "is so secret that many senior officials at the Pentagon, in Congress, and at the Drug Enforcement Administration are unaware it exists."

Pentagon officials responsible for directing the secret program call it "a major effort against drug trafficking out of Latin America."

Green Berets assigned to conduct the training of their Ibero-American counterparts have been ordered to stay clear of any combat situations.

Citing unnamed sources, the *Miami News* also reported that the Central Intelligence Agency "is becoming more active against the drugs-terrorism-insurgency axis, both in surveillance and direct action."

Speculation as to why the program was hushed up centers around sensitivity to charges of U.S. military intervention and "adventurism." However, a plan for direct U.S. military aid and intervention in the war against drugs was developed by *EIR* Contributing Editor Lyndon LaRouche and presented at a seminar in Mexico City earlier this year. A similar plan was announced by Adm. James Watkins, and has been endorsed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

War on drugs on U.S.-Mexico border

The attorney-generals of the United States and Mexico, Edwin Meese and Sergio Garcia Ramirez, will meet in August in Mexico City to discuss plans for a new joint anti-drug program aimed at the border area. U.S.-Mexican narcotics enforcement relations were severely strained following the murder

of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique Camarena at the hands of the drug-traffickers in Mexico. Charges of corruption and lack of cooperation were made by both sides during the ensuing investigation.

The U.S.-Mexican border has become a hotbed of narcotics trafficking, a situation many law enforcement officials believe was caused by the squeeze placed on narcotics trafficking in southern Florida. Record seizures are being made every week in Texas. The city of Houston reported cocaine seizures are up 7,900% there; in 1983, U.S. Customs seized 18 pounds of cocaine, but in 1984 there were 1,409 pounds seized. Customs reports that seizures have risen sharply throughout the Southwest.

Texas banks are reportedly now rivaling the Miami banks as laundromats for illicit narcotics profits.

The density of current narcotics activity along the border is demonstrated in the recent raids on large refining laboratories—operated by U.S. and Mexican nationals—for cocaine and heroin, as well as a large processing center for the manufacture of methamphetamine ("speed").

Congressional junkets during August

Congress adjourned Aug. 1, and will be out on recess for the entire month, not to return until after Labor Day in September. Many congressmen and senators will not be showing their faces to their constituents at home, but instead will be going on what are delicately called "fact-finding" journeys abroad. The trips include:

The Senate leadership, destination unknown. Senators John Chafee (R-R.I.), Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), and Carl Levin (D-Mich.) travel to the Soviet Union. Bingaman is reportedly trying to get an assessment of where the Soviet's Strategic Defense Initiative program stands, as if the Soviets are really going to let him know.

Senator Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) will travel to Hawaii, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.) goes to Europe. Sen. Robert Kasten (R-Wisc.)

travels to Ethiopia. Sen. Majority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.) goes to Canada.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee will travel to Central America, the House Armed Services Committee to the Mediterranean, the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control to South America, and the House Agriculture Committee will travel to the Soviet Union for talks with Soviet agriculture and trade officials on the prospects of selling more U.S. grain to the Soviet Union.

House Ways and Means, particularly its trade subcommittee, will be on a trade issues mission to the Far East, apparently with emphasis on Japan, the subject of growing trade and protectionist sentiment within the Congress.

House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.) will also be traveling to Europe. Another 27-day trip to the Soviet Union, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Spain, by the House Energy and Commerce Committee chaired by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), was left up in the air when the Pentagon informed Dingell that it did not have enough aircraft with which to supply the committee's request for travel. Dingell has been strongly attacking the Pentagon.

Global Showdown author tours Midwest

Webster Tarpley, *EIR* Contributing Editor and an author of the newly released *Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War Plan for 1988*, was featured on a number of leading Midwest radio talks shows. From Chicago, he spoke on the Dale McCarin show on all-news WBBM, and on WIND, eliciting scores of questions both from the interviewers and the callers. Tarpley was also on WCMY in the Joliet, Ill. area for one hour, and the popular Eddie Schwartz all-night talk show.

Tarpley held joint press conferences with a number of leading candidates of the National Democratic Policy Committee. In Sioux Falls, Minnesota, he appeared with Andy Olson, NDPC candidate for governor

of Minnesota, generating an article in the *Worthington Daily Globe* reporting that Tarpley, a "self-described Soviet expert," has warned that the Soviets were actively preparing a "nuclear sneak attack on the U.S." and had called on the United States to put all its missiles on a 2-minute firing alert to counter the "nuclear showdown."

SDI on congressional chopping block

Rep. Bill Chappell (D-Fla.), a leading member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, declared in Washington: "There'll be serious damage" to the Strategic Defense Initiative program at the \$2.75 billion level just agreed to by the House-Senate conferees. Chappell made his remarks to a luncheon meeting of the American Defense Preparedness Association August 1.

Chappell enumerated the disastrous consequences of the agreed-upon funding level. The "SDI management will have to prejudice some technologies—and drop those that we can't afford to investigate—and extend many program element schedules," he warned. The consequences, he said, will be a decision on the SDI in the early 1990s "with less than complete information, or a decision delayed until the mid- or late 1990s. In either case, we increase the risks to national security."

Among the areas that he suspected SDI management would be forced to cut back, Chappell listed the area of surveillance, acquisition, tracking and kill assessment, the "eyes" of SDI. He further warned of cutbacks in the airborne optical adjunct. This "was cut 30% last year—and will probably be hit again." Data collection projects would be hit, as well as space surveillance and tracking systems, boost surveillance and tracking systems, and terminal imaging radar.

In the area of directed energy weapons, "the part of the program that would more fully answer the Soviet response to our SDI," Chappell warned of "cutback victims" including chemical laser work, short wave-

length laser options, pointing and tracking, particle beam projects, and program delays in most other areas.

Battle management, the command and control of the SDI, including "processing technology projects, algorithm investigations, and test-bed work would be subject to some degree of deferment."

Finally, in the critical areas of survivability, lethality, and "key technologies," program lapses or delays could be expected in "enhancing survivability, reducing uncertainties regarding missile-kill mechanisms and vulnerabilities, evaluating countermeasures, investigating means of achieving a more cost-effective access to space, and assessing space power concepts." "The multi-megawatt space power effort could be jeopardized," Chappell warned, "as could survivability work involving x-ray and pulse lasers."

Chappell criticized "some of the critics and much of the media" for alleging a 100% increase in SDI funding. The Reagan administration's original request, \$3.7 billion, was already below the \$3.8 billion recommended by the Fletcher Commission.

Teller says SDI 'life and death' question

Development of the SDI is "a matter of life and death" for the free world, Edward Teller declared in a front-page interview published in the *Washington Times*. Teller lambasted such SDI critics as the Pugwash-linked scientist Hans Bethe, for continuing to cling to the doctrine of "mutual and assured destruction" (MAD), "which has horrified the American people."

Teller stressed that President Reagan's personal backing for the program is crucial to its success. It is necessary to advance far enough with SDI technology to demonstrate it will work while Reagan is still President, Teller said. Otherwise, the SDI project could easily be shelved by the next President. He also emphasized that with a Manhattan Project approach, scientists could create a laser-based defense system by 1988, which "could be extremely useful to our European allies."

Briefly

● **FIRST LADY** Nancy Reagan will be the houseguest of *Washington Post* publisher Katharine Graham for three days in August, according to the *New York Post*. Mrs. Reagan will stay at Graham's Martha's Vineyard summer home Aug. 7-9, where she will be the guest of honor at a series of dinners attended by such guests as TV news heroes Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace.

● **TWENTY PERCENT** of the American population, or about 60 million people, are "functionally illiterate," according to a study published by the Northeast-Midwest Institute. The study defines "functionally illiterate" to mean the inability "to read, write or compute with the proficiency needed to function in society." The report, released at a joint hearing of the House and Senate Education subcommittees, refutes the U.S. Census Bureau claim that 99% of Americans are literate.

● **SENATOR WALLOP** (R-Wyo.) has called for a public investigation of the Soviet KGB. Speaking on July 29 before a Washington, D.C., conference of the Moon-connected CAUSA organization, he called this "one of the more urgent tasks before the Congress today." Wallop spent eight years on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

● **GEORGE ELDER**, a farmer from Erie, Pennsylvania, announced on July 31 that he is challenging Sen. Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) in the state Democratic primaries. Elder, who unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 1984 as part of the slate of the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political action committee of *EIR*'s Lyndon LaRouche, was flanked at his press conference by three other NDPC activists running for congressional offices: Bernie Salera (1st C.D., Philadelphia), Anthony Hadley (5th C.D., suburban Philadelphia), and Stan Waterfield, (8th C.D., in the interior of Pennsylvania).