

National News

NDPC chairman injured in assault

Warren J. Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) and an outspoken opponent of the Reagan administration's AIDS policy, was seriously injured on June 16. The incident occurred at about 7:15 a.m., when a car drove directly at Hamerman, who was on a bicycle, causing him to be thrown to the ground.

As Hamerman was rounding a corner on a usually deserted back street near his home in Leesburg, Virginia, a red car accelerated and steered directly at him. To avoid being hit, Hamerman had to steer into a high curb, causing the bike to fall. After Hamerman had fallen and slid along the pavement under the bike, the driver of the car stopped to look at him, writhing in pain on the ground. The driver then gunned his engine and sped off.

Police officers investigating the incident said they classify it as a "hit-and-run."

Hamerman suffered multiple abrasions and massive contusions of the leg, arm, and rib cage.

As chairman of the Biological Holocaust Task Force of *Executive Intelligence Review* magazine, Hamerman has become well-known for his outspoken opposition to the "AIDS lobby" and the do-nothing policy of the Reagan administration on AIDS.

As NDPC chairman, Hamerman was the only figure to testify in opposition to the nomination of William F. Weld to head the Justice Department's Criminal Division in 1986. Weld was the architect not only of the Justice Department's frame-up of Lyndon LaRouche and associates in 1986-87, but Weld also spearheaded the recent search-and-seizure operations directed at Pentagon officials and defense industries.

The National Democratic Policy Committee is the mass-based political action committee of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party.

Both police officials and private investigators are continuing to investigate the hit-and-run assault on Hamerman, with a number of promising leads being pursued. Security experts note that the probability of the attack being premeditated is quite high, since

the incident occurred near Hamerman's home at a location where he had ridden almost every morning at exactly the same time for many months.

START treaty before 1989?

In a commentary appearing in the *Washington Post* June 21, arms control expert Paul Nitze argued the case for a START treaty, saying it would "reduce the Soviet threat to our retaliatory forces and put us in a stronger position to ensure the continued survivability and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent," provided that the strategic forces needed to maintain that deterrent were modernized.

Positing a 50% increase in Soviet-deployed nuclear weapons by 1995 without a START treaty, Nitze said that such an increase "would make it much more difficult for the United States to establish an equitable balance and ensure the survivability of our retaliatory forces."

Nitze argued that at the Moscow summit, forward motion occurred in two of the most difficult areas, mobile missile verification and air-launched cruise missiles. "Given a positive effort by the Soviets," he concluded, "I believe it is possible to complete a worthwhile START agreement before President Reagan leaves office in January 1989. The task is immensely difficult, but if there is a real opportunity we should not miss it."

Former CIA station chief indicted

José Fernandez, former CIA station chief in Costa Rica, was indicted June 20 on charges that he defrauded the government by "deceitfully . . . directing and concealing a program" to supply the Nicaraguan Contras with arms and other supplies after Congress passed the 1984 Boland Amendment banning such aid.

It is further charged that Fernandez (a.k.a. Tomas Castillo) lied to the Tower Commission when he told them he was unsure whether Oliver North was involved in the Contra supply operation, or whether the supplies contained weapons and ammunition.

The indictment of Fernandez is being viewed by Washington, D.C. intelligence community sources as an unmistakable message that further indictments of CIA personnel may be expected. According to these sources, Fernandez was Gen. Richard Secord's chief liaison to the CIA for the Central American project.

In addition to his longtime close ties to former CIA operative Theodore Shackley, a key Irangate figure, Fernandez was also one of the principal contacts between U.S. intelligence and the Mossad networks involved in the Central American guns-for-drugs operations.

Reportedly, the inspector general of the CIA fully supported special prosecutor Walsh's indictment, which seems to reflect an agency desire to distance the Shackley-Secord crowd from official intelligence institutions.

U.S. considering armed border barrier?

The United States should consider building an armed barrier on the Mexican border, says a document submitted to Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci in late 1987. The document, whose existence is reported in the Mexican magazine *Punto*, also says that augmentation of the military budget for the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean is an unpostponable priority.

The document was written by Daniel Fitzsimmons, chief of analysis for Latin America for the Center of Intelligence Operations of the U.S. Army.

The document cites a 1986 study that concluded it would require 100,000 soldiers, several aircraft carrier task forces, and \$7-9 billion a year to contain the Nicaraguan Sandinistas and control Mexican immigration.

Fitzsimmons says that at least six divi-

sions would be needed to seal the Mexican border, which would be necessary if Central America exploded, if Mexico fails to control its population growth, or experiences other social upheavals.

Judge throws out Iran-Contra suit

A federal judge in Miami has thrown out a lawsuit by the Christic Institute against many of the individuals involved in the Iran-Contra scandal.

The two-year old civil suit was filed on behalf of two journalists who were wounded in a bombing at La Penca, Nicaragua during a press conference by dissident Contra leader Eden Pastora. The suit charged that Lt. Col. Oliver North, Gen. Richard Secord, Albert Hakim, Gen. John Singlaub, and virtually the entire Contra leadership were responsible for the bombing.

The lawsuit was summarily dismissed on June 22 on grounds of insufficient evidence. According to sources familiar with the case, the suit, which documented the drug connections of the Contras and related illegal covert operations by the Iran-Contra principals, was ill-prepared.

Soviets begin U.S. peace march

About 220 Soviet citizens, waving banners reading, "We Are One Family" and "Our Goal Is a Nuclear-free World," have begun a month-long walking tour of the United States, ostensibly to press for more disarmament.

The Russians came from each of the 15 Soviet republics. Among them was Vladimir Fedosov, a deputy of the Supreme Soviet. Also among the "peace marchers" are foreign correspondents for *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, and other Soviet newspapers—jobs well known as postings for KGB operatives.

The Soviets were greeted by members

of a California delegation of peaceniks on June 16 as they arrived at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C. The greeters were part of "International Peace Walk, Inc.," a group which has organized sympathizers in the United States to kick in \$3,500 apiece to go to Russia in August for an "international peace walk" to "end the arms race."

Meanwhile, the 200 Soviets are trekking around the United States in July, stopping at such places as Swarthmore College outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; Grinnell, Iowa; and finally, California.

In the spirit of *glasnost*, the Soviets did not provide a list of their delegates to the U.S. State Department until the day before they arrived, ensuring that there would not be time to find all the KGB agents among them.

Burns facing ethics charges

Attorney General Ed Meese "probably will be forced by the Ethics in Government Act to initiate a formal conflict-of-interest probe" of former Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns, according to the *Washington Times*.

Burns is slated to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee July 6 to answer questions about his actions to obtain a seat on the federal bench for his "former" law partner, Stuart Summit, while he was being paid nearly \$1 million by his "former" law firm.

Summit has already testified that Burns was the only administration official who talked to him about his appointment to the 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals before President Reagan officially nominated him to that post last year.

A senior Justice Department official said Summit's nomination "was railroaded through the department and the White House by Arnie," the *Times* reported. The unnamed official said that Burns "just said, 'Get it done,' and no one at the time focused on the fact that this man was technically still Arnie's business partner. Now people are just shaking their heads."

Briefly

● **BLOOD VIALS** found on New Jersey beaches the week of June 12, have tested positive for both the AIDS virus and the hepatitis B virus. Law enforcement officials remain stumped as to the origins of the five-inch-long plastic vials, each of which contained blood which tested positive for AIDS.

● **THE PILOT** who lied to the Miami grand jury and Congress that Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega was a drug-runner, received his "pay-off" in the form of a very light sentence from U.S. District Judge Sidney Aronovitz. Floyd Carlton, whom Noriega had turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for drug-running in 1985, pleaded guilty to a reduced one-count charge and was given nine years in prison, with parole possible in three years.

● **PATRICK BUCHANAN**, former White House communications director, pleaded in his June 22 syndicated column, "Don't turn Pentagonate into a national tragedy. . . . While the pursuit of one set of scoundrels is under way . . . conservatives ought not to permit another set to use this scandal to discredit American rearmament." Buchanan failed to condemn the Pentagon raid itself.

● **MICHAEL DUKAKIS** is now under preliminary investigation by the FBI in to determine whether he or other state officials gave inside information to the owners of a site selected for a multimillion-dollar prison facility.

● **BUSH CAMPAIGN** and Republican Party sources report that Sen. Robert Dole and Rep. Jack Kemp are the top contenders for the vice presidential slot on a Bush ticket, the *Washington Times* said June 23. Said an unnamed Bush campaign official. "Most of the GOP chairman in the South are for Kemp." Both men have been asked to make major addresses at the GOP convention Aug. 15-18 in New Orleans.