

National News

Reagan told of plot to sink oil tanker

Two stories in the *Miami Herald*, Dec. 27 and Jan. 12, revealed that Lt. Col. Oliver North's plot to sink a Mexican oil tanker in Managua harbor was reported to President Reagan. North described the plot in a March 2, 1984 memo that he and CIA agent Constantine Menges sent to the President. North's boss, then-National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, briefed the President on the plot on March 9, and immediately after that, gave the green light.

The action, aimed at preventing the delivery of oil to Nicaragua, was superseded by the CIA mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Several documents in Spanish were anonymously sent to the paper in December detailing the movements of Mexican-charter ships in Nicaraguan ports from 1983 to 1984. A Contra spokesman in Washington confirmed the authenticity of the documents, adding that they had been "stolen" from their Washington office in early 1987.

The *Herald* surrendered the documents to the FBI and Iran-Contra Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh shortly after publishing the Jan. 12 story.

The Mexican press has opted for a total black-out on the story, probably under orders from the Miguel de la Madrid government. The Mexican and U.S. Presidents are scheduled to meet Feb. 13.

Navy's Webb: Europe be damned!

"The key question for our leaders in the new year is whether, and how, the U.S. can maintain its commitments throughout the world while reducing the size and force structure of its military," said Navy Secretary James Webb in a Jan. 18 *Wall Street Journal* commentary, adapted from a speech the previous week to the National Press Club.

"Although the NATO alliance is one of the keystones of our military structure," said

Webb, "we are more than a European nation." Besides, "no region is better equipped to reassume a greater share of the burden of its own defense than Western Europe." The United States is becoming "much more intertwined in Asia," so it is "imperative that we match those ties with our military capability to protect our interests and honor our obligations in the region."

We must also "pay greater attention to our own hemisphere," since "fully 42% of our legal immigrants over the past 10 years have been from Latin America," and "Latin America's problems are rapidly becoming our problems."

In a tour de force of understatement, Webb ventures, "It will require extremely careful use of a reduced U.S. force structure, as well as a more enthusiastic participation by other friendly nations, for us to meet such challenges."

"Post-INF thinking that conventional forces in Europe be increased because conventional forces in Europe are arguably more at risk without the intermediate nuclear shield does not necessarily mean that this should be a U.S. buildup," Webb said. "Nor does it mean that such a buildup should occur in Europe at all, or even that it be a land-oriented buildup.

"Strategy does not dictate that pressure be applied by an adversary at one point be countered at exactly that point. If the interests of the U.S. and its allies are threatened or attacked by the Soviet Union in one part of the world, the U.S. could and probably should react at the point most beneficial to its own strengths—anywhere in the world."

In short, if the Soviets attack, Europe be damned.

N.H. Dem hacks block voter registration

National Democratic Policy Committee chairman Warren Hamerman on Jan. 15 exposed efforts by the entrenched Democratic machine in New Hampshire to prevent the registration of new voters, particularly those voters who, they fear, might vote for presi-

dential contender Lyndon LaRouche.

Hamerman's NDPC is the multi-candidate political action committee of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party.

Campaign volunteers for presidential candidate LaRouche are engaged in a voter registration drive, and have reported several incidents which indicate that Democratic machine officials are obstructing their efforts.

- Manchester, Jan. 15: The city clerk demanded that LaRouche campaign volunteers cease accompanying citizens they were helping to register. The clerk implied that LaRouche volunteers were somehow tampering with the registration process.

- Nashua, Jan. 14: The clerk and deputy clerk told LaRouche volunteers conducting a registration drive, "We want you LaRouchies out of here," and locked the door to the offices before the 5 p.m. closing time.

- Laconia: City clerks repeatedly "informed" citizens registering to vote how much they owed in back taxes. Only when challenged did the clerk explain that payment of taxes is not a condition for registering. Numerous citizens of Laconia reported that they do not vote because of this kind of harassment.

- One registrar in Manchester repeatedly demanded of an Hispanic-American, "Why do you want to register?"

- Several citizens attempting to register in Derry were told that they must provide birth certificates, passports, or naturalization papers; a driver's license was refused as proof of residency.

Medical society polls doctors on AIDS

More than one-third of San Francisco area doctors don't want patients with AIDS, according to a survey of 335 doctors conducted by the San Francisco Medical Society. A report on the survey appeared in the Jan. 17 *San Francisco Examiner*.

About 52% of those polled favored HIV testing without "informed consent," 66%

favored dropping the requirement for written consent, and 72% thought that HIV infection should be reported to state health officials.

More than three-fourths of the doctors wanted mandatory testing of immigrants, prostitutes, prisoners, and drug abusers. More than half favored mandatory testing of pregnant women, marriage license applicants, and mental health inpatients.

The 335 respondents to the survey represented 20% of the members of the San Francisco Medical Society.

Some at State oppose Wohlstetter report

State Department spokesman Paul Dyster on Jan. 20 confirmed reports from Undersecretary of Defense Fred Iklé's office, that there were strong pockets of resistance within the State Department to the report of the Commission on Integrated Long-Term Strategy.

Dyster said that the State Department wanted to make clear where the "Discriminate Deterrence" report "strays from official policy." U.S. policy remains one of "collective security with forward defense. An attack against one NATO ally is seen as an attack against all. There remains a need for strong nuclear and conventional forces."

Dyster added that the official version of the doctrine of flexible response has not "called into question U.S. linkage to Europe. The U.S. and Europe are inseparably tied. Our commitment is as strong as ever. We will back the Europeans with our full nuclear arsenal. This doctrine of flexible response, covering a full spectrum from conventional to theater to strategic, has preserved the peace for 40 years and it will be the official doctrine into the future."

Dyster cited the President's report, "National Strategy of the United States," released Jan. 20, for his assertions that the United States still holds Europe under a nuclear umbrella.

On the other hand, former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, now a State Department consultant, embraced the

report. "Once in a great while, a government commission overcomes the temptation to blandness and says something important," he said in a Jan. 20 *Washington Times* commentary. "So it is with 'Discriminate Deterrence,' the report of a commission co-chaired by Albert Wohlstetter and Fred C. Iklé, two of America's most subtle strategic thinkers. Even the title conveys an idea: To be effective, deterrence must be made discriminating."

Los Angeles DA indicts anti-AIDS workers

Los Angeles District Attorney Ira Reiner on Jan. 20 handed down long-threatened "election conspiracy" indictments against supporters of California's 1986 "Proposition 64" ballot initiative. The initiative, widely associated with the name Lyndon LaRouche, called for traditional public health measures against AIDS. It was defeated at the time, but a virtually identical initiative has once again qualified for the ballot in 1988, and many believe that this time, it will pass—hence the sudden indictments.

The indictments name three individuals, rather than the "grand conspiracy" that had been talked of for the past year by California Attorney General John Van de Kamp. Reiner's indictment charges Andrea Diano-Smith and Bruce Kilber with one count each of causing an individual to illegally register to vote—themselves. After registration, both individuals became active in gathering petition-signatures to place Proposition 64 on the ballot.

The so-called "evidence" against Mrs. Diano-Smith is largely based on materials culled from her legal battle to have her marriage to Lewis du Pont Smith validated. Du Pont Smith is the heir to the family fortune, but after his political contributions to LaRouche-related causes, his family had a judge declare him mentally impaired, deprive him of control of his estate, and forbid him to marry. The two were married, in Italy, despite the court order. The couple has been subjected to continuing harassment by his family.

Briefly

● **BILL WRIGHT**, the number-two man in the Democratic Party's Victory '88 presidential fundraising drive, is up to his eyeballs in fraud and forgery, reported the Jan. 17 *Houston Chronicle*. The collapse of Wright's Intertec Financial Group has triggered charges that signatures were forged on \$5.5 million worth of bank notes, monies were mismanaged, and deals misrepresented. When Wright filed for personal bankruptcy in April 1987, he had \$40.10 in cash to his name.

● **GEORGI ARBATOV** arrived in the United States Jan. 10 for 10 days of closed-door meetings on arms control, under the auspices of the State Department-funded International Research Exchange (IREX). The Soviets top "American handler" met with, among others, Paul Warnke, George Ball, and other arms control specialists at the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations.

● **THE NEW ORLEANS** Symphony, out of money and deep in debt, closed its season 10 weeks early on Jan. 16, with a performance of Haydn's "Farewell Symphony." The musicians dramatically walked offstage one by one during the piece. Faced with \$3.5 million in outstanding debt, \$208,000 in unpaid bills, and no sign of the \$1.2 million needed for the remaining scheduled performances, the symphony board voted on Jan. 11 to cancel them.

● **THE SUPREME COURT** let stand a federal appeals court ruling that upheld the authority of the attorney general to delegate prosecutorial power to Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh for the Iran/Contra scandal. The issue revolved around a subpoena Walsh issued last spring for samples of Lt. Col. Oliver North's handwriting. North challenged Walsh's authority to issue the subpoena, but he must now either comply with the subpoena, or face jail for contempt of court.