

National News

1990 defense bill will begin troop withdrawals

The \$305 billion defense bill approved by House-Senate conferees will remove 15,000 U.S. troops from Europe this fiscal year, beginning the reduction of American troop strength in Europe.

Although these troops were attached to short-range missile units disbanded under the INF treaty, the move's true intent is shown by an included directive to the President to report on beginning a gradual reduction of the 40,000 U.S. troops in South Korea as well.

The bill eliminates one of three B-2 stealth bombers requested, and cuts \$150 million from the \$1.25 billion requested for a rail-based version of the MX missile. The MX missile must now be made mobile, because Soviet warheads are now accurate enough to destroy U.S. ICBMs in their silos—and plentiful enough to target three warheads on each U.S. silo, rendering U.S. ICBM silos useless.

The U.S. military is expected to be forced to cut 170,000 active duty troops by the Oct. 16 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget sequestration to save \$3.4 billion of \$8 billion in cuts mandated for the Pentagon. Another \$3.8 billion would be cut from the operations budget, reducing flying hours for aircraft, steaming time for ships, as well as further gouging maintenance and training programs. Another \$1.7 billion will be cut from research and development, causing major delays in the B-2 stealth program, and in the SSN-21 attack submarine program.

AFT head calls for testing for knowledge

American Federation of Teachers President Albert Shanker attacked multiple choice testing, and called for a return to tests which are a more accurate measurement of knowledge in an Oct. 29 speech. Shanker urged a return to greater reliance upon essay tests to gauge depth of knowledge.

Shanker pointed to school districts' fears of introducing reforms which might drag down average scores on the ubiquitous standardized tests. "I would call for an immediate end to standardized tests as they are now," Shanker said. "What you need to do, is test for things that are really important: reading, writing, computing, history. To test for depth of knowledge, you have to get away from things that are graded by machines."

'Brain dead' baby now declared alive

A New York baby, two-month-old Luis Alvarado, declared "brain dead" by so-called experts and the New York Health and Hospitals Corporation, and who faced death after New York State Judge Helen E. Freedman ruled on Oct. 18 that a New York City-run hospital, Elmhurst General, had the right to kill him by taking him off a respirator, has now been ruled alive.

The HHC had called in yet another expert Oct. 31 to back its position in a rehearing of the suit brought by the child's parents, Luis and Carlotta Alvarado, on Oct. 27, who are fighting to keep their child on the respirator. The new expert who examined the child was pediatric neurologist Hart Peterson, who said that the child was not only not brain dead, but was, in fact, making feeble attempts to breathe on his own.

The family's attorney said HHC knew before the latest exam that the child was not brain dead. Although the hospital backed down from its demand the child be removed from the respirator, the rehearing of the case will hopefully affect the brain death statutes that endanger others.

Pittston ordered to restore some benefits

In the bitter strike between Pittston Coal group and the United Mine Workers union, U.S. District Judge Dennis L. Knapp of Charleston, West Virginia has ordered Pitts-

ton to restore some health benefits.

The ruling, which deals directly with the issue which led to the UMWA strike in April of this year, is a major victory for the union, although it only covers 100 laid-off workers who were cut off from health benefits by Pittston.

The injunction was sought by the National Labor Relations Board.

Teamster victimization upheld by federal judge

Manhattan Federal District Judge David N. Edelstein ruled against an appeal by top Teamster officials who challenged the power of a government appointed "investigations officer," Charles M. Carberry, to oust Teamster officials.

Judge Edelstein ruled in favor of the government, which argued that Carberry's powers were part of the agreement accepted by the Teamsters last March in exchange for the government's abandoning its RICO suit. The Department of Justice had been using the RICO statutes against the Teamsters to convict top leaders of racketeering and put the entire union into receivership.

A government appointed administrator, Frederick B. Lacey, has also filed a court petition seeking sanctions against Teamster leaders for holding meetings without informing him, so that he could attend. Lacey claims that the meetings were held to discuss the possibility of backing out of the March agreement, since the Teamsters believe that the government is now renegeing on a promise made then not to seek the removal of present board members.

RICO 'fascist,' former Reagan official says

The RICO, or racketeering, law should be immediately repealed because it is a "fascistic invasion of our law," according to Paul Craig Roberts, a former Treasury Department official in the Reagan administration, in a commentary in the Nov. 7 *Washington Times*.

Briefly

Roberts dismisses efforts to "reform" RICO, charging that only by outright repeal "will we be safe from the RICO monster that is destroying our rights as citizens."

Roberts quotes at length from a presentation by Federal Appellate Judge David Sentelle to a recent conference in Washington on RICO, in which Sentelle denounced RICO as a "hungry monster that is devouring traditional concepts of American jurisprudence," and charged that it has "eaten away at the wall of federalism that the framers" of the Constitution erected.

According to Roberts, Sentelle also warned that RICO "is doing violence to the principle that association is a type of expression covered by the First Amendment." He cautioned his audience that while "you may not like labor unions or the right-to-life movement," the current victims of RICO, if RICO isn't stopped, it will eventually trample on everyone's rights.

The Coalition for RICO Reform, in a letter to the editor in the Nov. 3 *New York Times*, opposes an earlier editorial supporting the use of civil RICO. The coordinator of the Coalition in Washington, D.C., Martin Connor writes, "The statute's civil provisions are so vague and expansive that they make almost any claim for damages a potential Federal RICO case. 'Virtually everyone who has addressed this question,' said Chief Justice William Rehnquist last April, 'agrees that civil RICO is now being used in ways that Congress never intended when it enacted the statute in 1970. Most of the civil suits filed under the statute have nothing to do with organized crime. They are garden-variety fraud cases of the type traditionally litigated in state courts.'"

Former NASA director James Beggs cleared

Former National Aeronautic and Space Administration Director James Beggs was totally vindicated, when California Federal Judge Fernando F. Fernandez ordered that all documents and records concerning the December 1985 indictment of Beggs, General Dynamics, and other individuals be expunged from the court. The action was re-

quested by the Department of Justice, which had conceded in June 1987 that it had insufficient evidence to try the case.

Last year, Attorney General Edwin Meese III issued a "profound apology" to Beggs, who had been forced to resign as head of NASA while he defended himself. A few months later, the space shuttle Challenger was lost during launch.

Beggs has recently begun his own consulting firm, directed at furthering international cooperation in space between the U.S. and its traditional allies.

Concerning the DoJ witchhunt he was forced to endure, Beggs told the Nov. 6 *Washington Post*, "We do things like that in this country. No individual is above the law, and when it comes time to account for your actions, you do. But the fact that it takes so long is a little difficult."

Air Force says Soviet reductions=modernization

Officials at U.S. Air Forces Europe (USAFE) headquarters evaluate current Soviet unilateral force reductions to be "nothing more than a modernization effort," reports *Aviation Week and Space Technology* in its early November edition. The evaluation echoes *EIR's* special Global Showdown report.

These officials "maintain the Soviets are actually enhancing their forces before a conventional arms reduction treaty is completed." Deputy USAFE commander Lt. Gen. Ted Rees said, "What we see now is a realignment of their forces which provides them greater combat capability with more modern airplanes and weapon systems than they had nine months ago." Rees claims that the Soviets have been withdrawing older MiG-23s from East Germany but are replacing them with more capable MiG-29s.

Military planners at USAFE headquarters at Ramstein Air Base in West Germany believe that the Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) negotiations in Vienna will inevitably result in a "leaner and meaner" adversary, and this will force the U.S. to "modernize and keep our technological edge."

● **NEW YORK CARDINAL** John O'Connor announced the creation of a new order of nuns whose "total commitment will be to the cause of life as threatened by abortion and euthanasia." The order is to be called the Sisters of Life.

● **DR. ROBERT HUNTER** has resigned from his post overseeing the U.S. fusion program effective Oct. 27, according to the Department of Energy. Hunter tried to destroy the magnetic fusion program by halting construction of the next-step Compact Ignition Tokamak device.

● **VICE PRESIDENT** Dan Quayle has done an "outstanding job," according to President Bush, who said that Quayle would "absolutely" be his running mate in the 1992. Bush's statements dampened speculation that Bush might choose James Baker as his running mate.

● **ARMENIANS** outside the Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles, more than 1,000 strong, protested Soviet Red Army killings on Nov. 2. The Soviet Red Army chorus and dance ensemble was appearing there.

● **THE BUSH** administration is reeling from the *EIR's* Greenhouse Effect report, a top scientist told *EIR*. He reports it being circulated everywhere, and that an open war is about to be declared by the scientific community on the global warming hoax.

● **CHINESE MILITARY** personnel who were told to leave the U.S. after the June 4 Tiananmen massacre have returned to the United States, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Nov. 5, and are working on "The Pearl of Peace," the biggest-yet Sino-American military cooperation deal.

● **THE FBI** announced it will purge its files of the names of thousands of members of the Coalition in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.