

# National News

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## U.S. conducts test, Soviets protest

The United States conducted its first underground nuclear test of 1987 on Feb. 3 at 10:20 EST at a site near Las Vegas, Nevada. The blast had a yield of less than 20 kilotons of dynamite. It was the 20th announced test by the United States since the Soviets completed their scheduled round of tests and called it a "moratorium."

The U.S. test was held two days earlier than had been expected, foiling the expectations of demonstrators—including the Greenpeace organization and "scientist" Carl Sagan, the publicist for the Soviets' "nuclear winter" propaganda—who had begun converging on the test site.

The Soviet news agency TASS promptly condemned the nuclear test in Nevada, saying, "The Reagan administration, clearly challenging world opinion, has again ignored the Soviet Union's call to join its unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests and confirmed its intention to follow a dangerous course for the escalation of the nuclear arms race."

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## LA Times says Haig behind Iran policy

Republican presidential aspirant Alexander Haig, the former NATO commander and secretary of state, is attacked as the author of the policies exposed in the Irangate scandal, in an op-ed published in the *Los Angeles Times* Jan. 19. The article is entitled, "Haig Leaves his Dirty Tracks all over American Policy."

The author, former National Security Council senior staff member Roger Morris, points to Haig as the patron of former NSC heads Adm. John Poindexter and Robert McFarlane, as well as Michael Ledeen, Col. Oliver North, and other figures who played a key role in Irangate.

Morris ridicules Haig for leaving U.S. intelligence and diplomacy "hostage to Is-

rael," for espousing a "cynical, belligerent" worldview, and having a "mien of shared anger and ignorance," both of which he says typify the Reagan administration.

If the "seamy" Haig is not investigated, concludes Morris, the Congress will have missed the point of the whole affair.

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## Bronx Democrats under fire again

The Bronx Democratic Party, one of whose bosses committed suicide rather than face corruption charges, and another of whom, Stanley Friedman, is now jailed on such charges, continues to be battered by criminal investigations.

A standing grand jury convened by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, has subpoenaed both U.S. congressmen from the Bronx, Mario Biaggi and Robert Garcia, and Bronx party boss Stanley Simon on kickback charges. The same grand jury has subpoenaed former Maryland Congressman Parren Mitchell.

All are charged with receiving kickbacks ranging from \$60,000 to \$1.7 million, involving bribery by a defunct New York firm, Wedtech.

Former Reagan political aide Lyn Nofziger is currently being investigated by a special prosecutor for his links to the same firm. Reportedly, 20 government officials are under investigation.

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## Cuomo hires panel of 'economic experts'

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo (D) announced at the end of January that he has named a panel of "experts" to advise him on economic issues, ranging from the U.S. trade and budget deficits to the Third World debt crisis. In making the announcement, Cuomo declared that the U.S. economic crisis will be the number-one issue of the 1988 presidential campaign.

Cuomo's panel includes such relics of Jimmy Carter-era economic thinking as former UAW official Irving Bluestone, Lazard Freres' Eugene Keilin, MIT's Lester Thurow, Steelworkers president Lyn Williams, and Robert Rubin of Goldman Sachs.

News media treated the announcement as a virtual declaration by Cuomo of his 1988 presidential candidacy, with the *New York Times* playing up the announcement as the clearest sign yet that he will enter the presidential race.

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## Fundamentalists join homosexuals against Pope

Homosexuals will not be alone when they come out to protest the visit of Pope John Paul II to the United States this fall. They will be joined by . . . Christian fundamentalists.

Declaring Pope John Paul II an anti-Christ and the Roman Catholic Church an un-Christian religion, the South Carolina Baptist fellowship passed a resolution Feb. 2 calling for nationwide protests against the Pope's visit. Bob Jones, Jr., chancellor of Bob Jones University in South Carolina, who drafted the resolution, said, "I think in every state there should be organized opposition to the papal visit."

Members of the lower sexual classes based in California announced recently that they would organize demonstrations against the Pope because of the Vatican's stand against homosexuality as morally wrong.

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## Judge rebukes FEC for harassment

California Federal District Judge Pamela Ann Rymer Dec. 22 issued a Memorandum and Order chastising the Federal Election Commission for persisting in an effort to obtain "unrestricted discovery" against a political association headed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., the presidential candidate.

The FEC had been seeking a blanket

subpoena against members of the Los Angeles Labor Committees, a chapter of the National Caucus of Labor Committees, the philosophical association headed by LaRouche.

During 1984, the FEC announced that it had received "a complaint" alleging that the philosophical group had raised funds for LaRouche's 1984 presidential campaign, and therefore, the FEC was opening an investigation, and would seek depositions and documents from the members. The association's attorney vigorously opposed this, charging that the federal agency was in "bad-faith," had no grounds for its charges, and was merely seeking to obtain information for a stymied Boston grand jury proceeding against LaRouche associates, headed by the Justice Department's William Weld.

During the summer of 1986, after oral arguments, Judge Rymer narrowed the FEC's subpoena power. The FEC sought to have her reconsider, but she replied in a December ruling, that the FEC "cites no authority which would justify" the Court a broader subpoena. "At this point, a grant of unrestricted authorization to gather evidence . . . would allow the FEC to exceed its jurisdiction."

## Billington to be freed from illegal jailing

LaRouche associate Michael Billington, held over three weeks in a Loudoun County, Va. jail without bail on contrived charges of "securities fraud," will soon be freed under terms of an agreement worked out between his attorney and Missouri officials, sources reported on Feb. 6. According to unverified news reports, the State of Missouri will drop the criminal charges pending against Billington if Caucus Distributors Inc., his employer, repays several loans due to a Missouri woman.

Billington has been held since Jan. 16 on an Extradition Warrant signed by Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles. Billington was charged with 15 felony counts of "securities fraud" in Lawrence County, Mo., although, according to court papers, he has never set foot in that state. Loudoun County Circuit

Judge Carleton Penn twice refused to release Billington on bail.

Local WAGE radio in Leesburg, Virginia stated that Billington would be held until the loans were repaid. Many persons commented, on hearing the report, that "debtors' prison" was supposedly outlawed in the United States 150 years ago.

## Kirk says he'll 'referee' Democratic primaries

Democratic National Committee chairman Paul Kirk said that he will undertake an effort to reduce party strife during the primary campaign, and is planning to personally play a "referee" role, watchdogging all presidential primary candidates.

"I hope to be able to set and keep a tone to this thing that emphasizes being positive, civil, constructive, and presidential," said Kirk in Austin, Texas on Jan. 31.

The DNC chairman plans to convene a meeting of Democratic candidates who have decided to run and form a group composed of top officials from each campaign to meet regularly throughout the process. There will also be a group of "neutral" Democrats set up to monitor the campaign as it unfolds and "be prepared to speak up publicly" if the rules are broken. Among Kirk's rules: no negative messages about other candidates, and no campaigning against the party or against its rules and procedures.

The DNC is now considering a Houston convention site, now that the Republicans have fixed on New Orleans. The *Boston Globe*, reporting from Austin, says that top Democrats favor Houston for reasons which are "partly symbolic, partly logistical." Texas is a state the Democrats can win, and, second, hard times have created a great deal of vacant office space downtown.

Meanwhile, ultraliberal Democrats, dismayed that the party seems to be moving toward the right and center, have decided to regroup, with a series of regional meetings set for Albany, Detroit, Kansas City, Chicago, and Boston. The leaders of this effort are Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) head Ann Lewis and Institute for Policy Studies socialist Michael Harrington.

## Briefly

● **ROBERT GATES**, the nominated successor to CIA director William Casey, is opposed to the type of covert operations run under Casey, the *Los Angeles Times* reports. Gates reportedly will curtail operations such as the Contra policy, which had been approved by Casey.

● **RICHARD PERLE** has been stripped of all power at the Defense Department, according to knowledgeable sources, but Perle still claims he won't resign. Perle's recent full endorsement of the "zero option" missile plan of the Soviet Union, and other Reykjavik proposals, put him under extreme pressure.

● **A REPORT** by the House Intelligence Committee released on Feb. 4 said there was "dangerous laxity" in the government's system of catching spies. Even though 27 Americans have been charged with espionage in the past two years and 26 have been found guilty, there was "a puzzling, almost nonchalant attitude toward recent espionage cases on the part of some senior U.S. intelligence officials."

● **SCOOPED** by *EIR*, the *Washington Times* wrote on Feb. 6 that the paper's Bogota correspondent had received an early tip on the bust of Colombian drug czar Carlos Lehder, from U.S. Embassy sources. Calling the State Department for further information, the reporter was informed, "We had another call about this." According to the *Times*, "Surprised that anyone else was on to the story already, the reporter asked who had made the first call. He was told it was a representative of radical politician Lyndon Larouche [sic]."

● **HARVARD SOCIOLOGY** Prof. Izzy Really has traced the origin of rock dancing back to a Boston man waiting in a long line at a barroom toilet. Explains Professor Izzy, "The discovery of this form of dance happened to come just at the time our society was going nowhere and needed to get there fast."