

National News

U.S. halts maintenance for Panama's military

The U.S. Southern Command has ceased routine maintenance of the Panama Defense Forces, in a gesture of opposition to PDF chief Gen. Manuel Noriega, a spokesman confirmed. The U.S. embassy in Panama is overtly seeking to oust Noriega and President Eric Delvalle, and to install a government more amenable to the austerity policies of Wall Street and the International Monetary Fund.

According to the *Washington Times* of July 16, William Ornsby confirmed the authenticity of a memo to this effect written by Lt. Col. Harry Parker, and released by Panama's Col. Roberto Díaz Herrera, an opposition figure, a few days before.

Ornsby said, "In essence, we do not support the Defense Forces until further notice. The directive is an internal memo to his [Parker's] supervisors and branch chiefs. The directive is in line with U.S. embassy policy, and what it refers to is the types of repair, maintenance they provide to the PDF on a routine basis. . . . This is not stopping military aid or security assistance, or the turnover of any major equipment."

This refers to small equipment and stops all U.S. Army repair work for the Panamanian military under the American security-assistance program "on everything except what is already in the pipeline."

New PANIC initiative launched in California

Petitioning has begun in California on the "Son of Proposition 64," its co-proponents Brian Lantz and Khushro Ghandi announced on July 13. Proposition 64 was the referendum to classify AIDS as a "communicable" disease, placed on the November 1986 ballot at the initiative of political associates of Lyndon LaRouche.

It was defeated, thanks to a high-publicity campaign by Hollywood movie stars, "gay" activists and others in both Demo-

cratic and Republican party leaderships. But 29% of California voters supported the measure.

For the new initiative, approximately 409,000 valid signatures will be required by Dec. 7 to qualify for the 1988 ballot. An initiative committee, Prevent AIDS Now In California (PANIC), has registered with the secretary of state.

The wording of the new AIDS initiative is almost exactly that of Proposition 64. It defines AIDS as "infectious and communicable," and would thereby place this disease on the reportable diseases list, meaning that existing public-health codes that apply to every other communicable disease, would apply to AIDS as well.

In a July 14 editorial, the *Los Angeles Times* slammed the new initiative, calling it "a mischievous move," and noting that LaRouche sees AIDS as an issue that could carry him to the White House.

As for quarantine of infected persons, the *Times* calls this "unworkable . . . because of the dimension of the infected population, estimated at 1.5 million nationally and at 345,000 in California."

PANIC sponsors estimate that there are actually now 1 million people in California infected with the AIDS virus.

Scientist protests shutdown of Fusion

Dr. Stephen O. Dean, president of the industry lobbying group Fusion Power Associates and former head of the Department of Energy's magnetic confinement division in the fusion program, mailed a letter dated July 4 to scientists, congressmen, the media, and officials of the Department of Energy, protesting the shut-down of *Fusion* magazine.

The Fusion Energy Foundation, publisher of *Fusion*, was placed in involuntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy on April 21, in an illegal action by the U.S. Department of Justice, allegedly to collect on contempt fines owed to a federal court in Boston. In fact, the fines were still under appeal, and the FEF, as a tax-exempt foundation, is not subject to the bankruptcy code.

Dean wrote, "The procedures used by the government agents have included involuntary bankruptcy (they were, in fact, quite solvent), the confiscation of personal papers and research materials . . . the closing of the *Fusion* post office box . . . and refusal to allow *Fusion* magazine to use its own mailing list to communicate with its subscribers."

"Fusion Energy Foundation has not been convicted of any crime. . ." he continued. "I trust that most of you are still enjoying your constitutional rights on this Fourth of July weekend."

Big threat to Bohemian Grove cultists: women!

The shenanigans at the Bohemian Grove, the biggest "stag party" in the United States, have drawn the scrutiny of European newspapers. The London *Daily Mail's* U.S. correspondent wrote on July 9: "Tomorrow, the most conspicuous men in American public and corporate life begin their annual mid-summer frolic among the tall redwoods 65 miles north of San Francisco. Over the next two weeks, wealth and power will be in rare repose as politicians, military chiefs, and the leaders of commerce and industry relax in rustic informality, walk about with nothing on, dress up in drag for their burlesque shows, and are generally uninhibited. . . ."

"But members of the Bohemian Club gather this year with their fun threatened. The California Court of Appeals has ruled that it is discriminatory for the club to continue to exclude women from its staff of 300.

"The club, which has never allowed a woman on its 2,700 acres, either as member or servant, has argued that the female presence would compromise the Bohemian purpose of promoting male fellowship, and it is appealing the judgment to the United States Supreme Court. . . ."

"Edmund Brown Sr., a former California governor, testified that he liked to walk around camp naked, another member said that in the club's Low Jinks show he had played a wood nymph in a body stocking

and wings, and similar performances would be 'very, very much more difficult' with females around.

"The court was unimpressed and said the members' rights of privacy did not justify the club's policy against employing women."

France's *Le Figaro* reported on July 11 that, "for these gentlemen, women will never be accepted, because they were never little boys." Participants have included Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, and other notables.

RNC takes own advice, cuts its budget

The Republican National Committee, champions of "free enterprise" economics, fired 40 of its 275 staff members on July 15, claiming a shortage of funds. It also terminated the contracts of 10 politically influential consultants, the *Washington Post* reported on July 16. The RNC said it would also cut back sharply or eliminate 20 or more consulting deals.

The cash flow at Republican headquarters dropped to \$17.1 million in the first half of 1987, compared to \$22.5 million in 1985 and \$19.3 million in 1983.

'Intrusion' by Congress blamed for Irangate

Ray Cline, the former CIA deputy director, blamed the Congress for the Irangate debacle, in a commentary published in the *Washington Times* on July 17. He argued that the Boland Amendment, restricting aid to the Contras, "forced" the NSC and other intelligence networks to resort to illegal activities.

"The principal finding from the investigation," he wrote, "has to be that the intrusive, micro-managerial intervention of the Congress in foreign policy and national security issues of grave import forced . . . William Casey to abandon the tested mechanisms of the Central Intelligence Agency

and create risky procedures for supervising extra-governmental mechanisms set up to conduct covert actions abroad. . . .

"The Boland interference in executive branch management of policy irresponsibly made it impossible to follow normal procedures for covert action developed pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947 and many executive orders provided to the intelligence agencies and the Congress, the last being Executive Order 12333 of 1981."

Contrary to Cline's report, EO 12333 itself helped to create the "secret government" behind Irangate (see *Feature*, pages 28-39).

Maryland rep denounces attacks on LaRouche

Maryland State Delegate Clarence Davis (D-East Baltimore), in an interview quoted in the *Baltimore Sun* on July 13, denounced the Justice Department's violation of the constitutional rights of Lyndon LaRouche.

"They're handling the LaRouche thing like the Gestapo," he said. "You can't let them handle it like they were the Klan."

Colleagues of Davis, who is black, said he had fought hard in the civil rights struggle of the 1960s, and "has always taken the high road on civil rights issues, no matter what the political views."

Davis signed an appeal by the International Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations, for a meeting with President Reagan to stop "all unconstitutional activities" by federal officials in the LaRouche case.

The *Sun* added, "Mr. Davis said he agrees with the moral positions Mr. LaRouche has advocated over the years, especially those against illicit drug use and the spread of AIDS. . . . Mr. Davis called some of the recent LaRouche rhetoric about international drug conspiracies 'a little twisted,' but asserted his own belief that British monarchs have played a historical role in the development of the international drug trade, mainly through its colonization of Asia. 'I'm not so sure about the accuracy of their current views, but historically I think they're right,' Mr. Davis said."

Briefly

● **ROY GODSON**, a "disinformation" specialist for "Project Democracy," is a target of investigation by Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh, sources report. Testimony by Lt. Col. Oliver North confirmed that Godson helped launder money to the Contras. A press spokesman for the House Select Committee probing the Iran-Contra affair confirmed that Godson has been under investigation since February and has been deposed by congressional investigators.

● **C. EVERETT KOOP**, the U.S. surgeon general, admitted that "condoms are not all they're cracked up to be," in a speech in Washington on July 16. He still maintained that condoms provide "the best protection available" against AIDS, other than sexual abstinence and mutual monogamy. Koop has also raised eyebrows recently with his demand that condom-users "buy American."

● **ELLIOTT ABRAMS**, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs and a principal in the Contragate affair, was spotted at the Mexico City airport on July 16, en route to unannounced meetings with Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda and President Miguel de la Madrid. The U.S. embassy refused to disclose the nature of the visit.

● **LYN NOFZIGER**, President Reagan's former political director, was indicted by a federal grand jury on July 17, on charges stemming from his lobbying for Wedtech Corporation. An indictment is also expected for his lobbying efforts for Fairchild industries.

● **HARRY GILMORE**, of the Central Europe desk at the State Department, has been designated the new chief of the U.S. mission in Berlin, replacing John Kornblum, who leaves to take over as U.S. ambassador to NATO. Kornblum is a promoter of the fascist Green party, and of Soviet schemes for "decoupling" West Germany from the United States.