

National News

Soviet military using lasers against U.S.

The Soviet military is using lasers against the U.S. military, the U.S. Army paper *Stars and Stripes* reported Nov. 10.

The Department of Defense revealed that the eyesight of a U.S. Air Force crewman may have been damaged when his HC-130 electronic surveillance aircraft was illuminated by a laser fired from the Soviet research vessel *Spassk*, in the first of four incidents since Oct. 17.

On Oct. 28, a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion was also illuminated by the *Spassk*. On Nov. 1, another USAF HC-130 was illuminated by a laser from the *Marshal Nedelin*, and a few minutes later, a USAF WC-130 reported being illuminated from the *Spassk*. All four incidents took place in international waters 1,000 to 2,000 miles west and southwest of Hawaii.

The actions occurred despite an agreement last summer by U.S. and Soviet military officials designed to avoid dangerous military encounters. Privately, Pentagon officials are saying that it is dispiriting that such incidents are continuing. One senior official stated, "This really shows that these guys are up to something."

The afflicted U.S. crewman suffered disruption of his color vision, headaches, and other visual problems and is under medical evaluation, Pentagon sources say. The crewman had been wearing "laser eye protection" gear, and U.S. officials are investigating why the damage occurred despite the equipment.

Two of the four reported incidents occurred on Nov. 1, after the announcement of the Bush-Gorbachov non-summit.

CIA and KGB plan joint anti-terror exercise

The CIA and the Soviet KGB are planning a joint anti-terrorist practice operation in the spring of 1990 premised on the two agencies collaborating against Azerbaijan "terror-

ists," according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

U.S. and Soviet experts will simulate two hijacking crises, the first of which will involve a flight from Moscow to New York, jointly operated by Pan Am and Aeroflot, to be commandeered by a group demanding independence for the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. In the second scenario, a Mexican airliner with Soviet and U.S. passengers will be taken over by drug lords demanding freedom for fellow gang members held in U.S. jails. The idea for these joint operations apparently stems from the meeting of retired KGB and CIA officials, including Ray Cline and Bill Colby, which took place in California in October.

RICO reform gutted, says Wall Street Journal

In January, when Congress convened, "gutting the [RICO—Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization] law looked like a sure thing. . . . Now, just 11 months later, the RICO reform juggernaut is running out of steam," the *Wall Street Journal* lamented Nov. 9.

Three factors helped RICO survive, the *Journal* said. "First, seemingly unconnected scandals, mainly in the S&L industry, have made Congress uneasy about appearing to go easy on white-collar crime. Second, the RICO issue brought out advocates with unusually direct financial interests in the bill, making lawmakers even more wary of being accused of bailing out special interests. Finally, RICO revision advocates insisted that the narrowing of the civil RICO law be made retroactive, a point their opponents seized upon as being too greedy."

The *Journal* revealed that Ralph Nader and his Public Citizen group are two of the most ardent defenders of the police-state law. The Naderites have allied with San Diego attorney William Lerach, who is representing bondholder and shareholder plaintiffs in two civil RICO suits against the scandalized Lincoln Savings and Loan, and who thus stands to make a lot of money from RICO. Lerach refers to his clients as "wid-

ows and orphans," and plans to have them demonstrate against the RICO reform advocates. "We'll lie down in front" of anti-RICO Sen. Dennis DeConcini's (D-Ariz.) office "if we have to," Lerach told the *Journal*.

The *Journal* also reported that Wall Street can expect more RICO prosecutions. Alan Cohen, the head of the securities and commodities fraud unit in the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office, said, "If it is appropriate to use the RICO statute because of the widespread institutionalized nature of the criminal conduct, it will continue to be used."

Dixy Lee Ray: Sue, boycott the ecologists

Former Washington state Gov. Dixy Lee Ray told delegates to the National Pest Control Association's 56th annual convention in Seattle in late October, that the principal pest facing them, the environmentalist, could be controlled by lobbying, boycotts, pressure on the media, and lawsuits. "Sue and sue and sue and sue, just like the environmentalists do," Ray told an appreciative audience.

Ray said that because of technology, we live in "the best of times and the worst of times": best because of technology-driven advances, and worst because of attacks on technology by environmentalists. Ray, a marine biologist and former chairwoman of the Atomic Energy Commission, advised her audience to organize boycotts of companies that sponsor anti-technology programming on television. She cited the recent capitulation by the Stroh Brewing Co. and nine other sponsors when loggers threatened a boycott over their sponsorship of an Audubon Society documentary on the old-growth timber controversy.

Ray told convention delegates to bring pressure against newspapers and other media when they engage in one-sided coverage. The modern use of treated wood has saved a forest "two times the size of New England," she said, urging them to empha-

size that herbicides and pesticides "have done a great deal of good for society." Ray urged her audience to do everything they could to combat certain myths, namely, that "man-made" is bad; that nature is invariably benign and safe; and that hazardous substances are toxic in any concentration.

Ray said a phrase she often hears from environmentalists is "elegant frugality," a quality they say should characterize our lifestyle. But, she said, "That means elegance for a very small group of people and frugality for the rest of us."

Bishops promise renewed anti-abortion effort

U.S. Catholic bishops, meeting in Baltimore in early November took several steps to invigorate their anti-abortion fight across the United States.

The bishops passed a resolution opposing abortion which read in part, "For us abortion is of overriding concern because it negates two of our most fundamental moral imperatives: respect for innocent life and preferential concern of the weak and the defenseless." The document called upon Catholics to commit themselves vigorously to public education, care for pregnant women, children, and public policy changes including a human life amendment to the Constitution and state laws restricting support for abortion.

The conference voted for John Cardinal O'Connor, one of the country's most outspoken cardinals on life issues, to head the bishops' Pro-Life Committee, which will lead the bishops' fight against abortion. He replaces Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago.

Assault on Pentagon said to be biggest yet

A new police-state assault on the Department of Defense, entitled "Operation Un-

cover," is the biggest attack yet, according to Michael J. Costello, special agent in charge of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service's Washington field office. Costello was quoted by the *Washington Post* Nov. 14 in an article reporting on the guilty plea entered by the Boeing Corp., apparently the first victim of the new operation.

Boeing pleaded guilty to criminal charges of illegally obtaining secret Defense Department documents outlining future budget and spending plans. Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy I. Bellows said that the plea bargain involved only two documents because of "a very serious proof problem."

The proclivity of Eastern District of Virginia U.S. Attorney Henry Hudson, who brought the October 1985 "Ill Wind" indictments against the defense community, to prevaricate, is going to become a major issue in the Ill Wind investigation, according to *Defense Week* Nov. 13. Attorneys for the defendants are planning to make an issue out of the fact that the Justice Department failed in a 1987 affidavit to disclose to the federal judge who authorized the wiretaps in the investigation that its informant had been convicted of sexually assaulting two girls, ages 9 and 10.

Crowe warns: Communist reforms dividing NATO

Admiral William J. Crowe Jr., the retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned a congressional hearing on future national security needs on Nov. 9 that Communist reforms are dividing NATO.

"The picture today is muddier than I've seen in my 25 years of experience with NATO," Crowe said. He explained that the Western alliance is sharply split between cautious response and the desire of some to undertake "headlong reductions" in military might. "The countries of Western Europe are going to spend less on defense no matter what we do," Admiral Crowe added. "Ultimately, NATO will probably remold itself into a looser arrangement, probably with reduced U.S. participation."

● **GEN. RICHARD SECORD** pleaded guilty to lying to Congress in a plea bargain arrangement with Iran-Contra prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, whereby other charges will be dropped in exchange for his cooperation against Adm. John Poindexter and others charged with Iran-Contra abuses.

● **CHARLES KEATING**, the key figure in the Lincoln S&L scandal and a member of President Nixon's pornography commission who actually opposed pornography, has publicly stated that his troubles with the government date to that period.

● **CRAIG SPENCE**, the homosexual insider and Iran-Contra figure who had been subpoenaed to testify before Congress on the Washington prostitution scandal, was found dead under unexplained circumstances Nov. 10 in a Boston hotel.

● **1.3 MILLION ILLEGAL** aliens have applied to become legal immigrants under the one-time amnesty. The program was expected to accommodate only 250,000 when Congress enacted it as part of a sweeping package of changes in immigration law.

● **AN ADVISORY PANEL** for the U.S. war on drugs named by President Bush included among its 27 members William McCarthy, president of the Teamsters Union, former Attorney General William French Smith, retired Adm. William Crowe, Dr. Jonas Salk, and Robert Wright, president of NBC.

● **DARPA**, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, usually the first Defense agency to sponsor new technology projects, is faced with threats to cut its funding from the Bush administration.