

National News

Army scale-down already under way

Indications are mounting that plans for major force restructuring of the U.S. Army are already under way.

Brig. Gen. E.H. Simmons (USMC, ret.) states that force planning in the military is oriented toward a vast reduction of commitment of troops to traditional U.S. positions in Europe, in an article in the Oct. 8 *Washington Post*. He reports that the Army is planning on such reductions, and is already reorganizing itself into formations which parallel the role of the Marines—light expeditionary forces. He argues that this is an improper role for the Army, as it would simply duplicate the Marine functions.

Simmons reports, nonetheless, that there is no rebuttal of the premises of the Army planning—that the likelihood of confrontation in Europe is mitigated by the crisis in the Soviet Empire.

EPA files pollution suits against cities

Suits against 61 cities were filed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice on Oct. 3, for failing to properly enforce the Clean Water Act.

Penalties against the cities are being sought, in the range of \$30,000. The purpose of the suit is to establish the precedent that any state, city, or municipal body and its officials who fail to fully enforce environmental regulations, can be held responsible for any pollution, with the official facing personal bankruptcy and a jail term. The suit does not accuse any of the 61 cities of being polluters themselves, but of failing to forcefully monitor and prosecute "industrial polluters."

Attorney George Mannina, Jr. warned in the August 1989 issue of *Petroleum Independent* journal that any corporate officer can be put in jail for the mistakes of subordinates, even if the company is ignorant of

any violations of the complex environmental regulations. "In an ominous development for individual businessmen and women, the courts have ruled that civil liability for violating environmental regulations may be imposed on a corporate officer personally just because of that officer's position in the corporation. Thus, a corporation's president without direct responsibility for hazardous waste management can be personally liable for environmental violations because the president had the ultimate authority to prevent the violations."

Mannina warns, "Criminal conviction does not require proof that you intended to break the law, or even that you knew what the law required. In one case under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the defendant argued that if he did not know what the regulations required, he could not possibly have had a criminal intent to violate them. The court dismissed the defendant's argument, holding instead that it is completely reasonable to charge those who choose to operate in a regulated area with complete knowledge of all the regulatory requirements."

AIDS pandemic is finally mooted by press

The possibility that the AIDS virus could break out in pandemic form once it reaches a certain threshold in the population was discussed by the *Washington Post* on Oct. 8. The article by Rick Weiss covers in diluted form the threat described in an *EIR* Special Report on AIDS and presented to the broader public in a nationally televised presidential campaign broadcast by Lyndon LaRouche in 1988.

"Some virologists fear that a simple mutation in the AIDS virus itself could leave it armed with an ability to infect as the flu virus does now—via respiratory droplets spread by coughing or sneezing. If such a virus retained its current lethality, scientists and public health officials would have little chance to contain the disease before immense numbers of individuals become fatally infected," Weiss wrote.

William H. McNeill, a University of Chicago historian, warns that an AIDS virus might mutate into a version which gains the ability to directly infect the human respiratory tract. The frequency of mutation of the AIDS virus is compared to other virus "timebombs" that could replicate the process seen in animal populations. The retrovirus infection of the Australian rabbit population, and its 80% lethality rate, is cited as a model of the danger.

"The idea that the medical profession could stand as an effective obstacle to the propagation of such an infection seems to be optimistic to say the least," McNeill said, since in previous conflagrations, it has been the case that "The doctors would be the first to go."

Soviets said to be in ABM breakout

The Soviet Union is in a breakout mode from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, according to the information on Soviet radars reported by former Senate Armed Services Committee staff member Angelo Codevilla in the *Wall Street Journal* Oct. 6.

This is probably the beginning of a barrage of leaks by military and intelligence figures worried about the downgrading of official U.S. assessments of the Soviet threat, in the latest issue of the Pentagon's *Soviet Military Power*.

Codevilla writes that the U.S. government chose to single out the Krasnoyarsk ABM battle-management radar, and declare it a violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty, although eight other similar radars—at Pechora, Lyaki, Mishelevka, Olenegorsk, Sary-Shagan, Mukachevko, Baranovich, and Skrunnda—taken together, constituted a far more serious violation of the treaty.

Codevilla blasted top U.S. policymakers, saying, "Clearly, the underlying problem is not Krasnoyarsk, nor Soviet compliance or non-compliance with the language of arms control treaties, but the determination of American policymakers to behave according to their own vision of the ABM Treaty."

"If Krasnoyarsk disappears, the loss to the Soviet ABM system will be marginal. By no stretch of the imagination will the Soviet Union be as defenseless against ballistic missiles as the U.S. is. In no way will the development and production of Soviet anti-missile devices be slowed. On the contrary, American reactions to the dismantling of Krasnoyarsk are sure to raise the marginal effectiveness of every piece of Soviet ABM equipment."

Codevilla calculates that the acceptance of the START treaty numbers by the United States would shrink U.S. "aim points" from 2,000 to 400, and raise the ratio of Soviet counterforce warheads to American targets from the present 3.5 to 1 to perhaps as many as 10 to 1.

The *Washington Times* warned against the threat to the Strategic Defense Initiative on Oct. 6, in an editorial entitled "The President and SDI." The editorial asks whether Bush and the Congress let the SDI "just fade away," so "Bush can get a START treaty and earn some photo-ops with world hero Michael Gorbachov?"

Judge upholds ban on animal sacrifice

A ban on animal sacrifices in Florida ordinances has been upheld by Miami Federal Judge Eugene P. Spellman on Oct. 9.

Spellman upheld the city of Hialeah's prohibition on animal sacrifice passed, in 1987, after a Santería "priest" announced that he would open a church which would include in its rituals the sacrificing of chickens, goats, and other animals. The judge said that the Constitution protects only a religion's beliefs, not its practices.

Spellman said that regulating animal sacrifice had valid purposes, like safeguarding public health and animal welfare. The ordinance, he wrote, was not meant to persecute Santería followers, but "to prohibit all animal sacrifice, whether it be practiced by an individual or a religion or a cult." The Santería priest, Ernesto Pichardo, says he intends to take his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Federal judges balk at death penalty

Fourteen federal judges have written a letter challenging Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist's right to speak as an authority for the federal judiciary on the death penalty, it was revealed Oct. 10.

The unusual letter was sent to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees by 14 of the 27-member Judicial Conference of the United States, chaired by Rehnquist. Despite the opposition of the majority of the members, Rehnquist sent a proposal to Congress in the group's name, calling for legislation to speed the judicial review of death sentences.

Schiller Institute hosts C=256 concert

The Schiller Institute boosted its campaign to return musical tuning to a scientific basis of middle C set at 256 Hertz (A=432), by hosting a concert performed at that tuning at Rice University in Houston, Texas on Oct. 7.

Attended by 230 people, the concert included several demonstrations of works performed at both the higher tuning of A=440 Hz, and A=432. Baritone Doug Yates, now touring with the National Opera Company, demonstrated the aria "Ah! Per sempre io ti perdei" from Bellini's *I Puritani* at both tunings. Yates explained that at the lower tuning, the vowels can be more open, less squeezed, and allow a more beautiful sound. This set the stage for an enthusiastically received concert by two tenors, baritones, and mezzo-sopranos, and three sopranos.

The concert involved virtually the entire vocal music community in Houston. The *Houston Chronicle*, in its preview of the concert, said the Schiller Institute was tied to Lyndon LaRouche, which sparked more interest in the concert.

Briefly

● **SOVIET EXPERTS** are expected to visit SDI facilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and the TRW company's test facility in California, at the invitation of Secretary of State Baker.

● **OREGON STATE** Sen. Frank Roberts (D-Portland) announced in early October that he will introduce a bill calling for physician-assisted suicide, in which a doctor would be able to give lethal doses or injections to those sick and elderly who allegedly ask for it.

● **FOOD FOR PEACE** farmers intervened in 40 North Dakota "town hall" meetings exposing the Stanford Research Institute's plans for shutting down agriculture as a program for genocide. The Bismarck press reported Oct. 7 that a group of farmers demanded a parity price as the only way to improve the state's economy.

● **FLORA LEWIS** and Bill Keller, liberal *New York Times* columnists, encouraged a Soviet bloodbath by saying that the West should not be alarmed by the brutality of the crack-down going on, and coming, in the East bloc. "Even Gorbachov's Friends Want a Little Order," their headline apologizes.

● **THE FBI** is seeking information about the KGB from the ranks of the Russian emigré community by placing ads in the largest Russian-language U.S. newspaper, *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, calling on readers to share information on KGB operations. "We'll be very alert to the KGB trying to send in ringers and plants," said the FBI's James Fox.

● **THE ABORTION DEBATE** began in a special session of the Florida legislature Oct. 10 which was called by Gov. Bob Martinez to consider proposals on restricting abortion. None of the proposed bills, however, made it to the floor of the legislature.