

Business Briefs

Space

CBO says NASA costs too much

In a report released in May, the Congressional Budget Office complains that the nation's space program simply costs too much to maintain. In the CBO's estimate, even if NASA takes no new initiatives, but simply flies the Shuttle and completes the space station, the agency's budget will have to increase to \$14.4 billion (1988 dollars) by 1993, and \$16.4 billion by the year 2000.

This "core program," it admits, would have the United States bow out of new space science projects, including a return to the Moon, and putting human beings on Mars. It also admits that this would be the end of any U.S. leadership in space, and that, by comparison, during the peak year of funding for the Apollo program, 1965, the budget stood at \$22 billion in 1988 dollars.

But, the nation cannot even afford this no-future program, CBO insists.

Health

Spend more on AIDS in Philadelphia

"No economizing on AIDS," read the headline on an editorial in the May 24 *Philadelphia Inquirer*. It praised Philadelphia for gearing up a serious fight against AIDS.

"Now that AIDS has killed more Philadelphians than died in Vietnam, the city is finally gearing up to fight back," said the newspaper. "In July, Philadelphia's budget for AIDS prevention and treatment will jump from \$1.8 million to as much as \$9.6 million. . . . Spending the full amount that city AIDS coordinator David R. Fair proposed, or as close to it as possible, would transform Philadelphia's AIDS prevention and treatment program from a sick joke into a serious response.

"Philadelphia," argued the *Inquirer*, "has now reached the point where an estimated

40,000 residents carry the AIDS virus, which will kill at least one-third of them, and those they spread it to.

"Obviously, there's no way that Philadelphia can prevail against AIDS on the cheap. . . . The city's costs will escalate dramatically in future years as more and more people are diagnosed. The only question is how strongly Philadelphia moves now to stem the losses from a disease whose scope remains hard even to imagine."

Malthusians

Catholic newspaper exposes U.N. agency

The Italian Catholic daily *Avvenire* has created shock in Italy by exposing the genocidal program and activities of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the World Wildlife Fund, and other malthusian organizations.

On May 17 and 18, *Avvenire* ran feature articles on a secret May 15 seminar, held in a room of the Italian Parliament, of the UNFPA and a group called the Italian Association for Population and Development. Speaking at this meeting, UNFPA head Sadik revealed that 65% of the U.N. body's budget is spent on sterilization activities.

One Gianfranco Bologna, vice-director of the World Wildlife Fund/Italy, stated that the population problem in the Third World could be handled by "not permitting the Third World countries to develop as the Western nations have."

A Mr. Penisi, who has just moved from the Italian government Budget Ministry to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters in Rome, stated, "I think the main problem is the fertility of women." He recommended a widespread program of vasectomy and sterilization as the solution, and complained that sterilization is not yet legalized in Italy.

A "gallery of horrors" is the way the newspaper described the UNFPA's report on demography. The article lists the following elements:

- In Hong Kong, there is sterilization of women in refugee camps. Among 1,600 women surveyed, 800 had been successfully sterilized.

- In India, the UNFPA's aim is to sterilize 60% of all married couples by the year 2000.

- In Naples, Italy, there are more than 300 UNFPA officials involved in "injecting contraceptives under the skin," which creates an AIDS danger in the city.

- In Pakistan, there are 110 centers that have succeeded in sterilizing 33,000 women. But this is only 72% of what the UNFPA wants to achieve.

- In Tunisia, the birthrate was cut in half for 1987. Both Tunisia and Zimbabwe are singled out as positive models for controlling population.

Space

U.S. to take Soviet equipment into orbit

Soviet scientists were informed on or about May 12 that the United States had decided in principle to take Soviet Mars-probe equipment into space in 1992 on a planned space launch, deputy associate administrator for space sciences at NASA Samuel W. Keller said May 22.

The move was characterized by the *Washington Post* as "the first move toward tangible U.S.-Soviet cooperation in the exploration of Mars."

Secretary of State George Shultz said on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley" show May 22 that he expected a U.S.-Soviet Mars mission to be discussed under the space science cooperation agreement signed by himself and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on April 15, 1987 in Moscow. According to Shultz, although such a mission "has been talked about" it is "a long way from being agreed upon." "We have to be careful with problems of technology transfer," Shultz added.

In an interview with the May 22 *Washington Post*, Mikhail Gorbachov had called