

## National News

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### LaRouche to speed presidential campaign

1988 Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche Jan. 18 described President Reagan as "digging himself deeper and deeper into the political mire. Under these conditions, it is urgent that I accelerate my own presidential campaigning."

"If the President's State of the Union address echoes his recent weeks' pattern of statements on the economy and Iran policy," LaRouche said, "he will have committed himself almost irreversibly to a hopeless position. It would be almost a miracle if we were not saying 'President George Bush' a few weeks or so down the line."

Nearly all of President Reagan's blunders, LaRouche said, can be traced to the President's stubborn commitment to a very bad economics ideology. "He simply does not grasp the fact, that the welfare of all of the constituencies, including the very poor, is more important than any economic ideology."

LaRouche insists, that even if Vice-President Bush takes over the White House, it is too late for any Republican presidential candidate to come close to winning in November 1988.

LaRouche says, that he is the only visible candidate qualified for the tasks the new President will face in January 1989. "The problem is a long-range policy-drift, which has continued under every President since Franklin Roosevelt. The problem lies in the policy-making structures which remain in place as new Presidents come and go. The next President will accomplish exactly zero," he said, "unless he can shake up and reorganize the policy-making structures as such. . . ."

"Some in the establishment, like me or not, are coming to realize that I may be the 'lesser evil,' the only visible candidate knowledgeable enough and tough enough, to turn this country back to a healthy condition." They would prefer to elect some figurehead, he added, "to carry out my policies, rather than permit me to come even near to the White House. They wonder,

whether a figurehead President could 'cut the mustard.' Perhaps, some of them are thinking now, they have to stand out of my way, not because they like me, but because they have no other sensible choice."

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### May indict Israelis in Pollard case

A fight is raging over whether to indict Israelis in the case of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former civilian employee of U.S. Naval Intelligence. Pollard, according to briefs submitted by U.S. Attorney Joseph DeGenova, was working as a "false flag" agent, providing an Israeli intelligence unit with information only of use for barter to the Soviet Union.

According to a U.S.-based Israeli source close to the investigation, the prosecutors are furious at the lies told by the Israelis concerning Pollard, and want to get the grand jury to hand down indictments against them as a result.

There are massive countervailing pressures, the source stated, from those who are trying to protect the Ariel Sharon apparatus at all costs. The unit Pollard worked for was run by Sharon lieutenant "Dirty" Rafi Eytan. One reason for the intensity of the battle is that the main target for indictment is Eytan himself.

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### Pentagon unit linked to NSC operations

A Pentagon unit run by Noel Koch provided the pool of manpower that was drawn upon by the National Security Council for unauthorized covert operations, according to an article in the Jan. 17 issue of *The Nation*. The article, written by freelance author Mark Perry, states that the unit, which was called Intelligence Support Activity (ISA) or simply "The Activity," was running unauthorized covert operations out of the Pentagon and the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1980-82,

when JCS chairman Gen. George Vessey realized that it was out of control.

After the unit was broken up, on Vessey's orders, by Gen. William Odom, Perry states that many of its members became part of the independent, "privatized" bureaucracy of the NSC. ISA was run under the direction of Koch, whose immediate superior in the Pentagon was Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage.

Koch is presently on the board of an Israeli security company, "Atlas," which is made up of former members of Israel's elite security forces. Among its endeavors, Atlas advertises a \$2,765 16-day visit to Israel called "Tour 'n Secure," during which participants will "learn to utilize your personal belongings as weapons . . . simulate unexpected stress situations and come out with the upper hand." Koch also runs his own private security company, International Security Management.

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### Senators try to block early SDI deployment

Senators J. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) and William Proxmire (D-Wisc.) have joined the Union of Concerned Scientists in a bid to prevent early deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Johnston told a news conference Jan. 20, "An early SDI deployment would not only be irresponsible, but dangerous for the nation. It would wreck any hope for meaningful arms control [and] open the door to an arms race in space."

Proxmire said that early SDI deployment violates a 1985 law he wrote prohibiting any deployment of the SDI in whole or in part unless the president determines and certifies to Congress in writing that the system is "cost effective." He said the law also requires that financing for any SDI deployment must be specifically authorized by legislation enacted after the date on which the President makes the certification to Congress. "I'm confident that the Congress will defeat any effort to deploy the SDI this year," Proxmire added.

Also speaking was Kurt Gottfried, pur-

portedly a professor of physics at Cornell University and definitely a board member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, who said early deployment of the SDI "would be incredibly premature." "The only purposes of such a move can be to kill arms control and ensure that the SDI program survives, whether or not scientific research warrants it," he said. "It will start an arms race if we go ahead. It will prevent any progress in arms control."

## Abshire opposes Euro-troop withdrawal

"Unilateral troop withdrawals by the United States would serve as a declaration . . . that NATO had become an alliance *a la carte* [and] would undermine NATO's confidence and cohesion," David Abshire told Congress Jan. 20. Abshire, who will leave his post as U.S. ambassador to NATO next month, responded to Zbigniew Brzezinski and other strategists who want to see the United States pull 100,000 troops out of Europe.

Were the United States to begin reducing troop strength, Abshire argued, "each nation increasingly would pick and choose which responsibilities it would assume and which ones it would leave to others." He testified: "By the mid-1990s, NATO could be vulnerable to Soviet attack before allied mobilization and reinforcement are fully effective. . . . Soviet capabilities could also force a pace of combat which NATO cannot match, thereby robbing NATO of many of the conventional options of its flexible response strategy and placing on NATO the burden of escalation to the nuclear level."

Abshire said several trends appeared especially ominous, including Moscow's increasing ability to fuse its superior quantity of forces with technological gains and its growing naval power.

Under conditions of a troop withdrawal, "our leverage as NATO's leader to develop a common resources strategy would deteriorate, and structural disarmament would grow. Our military strategy would become a sort of bluff."

## Meese claims war on drugs will go on

Attorney General Edwin Meese said that the administration is still committed to its war on drugs—despite its decision to cut nearly \$1 billion out of the federal budget for anti-drug law enforcement, prevention, and treatment. Meese defended the cuts before the Abraxas Foundation in Pittsburgh, Jan. 15. Last year's higher funding had been used to cover one-time start-up costs, and represented funds that were to be spent over a two-year period, he stated.

"By distorting the budget figures and by either mistakenly or deliberately misrepresenting the facts, [critics] are trying to give the impression that this administration is cutting back on the battle against narcotics," Meese said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Meese claimed that money spent on federal law-enforcement efforts would increase by about \$72 million in the new FY1988 budget. "We are proposing increases in the most vital areas," he said. "We will be able to hire more investigators and more prosecutors. And we will be able to build more prison cells for those ultimately convicted and sentenced."

## El Paso cited as drug center

El Paso, Texas, after Miami and Los Angeles, is now the most important drug distribution center in the United States, according to some conclusions drawn Jan. 16 at the meeting of Texas state anti-narcotics agencies held in that city.

Sgt. Adalberto Aceves, head of the police narcotics division, cited the quantity of drugs seized and the number of arrests in the city.

From this, he inferred that big narcotics "czars" operate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico and El Paso in smuggling operations into the United States.

## Briefly

● **SEN. JESSE HELMS (N.C.)** has become the minority chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, beating out Richard Lugar (Ind.). A source at Helms's office confirmed that he will attempt to use the post to influence the Irangate investigation. Helms's aides first introduced representatives of Iranian drug trafficker Sadegh Tabatabai and Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani to National Security Council representatives, and also assisted in contacts with so-called Iranian "moderates."

● **SEN. ROBERT DOLE (R-Kan.)** wrote Jan. 18 that efforts to force President Reagan to comply with the SALT II treaty could result in the United States handing the Russians a major arms-control victory. In an article appearing in the Sunday *New York Times*, Dole said that the Soviets "will keep building up by hook or by crook, if they can get away with it; they will stop when it's clear they can't. It's that simple."

● **GARY HART** told a gathering of New Hampshire State Democratic leaders Jan. 19 that he would personally go to court to prevent the Nuclear Regulatory Commission from issuing an operating license to New Hampshire's completed Seabrook nuclear plant.

● **THE REAGAN** administration and several congressmen proposed Jan. 21 to require pilots, flight crews, air traffic controllers, and railroad workers to take random drug tests. Sen. John Danforth and Reps. Clay Shaw and Bob Whittaker announced the introduction of their legislation at a news conference, reported the Jan. 22 *Washington Times*.

● **THE RED CROSS** announced Jan. 20 it was testing 12,000 units of donated blood for antibodies to HTLV-I, a retrovirus similar to AIDS, which causes a rare form of leukemia that is fatal in all cases.