

## Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda

### Helms blasts Soviet SALT violations

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) charged on the Senate floor on Aug. 7 that the Soviet Union, contrary to arms-control apologists in the Senate, is in violation of the sublimits to the SALT II Treaty as well as the overall treaty limitations.

Helms addressed the question of why Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov had admitted the deployment of the new SS-24 missile at the same time that the Soviets are going to extreme lengths to conceal deployment of the system. "The Soviets are probably admitting deployment in order to try to impress and even scare the U.S. with a further increased Soviet ICBM threat," Helms said. "But consistent with their extensive camouflage, concealment, and deception program for the SS-24," Helms said that they obviously hoped that the United States would not detect more than two SS-24s and "the U.S. would therefore believe their deception plan to announce SS-24 deployment as consistent with SALT II."

The deployment of more than two SS-24s, without a compensating dismantling of other MIRVed ICBMs, puts the Soviets over the 820 MIRVed ICBM sublimit in SALT II. Since at least January 1987, the deployment of no fewer than five SS-24s has been detected. The Soviets have also now confirmed deployment, but, said Helms, "It is significant that for the first time the Soviets are not revealing their production figures for railroad rolling stock." The SS-24 is rail mobile.

U.S. intelligence "has already given Congress important unclassified testimony that Soviet factories for the mass production of the SS-24 missile and its rail mobile launchers are al-

ready built," Helms said. President Reagan recently warned Congress to expect rapid, covert deployment of many more SS-24s.

Helms pointed out that the 1,200 sublimit for MIRVed ICBMs and SLBMs (submarine-launched ballistic missiles) has also been violated, as the Soviets began sea trials of the fourth Delta IV SSBN and the fifth Typhoon SSBN submarines. Intelligence specialists have also assessed that a Soviet decision to break out of SALT II would mean deployment of air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs) on their Backfire bombers, exceeding the 1,320 sublimit of MIRVed missiles and ALCM armed bombers.

### House halts anti-Turkish resolution

The House defeated H. Res. 238 calling for a national day of remembrance of the Armenian genocide of 1915-23, a resolution calculated to inflame U.S.-Turkish relations, by a close vote of 189 to 201 on Aug. 7.

The resolution split the conventional liberal, conservative, pro- and anti-defense voting blocs. But the large number of Republicans backing the resolution indicated that Turkey-bashing has significant Reagan administration support.

Representatives Gene Taylor (R-Mo.), Steve Solarz (D-N.Y.), William Dickinson (R-Ala.), Jim Moody (D-Wis.), and other opponents of the resolution halted it on the grounds that the alleged genocide by the Ottoman Empire is still a hotly contested historical question, that it will only incite and justify further atrocities by Armenian terrorists, and that it would offend Turkey, a key NATO ally.

"Sixty-nine American historians,

all specializing in Turkish, Ottoman, and Middle Eastern studies, have publicly denounced the misrepresentation and misleading intent of this resolution," Dickinson pointed out. A civil war raged behind the lines of the Turkish-Soviet front during World War I, when disease and famine also took its toll.

"There were atrocities; however, Armenians living in western Turkey far from the Eastern Front were unaffected," Rep. Frank Horton (R-N.Y.) said. "This belies the definition of genocide." Archives on the period, especially in the Balkan countries, remain closed.

"Since 1976, more than 70 Turkish diplomats and innocent bystanders, including 4 Americans, have been assassinated by Armenian extremist and terrorists groups," Rep. Doug Bosco (D-Calif.) noted. "It is absolutely senseless for us to commemorate this history, when the words themselves are enough to cause mindless terrorism against a nation's citizens and diplomats," Representative Taylor warned.

Rep. Carroll Hubbard (D-Ky.) noted that his constituents believed that Cuba or the Soviet Union was behind the annual House attempt to embarrass a certain nation. "Yes; it is incredible that our NATO ally and good friend Turkey is the victim, even again today," he said.

### Conte seeks repeal of Budget Act

Rep. Silvio Conte (R-Mass.) announced on Aug. 7, just before Congress adjourned, that he intends to introduce legislation to repeal both the Budget Act and the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings balanced budget law, when

Congress returns in September.

"The budget process virtually guarantees that we will not be able to act on appropriations, and that there will be a big CR [continuing resolution]," Conte said, pointing out that the budget process prevents Congress from deliberating on appropriations that help determine future economic growth.

Advocates of replacing our constitutional republic with a parliamentary system have long schemed to use the budget process to aid in their designs.

"In 11 fiscal years under the Budget Act, we have met the deadline for adopting the first budget resolution once, in 1977," Conte said. In the last five years, "out of a total of 65 appropriations bills, only 9 were signed before the start of the fiscal year, and 38 bills were carried for the full year in a CR," he said.

"Repeal the Budget Act. Repeal Gramm-Rudman-Hollings," Conte said. "Then the President will propose, and the Congress will dispose, and the responsibility for deficits and CRs will be absolutely clear."

## **Kennedy, Waxman introduce AIDS bill**

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) introduced legislation on July 31, S. 1575 and H.R. 3071 respectively, to establish a testing policy for AIDS.

The bill provides \$400 million per year for the next three years to expand voluntary testing programs, and would require extensive counseling before and after testing. Proponents of the bill point out that the waiting period to get an AIDS test voluntarily is as long as three months in some states.

The major focus of the bill, however, is to protect the civil rights of those infected with the virus. Grants can be made to testing centers only as long as they "ensure the confidentiality of information and records with respect to individuals counseled or tested."

A very narrow exception to strict confidentiality would allow doctors to inform spouses or sexual partners of the risk, or to inform a blood bank, but only after a court procedure.

Penalties would be leveled against an individual who violates confidentiality of test results or discriminates against someone who has AIDS. "A person may not discriminate against an otherwise qualified individual in employment, housing, public accommodations, or governmental services, solely by reason of the fact that such individual is, or is regarded as being, infected with" the AIDS virus, the bill reads. The AIDS victim can sue, and civil penalties of \$2,000 may be levied for discrimination or breach of confidentiality.

Presidential aspirant Sen. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.), a co-sponsor, denounced the idea of routine testing. "The President made testing a goal in itself—doing more to set back AIDS policy in one day than he had already done in six years of silence," Gore said.

## **House creates second AIDS commission**

The House passed legislation to create a second national commission on AIDS, H.R. 2881, by a vote of 355 to 68 on Aug. 4.

Proponents argued that Congress needed a coordinating body and more

input into the AIDS issue, and that it would not duplicate the commission recently appointed by the President. The President, the Speaker of the House, and the President *pro tem* of the Senate would each appoint five members.

The commission would have to produce comprehensive recommendations to deal with AIDS within a year, and would have to report again at the end of two years, with an option to continue its work at the discretion of the President. It is funded with \$2 million.

The chief sponsor of the bill is Rep. Roy Rowland (D-Ga.), the only medical doctor serving in the House. The primary activity on the bill was by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, chaired by Rep. Sonny Montgomery (D-Miss.). The bill was also passed by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, but without hearings in the Health Subcommittee chaired by the civil rights for AIDS advocate, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.).

The Veterans Committee issued a report on the bill which clearly indicated their motivation. "The Committee is alarmed," the report said, "that meaningful and impartial national policy which is consistent with the expectations of the American public has not yet emerged. Time is of the essence, and critical choices that should be made cannot longer be delayed."

In addition to creating a commission, the Veterans Administration would be required to compile a synopsis of all medical research worldwide on AIDS. "The Veterans Administration hospital system must be a vital part of the national effort to fight AIDS," ranking Veterans Committee member Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.) said.