

National News

Armand Hammer releases biography

Fresh from almost single-handedly arranging the November Reagan-Gorbachov summit, Armand Hammer has graced the world with an autobiography financed by his Occidental Petroleum empire. Consisting of lurid descriptions of how this 87-year-old KGB operative lives his life, the book was reviewed on New Year's Day in the *Washington Post* by Michael Kinsley under the title, "Executive Porn."

The book, *The World of Armand Hammer*, includes a two-page photo spread of Hammer in bed, simultaneously watching four TV sets, eating breakfast, reading the paper, and "arranging by phone to have tea with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria." The book describes his chats and encounters with his closest friends, such as Baron Hans Heinrich, Thyssen-Bornemisza, Prince Charles, and of course, every Russian ruler since Lenin.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hammer has been busy negotiating a Soviet-U.S. "cultural exchange" program. "The Bolshoi and the Kirov [ballets] and the Moiseyev dancers and the circus might come," Hammer disclosed recently in New York.

Negotiations are under way for at least 10 major performing groups from the U.S.S.R. and an equal number from the United States to participate in the exchange program. "And in exchange we could send some of our great performing artists, rock bands, and great Broadway musicals," added Mr. Hammer.

U.S. runs test for new x-ray laser

The United States conducted the "Goldstone" underground nuclear weapons test on Dec. 28, a part of efforts to develop one potential component of the Strategic De-

fense Initiative, the x-ray laser.

Officials have declined to discuss the purpose of the test, but Pentagon and congressional sources have said the experiment is designed to test the concept of harnessing x-rays produced by nuclear explosions to create a laser cannon to destroy incoming Soviet missiles.

The Department of Energy has denied that delays in the scheduled test were prompted by congressional criticism of the SDI program, such as that of Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) against a similar test last March.

The Soviet news agency Tass immediately condemned the test as evidence that the United States "intends to continue making attempts at achieving military-strategic superiority."

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomeiko charged at a rare news conference on Dec. 29 that the Goldstone test is a violation of the ABM Treaty. "Everyone knows that the explosion was set off to test 'star wars,'" he said.

Euthanasia increases in U.S. hospitals

A new study conducted by the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis has found that increasing numbers of people with kidney failure "choose" to end their lives by stopping dialysis, and that these little-publicized deaths are likely to become more common.

Researchers surveyed a large dialysis program and found that stopping therapy accounted for 22% of the deaths among its patients. Of these cases, half involved patients who allegedly could not decide for themselves because they were in comas or senile. For about 75% of these, doctors suggested termination; in other 25%, the initiative came from family members.

"Stopping treatment is a common mode of death in patients receiving . . . dialysis, particularly in those who are old and those who have complicating degenerative dis-

eases," the study says. "Because of the increasing age of patients on dialysis, withdrawal of treatment will probably become more common in the future."

ADL leader calls for revenge

Anti-Defamation League leader Kenneth Bialkin, a gangster associate of Robert Vesco, urged that the United States retaliate militarily against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in response to the late December orgy of "Abu Nidal" terrorism actually directed by the Israeli Mossad.

Speaking for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Bialkin ranted on Dec. 29 that the PLO has placed itself "outside of the company of decent peoples and must be sanctioned by the world community." An American "resort to force" against the PLO "would not be inappropriate," he said. "If the U.S. . . . could move militarily against an identifiable group consistent with our policy . . . I don't think I would criticize it."

Bialkin also called on the Reagan administration to sever diplomatic ties with Western European nations who support the PLO. "Diplomatic support must cease," he declared. France, Turkey, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus and "other European countries" must "withdraw their recognition and diplomatic support from the PLO."

Bialkin further demanded that "the PLO observer to the U.N. must be expelled, and their offices closed."

Congress full of 'socialists': Roth

"Americans believe that we have Democrats and Republicans" in Congress, Rep. Toby Roth (R-Wisc.) said in a *Washington Times* interview on Dec. 27. "That's not so. . . . We have mostly socialists, and they're the

ones that run the Congress. . . .

"Take a look at what takes place with the Soviets, what takes place that the socialists in the Congress never attack—a Soviet client state or the Soviet Union. . . . No one has the courage to speak out against someone who can strike back. . . . No one ever says a word about what's taking place in the Soviet Union."

Citing the "genocide" which the Ethiopian government has helped carry out against its own people, Roth stated: "I think we are going to be party to the genocide that's taking place. . . . So often you hear people say, 'Why didn't the West do more during World War II as it relates to the Holocaust.' . . . Who's saying anything about Ethiopia today? That's genocide that's taking place; that's a holocaust taking place, and yet we are saying nothing. If we say nothing and we know what's going on, aren't we partners? Aren't we blameworthy, too?"

A member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Roth is seeking to impose a trade embargo against Ethiopia for genocide against its own population.

Roth said the Ethiopians are charging \$12.50 a ton for the famine relief food being donated, and the money is being used to pay Soviet drivers.

Battle brewing over ASAT tests

A major effort is expected in Congress early this year to overturn the recently approved ban on ASAT testing because it will hinder the development of SDI, the *Washington Times* cites government sources as saying.

These sources say that the administration won't take the initiative, but that members of Congress will move to reverse the ban, and that chances for reversal are particularly good in the Senate.

An administration source told the *Times* that the ban was passed not only to prevent the United States from obtaining an ASAT capability comparable to the Soviets, but to hinder the testing of SDI technology, and

that once Congress understands this, it will rescind the ban.

So far, there has been no effect on SDI systems testing, "but clearly there will be" if Congress doesn't change the law soon, said one administration source. If that doesn't happen, the alternative would be for the administration to embrace and implement the "wider interpretation" of the ABM treaty, which would allow ASAT testing.

The pro-Soviet wing of Congress is already upset at prospects of an administration effort to rescind the ban or continue testing under some other auspices. In Congress, Reps. Les AuCoin (D-Oreg.) Dicks (D-Wash.)

Weinberger in a letter that there is "no legal way" for the Pentagon to conduct ASAT tests, and "any attempt to do so would provoke the most severe repercussions."

The warning from the two was prompted by *Washington Post* reports that Pentagon officials intended to proceed with ASAT tests violating "the spirit but not the letter" of the law.

Spacecraft observes Halley's Comet

A Pioneer spacecraft went into position on Dec. 28 to begin 10 weeks of relatively close observations of Halley's Comet during its passage near the Sun.

According to Peter Waller, spokesman for NASA at the Ames Research Center, the spacecraft will make observations with its ultraviolet telescope. "Every time it spins—five times a minute—it will scan the comet."

The Pioneer was originally launched in 1978, with its primary purpose the observation of Venus. But for the occasion of the comet's visit, it has been turned toward the Sun. When Halley's Comet gets closest to the Sun, "it will be well within the Venus orbit, and so will really heat up," Waller said. "We expect to see outbursts, jets, and other events as its ice crystals turn into water vapor."

Briefly

● **AMERICAN MEDICAL** International, Inc. has negotiated for months with the University of Texas Medical School and M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute to set up the "first" hospital facility to exclusively study and care for AIDS patients. Richard D'Antoni, spokesman for the Houston region of AMI Inc., said that M. D. Anderson Hospital would provide direction to the research, since it is one of the best AIDS research centers nationwide.

● **SEN. ROBERT Dole** must push the IMF economic program through Congress if he wants the GOP nomination, according to David Broder in the Jan. 1 *Washington Post*. The Senate must pass the tax-revision bill, use Gramm-Rudman, "which it invented out of desperation," to produce meaningful deficit reductions, and pass a protectionist trade bill. If Dole can do those things, "then he may, just may, have an entering wedge for the 1988 GOP presidential race. . . . Otherwise, forget it."

● **THE TEXAS** Board of Health, after waiting for a 30-day comment period, has finalized its plan to quarantine AIDS victims who refuse to cooperate with authorities and who continue to prostitute themselves. The board voted 12-5 to begin the quarantine.

● **RICHARD LAMM**, the Colorado governor who has advocated the Nazi system of euthanasia against the elderly and infirm, wrote in the Dec. 15 *New York Times* that new measures must be taken to restrict immigration into the United States.

● **JERRY FALWELL**, head of the so-called Moral Majority, endorsed the Gramm-Rudman act at a press conference in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 3. Asked by *EIR* how he could reconcile his support of the bill with his "pro-life" outlook, Falwell did not deny the effect of the bill on the elderly and handicapped, but supported the legislation nonetheless.