

National News

Prince Charles comes to Pittsburgh

Britain's Prince Charles brought together "a small enclave of the world's richest residents," with strict security and utmost secrecy, for "perhaps the poshest bash Pittsburgh ever saw," the *Pittsburgh Press* reported on March 27.

Prince Charles was in town for a highly publicized push for "urban renewal"—transforming Pittsburgh from what used to be called the Smoky City, into what the *Press* calls "a Mount Olympus of the social circuit where billionaires and royalty convene over quail."

Initially, he suggested that the guests bring a token \$500,000 per person for the pleasure of dining together—for charity, of course. But some of the Americans were skeptical about that. New York stock broker and investment banker Alexander Papamarkou explained, "There were these people who said they'd like to hear what the prince had to say before they commit themselves to helping."

Among the guests at the March 4 dinner at Le Club Duquesne were:

- John Werner Kluge of Charlottesville, Virginia, the second-richest man in America, and Patricia Kluge, his third wife, a former nude model.
- Ann Getty, wife of Gordon Getty, son of the late J. Paul Getty. In 1984, he was billed as the richest man in America, with a net worth estimated at \$4.1 billion.
- Sen. John Heinz III and his wife, Teresa.

CIA reorganizes counterintelligence

In a closed session of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, CIA Director William Webster told the panel he had "reorganized the counterintelligence function within the CIA and appointed a senior official to head it," according to a statement

issued by committee chairman David Boren (D-Okla.) and ranking Republican William Cohen (R-Me.) on March 29.

The senators said that the reorganization would facilitate anti-terrorist action, and "combine the critical resources needed to combat the threat to U.S. personnel and to facilities overseas."

Webster also informed the panel of a new, independent office, "which will report to him in his capacity as director of central intelligence," the senators said.

SDI reoriented to 'point defense' only?

The March 26 *Washington Post* claimed that "the Defense Department is sharply scaling back its effort" on the Strategic Defense Initiative "because of seemingly insurmountable hardware and money problems. . . . The department has settled on the . . . immediate goal of protecting vital U.S. military installations from a Soviet attack."

The ultraliberal newspaper has been an ardent foe of the SDI since its inception, and is never the most reliable of sources in any case. Nevertheless, the "appease Moscow at any cost" mentality in Washington, combined with budget cuts, lends credence to the claim.

The "dramatic reorientation," said the *Post*, "is revealed in part by a 1987 Joint Chiefs of Staff classified document" which envisioned a point defense system capable of stopping only 1,500 of a projected 5,000 Soviet nuclear missiles.

The *Post* quoted SDIO chief Lt. Gen. James Abrahamson referring to the JCS endorsement of the point defense system as "a very important milestone for us." Last year, in congressional testimony, Abrahamson admitted that the Soviets could defeat such a system by deploying high-speed missiles.

Brig. Gen. Wayne Knudson, who is the director of planning for the U.S. Space Command, was the man who drafted recommendations leading to the Joint Chiefs' decision to convert the SDI into a point defense program, says the *Post*. "We were more interested in the military capability that

defenses would add if deterrence failed than the contribution they make to deterrence itself," said Knudson. That meant determining "how much of a contribution will it make to winning or at least not losing" a nuclear war, rather than taking into account "State Department considerations."

The material that Knudson pulled together was first called for when, in 1985, Undersecretary of Defense Richard Godwin got approval from Caspar Weinberger for a major internal review of the SDI program.

Government moves to shut down NDPC

The Reagan administration has moved in an extraordinary action to defy a federal magistrate's order and execute a judgment of \$5,110,000 against the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), which represents the Lyndon LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party. One lawyer called the government's tactics "as unprecedented as last year's forced bankruptcy" of two corporations and one foundation run by LaRouche associates. Others called it "retaliatory justice," "legally flawed from top to bottom," and "simply outrageous."

The \$5.1 million is a fine imposed by a Boston judge for contempt of court, a fine under appeal by the organization.

Federal Magistrate Lowe in Richmond, Virginia had delivered a decision on March 11 in favor of the NDPC, that it was entitled to the return of documents (originals and all copies) subpoenaed by the Civil Division of the Eastern District Court of Virginia, allegedly to locate NDPC bank accounts.

In retaliation, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District Henry Hudson's office filed an "Objection to the Magistrate's Proposed Opinion," in which they stated their refusal to return the documents on various grounds, among them, that since the government had already read the documents, this "is a classic case of trying to catch the horse after he is already out of the barn."

The same office then activated the Boston Civil Division to secure a "Writ of Execution" for the \$5.1 million contempt fine

against the NDPC. The Writ was handed to a Massachusetts federal marshal and rushed to Virginia for extraordinary procedures.

Under normal procedure, the government could not move to collect the fine because it was under appeal, and no judgment was registered in the Virginia district. However, the government invoked an exotic statute whose entire case history is two cases before the year 1838, one case in 1941 and another in 1942, "Executions in Favor of United States." It allows the United States to collect judgments entered in one district in a foreign jurisdiction. But even here, there is was no precedent to invoke the statute, when a judgment is "not final" and "still on appeal."

On March 1, NDPC lawyers filed papers before Federal Magistrate Lowe demanding that the government comply with his order to return NDPC documents, and cease efforts to collect the \$5.1 million, calling it an "economic death penalty" against a First Amendment-protected organization in an election year, and an "attempt to execute a prisoner before his appeal of the death penalty has been decided."

VA hospital wants veteran to starve

A Wilmington, Delaware soldier in a coma since an auto accident in July will be the Veterans Administration's first starvation victim, if the Wilmington VA Hospital has its way. The Chancellory Court of Wilmington will decide if Sgt. Arnold Shumotic will be killed, as per his parents' and the VA's wishes.

Both the Catholic family's parish priest and the VA military chaplain have counseled the family and "sanctioned" the proposed starvation murder.

According to a representative of Archbishop John Ryan, the military vicarite, the patient-starvation issue has divided the U.S. Catholic hierarchy and "experts are now studying the issue." He did not mention the Vatican's absolutely clear opposition to euthanasia.

A representative from the office of Delaware's Attorney General said they were concerned about the VA's court case. The spokesman reported that, according to the 23-year-old soldier's medical report from the VA Hospital's chief neurologist, "The boy is not even in a coma, he's not in a permanent vegetative state, and he is certainly not brain-dead."

"Is this your opinion?" he was asked.

"It's not opinion, it is a medical fact," was the reply. Shumotic follows visitors around the room with his eyes, and attempts to touch visitors and grasps their hands. One VA neurologist says the soldier does feel pain.

Nancy close to Hammer, Prince of Wales

France's *Le Figaro Magazine* reports that Nancy Reagan became enamored of Prince Charles and his friend, Armand Hammer, during her and the President's last trip to Britain. In an article entitled, "What's Happening in the White House?" the Feb. 27 edition of the weekly blames Nancy for the President's appeasement policy toward the Russians, and advises her to "mind her own business."

Says the magazine, "During a trip in Great Britain, the first lady fell under the spell of the Prince of Wales, whose crowned head is full of strange ideas: a love of beasts mixed up with esoteric concerns and ecology-like mysticism. And Charles of England might have convinced Nancy that Armand Hammer (the crown prince's best friend) could transform U.S.-Soviet relations into a romance."

Reporting on the communist/Soviet-agent past of Hammer and his father, *Le Figaro Magazine* adds, "It is now Armand's turn to be the red 'éminence grise' of U.S. relations with the U.S.S.R., under the tender eye of Nancy Reagan, who dreams about crowning Ronnie with the Nobel Peace Prize. The only President who ever got this 'title' was Woodrow Wilson in 1920 . . . which led to World War II."

Briefly

● **RICHARD SCHIFTER**, human rights chief at the State Department, told the press March 30, "In our view, Israel clearly has not only the right, but the obligation, to preserve order in the occupied territories and to use appropriate levels of force to accomplish that end. . . . While we must insist, on human rights grounds, on respect for the right of peaceful assembly, this does not extend to assembly for the purpose of throwing rocks and firebombs."

● **A COLOMBIAN** source is quoted in Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper saying that U.S. actions against Panama are designed "to get George Bush out of trouble, since he risks being implicated up to his ears in cocaine traffic, because the cocaine traffic is part of the big scandal surrounding the shady financing of the anti-Sandinista Contras."

● **A PENTAGON** source told *EIR* March 31, "George Bush will not fight for the SDI if he becomes President, and that's a crying shame. Bush thinks the SDI has too much political baggage. He'll drop it, to prove he's his own man."

● **RIGHT-TO-DIE** societies from around the world are holding a four day conference to promote "physician-assisted suicide" for AIDS victims on April 7-10 in California. Keynote speakers are Willie Brown, Speaker of the California State Assembly, and Brian Clark, author of the play, "Whose Life Is It Anyway." The president-elect of the California Medical Association, Laurens P. White, M.D., will speak on a bill that allows doctors to give "death pills" to patients.

● **NANCY REAGAN** was recently asked who she thought was the most interesting Democratic presidential candidate. She replied, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo.