

# National News

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## Administration sells computers to Iran

The Reagan administration has okayed the sale of computers to Iran. Despite objections by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, the administration gave final approval to sell \$900,000 worth of equipment containing U.S.-made computers to Khomeini's outlaw regime, say news reports of April 22.

Administration and computer industry officials said that the National Security Council, which had been asked to mediate a dispute over the sale within the administration, gave the go-ahead for the sale in mid-April.

Secretary Weinberger argued that the United States should not be providing any aid whatsoever to the Iranian regime, but Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and Secretary of State George Shultz approved of the proposed sale, and won the day. Shultz and Baldrige argued that the computers involved had no military applications.

There were no immediate reports on whether Lt. Col. Oliver North was consulted.

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## Kennedy endorses Dukakis, attacks SDI

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination on April 16, while speaking to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles. Kennedy also said Democrats should oppose early deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

"I will work to see to it that the Democratic Party and the Democratic platform of 1988 will repudiate any such deployment," he said.

Kennedy labeled the economy the overriding election issue for 1988. "As President Kennedy used to say, the most impor-

tant social program is a sound economy. If that's wrong, nothing else is right," he said. "You limit yourself in terms of security interests if you limit yourself in trying to meet the areas of human needs. So that has to be the issue."

A Dukakis candidacy is obviously a stalking horse. Foreshadowing his possible acceptance of a draft candidacy, Kennedy said, "These days, I don't think about running for President any more . . . but I don't think about it any less either."

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## Rights investigator protests Hansen arrest

A leading Indian lawyer, S. C. Birla, has sent a telegram to the White House protesting the arrest of former U.S. Congressman George Hansen (R-Idaho). Hansen, who calls himself a "political prisoner," is the author of *To Harass Our People*, an exposé of the way the Internal Revenue Service violates fundamental constitutional rights. He served six months in federal penitentiary last year, after being prosecuted by the Justice Department for not listing his spouse's income on his own financial disclosure—the same "violation" of income reporting for which Geraldine Ferraro was cited but never prosecuted.

Hansen was arrested for violating the provisions of his parole the weekend before Easter, six days before a scheduled meeting with the parole board to discuss his protest of the highly restrictive provisions. His violation consisted of leaving the Washington, D.C. area for a speaking engagement.

After meeting with Hansen, S. C. Birla, chairman of the All-India Bar Association, pledged to investigate Hansen's case, commenting that it appeared to be "another case of political harassment against a dissident in this country." Birla is a member of the Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the United States, and has already condemned political persecution of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates.

During a 1979 trip to Teheran, Hansen,

then a congressman, called a press conference at the American embassy to declared, "The people who should be in jail here are Henry Kissinger and David Rockefeller."

Hansen's recent campaign to expose the horrible conditions in the nation's prisons, including the potential spread of AIDS, has put him nose-to-nose with the Justice Department and what he calls "their foreign style of law enforcement."

He told his supporters in a recent appeal, "The threat of jail doesn't frighten me, but the threat of damnation for cowardly compromise of God's principles does. . . . Heavy-handed government might bruise us up and often throw us in jail, but that doesn't stop freedom-loving citizens from standing up and fighting back."

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## PANIC group files for material's return

Robert Levy, attorney for California's Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee (PANIC), filed a Writ of Mandate April 17 with the Superior Court of California to demand the return of materials seized in a raid on PANIC offices by state authorities over five months ago. The Nov. 19, 1986 raid followed the organization's success in placing on the state's November ballot the famous "Proposition 64," mandating public-health measures against AIDS.

The court fight now is basically over whether law enforcement authorities can hold such materials indefinitely while charging no one with a crime.

Attorney Levy's action contests an adverse ruling a week earlier that would turn over PANIC materials now in possession of the state to Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner's office for "continued investigation." Judge Harold Schwab had denied a motion for return of property, despite the argument that retention of the materials for five months with no criminal charges is totally unreasonable and in violation of constitutional rights.

The materials were seized by Attorney General John Van de Kamp's office, after

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what PANIC spokesmen termed a "bogus investigation" into the method of gathering signatures to place Proposition 64 on the ballot.

Schwab ruled that he does not believe that five months is unreasonable as long as the authorities have probable cause. He did, however, stay his ruling for 10 days to allow for appeal.

The Writ filed April 17 makes the point that authorities are clearly reviewing the material for months on end, in the absence of a crime, "looking for a crime." Levy concluded that if the relief sought is not granted, then the California courts are saying that seized materials can be held indefinitely.

### More Wall Street drug busts coming

There are more big-name drug arrests coming on Wall Street, according to informed sources. The April 16 arrests of 16 stock brokers, including a senior partner at Wall Street's Brooks, Weinger, Robbins, and Leeds firm, on drug-related charges including trafficking and insider-trading, is just the beginning of U. S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani's crackdown, *EIR* has been told.

The April 16 arrests were preceded by a three-year investigation into the connection of various Brooklyn mafia families to Wall Street's top brokers, said the source.

Related is the New York Police Department's announcement that 114 drug dealers had been arrested over a recent period in streets, parks, and bars near Wall Street. The sweep will allow prosecutors to turn numerous users and dealers into informants, thereby reaching into the higher levels of Wall Street.

### AIDS: They're all sounding like LaRouche

More than a year ago, presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. coined the slogan

"AIDS Is More Dangerous Than Nuclear War," and forecast that it would be the number-one political issue of 1988. Some months ago, he authored a piece warning that if government inaction continued, there would be vigilante actions, with homosexuals particularly targeted. For this, LaRouche was vilified.

LaRouche's villifiers of that time are now sounding exactly like him. Three more cases in point:

- AIDS is the number-one threat to the national security of the United States, according to counterterrorism expert Robert Kupperman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. In a presentation before the U. S. Naval Academy in mid-April, he called for an emergency national debate and predicted an outbreak of mass vigilante actions against homosexuals and drug addicts in response to fear of the disease. He also called for professionals to develop medical, security, and political action plans if civil liberties are to be protected and a military state of siege avoided.

- In a *New York Times Magazine* feature entitled, "The Terrifying Normalcy of AIDS," Harvard biologist Stephen Jay Gould announced that AIDS is "potentially the greatest natural tragedy in human history," and could kill off "over a quarter of us. . . . AIDS ranks with nuclear weaponry as the greatest danger of our era. . . . The exponential spread of AIDS underscores the tragedy of our delay in fighting one of nature's plagues."

- "AIDS is going to end up changing America and American politics," the *Philadelphia Inquirer* quotes California assemblyman Art Agnos, a furious opponent of LaRouche on the AIDS issue. "At first we didn't do anything because we thought AIDS was going to go away or the magic bullet would show up. AIDS isn't going to go away. Not next year, not in 5 years, not in 25 years and maybe not in 50 years. It's no longer projections. It is now a full-blown catastrophe, right now. . . . From now on AIDS will be mainly a political story. The major debate, I predict, will be cost. . . . By next year voters may very well be choosing candidates based on their position on those particular issues of costs."

- **THE SPACE SHUTTLE** launch has been delayed again by NASA, which declared that it cannot meet the Feb. 18, 1988 due date for the first post-Challenger launch. No new date was set. Shuttle program head Richard Truly said it had been decided to conduct two major tests before the launch, and they "will result in a new target launch date."

- **BRUCE BABBITT**, former Arizona governor and presidential hopeful, told a Cable News Network interviewer April 19 that "it might be wise" to "seriously examine limited proposals" to do something about AIDS, like testing marriage license applicants. Broad testing, however, wouldn't survive cost-benefit analysis, he added.

- **THE PENTAGON** is accelerating a project codenamed "Prometheus" that aims to develop what the *Washington Times* terms a "nuclear shotgun." The weapon pinpoints warheads during a nuclear attack, and fires an atomic warhead into space to form a killer-barrier to missiles. It might be ready for the first phases of SDI deployment.

- **U.S. EMBASSIES** in seven Mideast nations and the Soviet Union were designed by firms that had no security clearance, says a report by the General Accounting Office. The GAO also indicated that the State Department "did not know how many copies of blueprints were in existence for their overseas projects."

- **SEN. WARREN RUDMAN** wants former CIA Director William Casey examined by a doctor to determine his precise medical condition before congressional hearings on the Iran-Contra affair begin. He says he believes Casey is truly ill; "I don't think anybody has any doubt, but I think . . . since Casey potentially is such an important witness . . . there ought to be some corroboration."