

Elephants & Donkeys by Kathleen Klenetsky

Haig assails INF treaty

Al Haig has made opposition to the INF treaty a key theme of his presidential campaign. In an address to the World Affairs Council of Washington Nov. 16, Haig charged that the agreement "as it now stands, would be a step in the wrong direction" because "it weakens rather than strengthens deterrence against war."

Haig argued that the "entire agreement should be re-linked once more to both strategic nuclear arms control and conventional force reductions." He stated that, when he was secretary of state, he strongly opposed the zero-option concept when it was first broached in 1981, because he believed it would lead to the decoupling of U.S. nuclear forces from Europe.

He said that the INF proposal "emerged from the West's growing strategic amnesia," and that, "for the United States and its allies to deter Soviet aggression, we need the forces, nuclear and conventional, here and in Europe, to convince the Kremlin that a challenge can be met across the spectrum of force."

The day before, Haig had predicted, in an interview taped for broadcast over public television, that the INF agreement would not be ratified by the time of the 1988 election. He said he would be prepared to use nuclear weapons, if necessary.

While a defender of nuclear deterrence, Haig has been only a lukewarm advocate of the best defense the West can have against Soviet nuclear weapons—the SDI.

Dukakis would scrap the SDI

Presidential aspirant Michael S. Dukakis called for the scrapping of the SDI and creation of a "Conventional Defense Initiative," during a campaign appearance in College Station, Texas, Nov. 13.

"My top priority as President will be to improve our conventional defense," said the Democratic hopeful. To finance his "CDI," Dukakis would scrap "technological fantasies" such as the SDI and the Midgetman missile. "We may not be able to make nuclear weapons obsolete, but a CDI might be able to make the current generation of Soviet tanks obsolete," the Massachusetts governor asserted. Asked about the tab for his CDI, Dukakis told a news conference in Dallas, "I'm not talking about billions and billions. I'm talking about a reasonable amount."

The Libyan connection

Jesse Jackson has won the endorsement of Billy Carter—the beer-swilling, public-urinating, Qaddafi-supporting brother of former President Jimmy Carter. According to the Nov. 14 *Atlanta Constitution*, Billy, currently hospitalized with inoperable cancer, endorsed Jackson Nov. 13 in a telephone conversation from his hospital bed, and pledged to campaign for him once he's released. Jackson enthusiastically announced the endorsement, calling Carter a "free-spirited . . . hard-working, self-sufficient, patriotic rural American" who "represents a dimension of our culture significant in its size. . . . So many people identify with his quest for simple justice and, in a sense, that is the essence of our campaign—a quest for simple justice or a fair shake for the common people."

Neither Jackson, nor Carter, nor the *Atlanta Constitution*, mentioned one of the major things the two men have in common: ties to Libya and its madman leader, Muammar Qaddafi.

Gore beset by image, money problems

Following reports that Richard Gephardt's campaign is having difficulties meeting its Iowa payroll, Al Gore's national campaign manager, Fred Martin, announced Nov. 13 that Gore's Iowa field staff will be cut from 21 workers to 4, and that Gore will campaign sporadically in the state. "There is no point in investing resources, time, and money to play a game that is not suited for a national candidacy," said Martin. "We're not putting all our eggs in one basket." He said the Gore campaign is "husbanding its resources" for "Super Tuesday." Gore's New Hampshire campaign will maintain a staff of 19, "because we have supporters there."

Meanwhile, scuttlebutt has it that the real reason Gore and his wife, Tipper, made highly publicized confessions about their use of marijuana, was to get rid of the "goody-goody" image the two acquired because of her lobbying against pornographic rock lyrics. Next thing you know, she'll be starring in a *Playboy* centerfold.

Gore has image problems of his own: He's made a big deal of the fact that he served in Vietnam, and has issued campaign literature showing him dressed in combat gear, carrying a gun. The clear implication was that he actually participated in combat. The truth, however, is far different. Gore, who opposed the war and even considered deserting to Canada, was an Army journalist assigned to an engineering brigade. He never personally engaged in combat.