

National News

Why the FBI always gets its . . . little fish

Between 60 and 200 Libyan terrorist assassins are now reportedly in the United States, with standing orders and hit lists of leading anti-Qaddafi exiles and U.S. political figures who oppose the Qaddafi regime. According to one source, the description of the U.S. political figures applies to *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche, who was attacked as an agent of the Reagan administration plotting to overthrow Qaddafi in a Libyan newswire in January of this year.

The danger of terrorist activation is more acute following the arrest of two Libyan graduate students by the FBI in Philadelphia in early May. The FBI arrested the two after a "sting" operation which trapped them into illegally buying handguns and silencers from an FBI undercover agent.

The FBI, however, by this means prematurely blew a major intelligence operation involving the CIA and other agencies which were developing a case against a nationwide network of Iranian and Libyan terrorists. The network included Bahram Nahidian, the Savama (Iranian intelligence) agent who organized the assassination of anti-Khomeini leader Ali Tabatabai in July 1980. Nahidian was protected by the Carter administration and the FBI.

Another FBI terrorist coverup is now in danger of being exposed: A group calling itself the American Movement Army, which carried out some 20 bombings and arsons in the Dallas, Texas area between March and early May, has been implicated in the murder of U.S. Maj. Gen. Robert Ownby in January. The FBI ruled Ownby's hanging a "suicide."

Cost-cutters savage medical care

A study carried out by the Stanford University medical school has documented that recent Medicare rules requiring that a flat fee

be paid for like diseases or procedures could lead to more patient deaths in hospitals. The study suggests that the new rules would cause university-affiliated teaching hospitals to cut back on aggressive, spare-no-expense care. The medical care at these institutions is more extensive, and consequently more costly, than care given by physicians in private practice; their patients also have a better chance of surviving.

In addition, the Senate voted May 16 to uphold \$6.7 billion in Medicare cuts proposed by President Reagan as part of a \$144 billion "deficit reduction" package. The Medicare cuts will mean that beneficiaries pay about 16% more for doctors' insurance premiums in 1985.

Related developments include the following:

- A Massachusetts state task force recommended unanimously on May 15 that only one Massachusetts hospital be allowed to do heart transplants for the next 7.5 months, denying permission to other institutions to perform the life-saving operation. The 17-man task force is headed by prominent Boston University "bio-ethicist" George C. Annas.

According to the *Boston Globe* May 16, the task-force members consider their recommendations to be an "important benchmark" in attempts to regulate new technologies that "benefit a few at great cost."

- In Florida, the "Health Care Access Act of 1984," sponsored by state representative Sam Bell, would establish a budgetary ceiling in Florida hospitals, prescribe penalties for exceeding budget limits, and assess annual fees on private and public hospitals to help pay for the cost of health care for indigents.

NATO chief: Kissinger's plan a 'serious mistake'

Henry Kissinger made a "serious mistake" in proposing that U.S. troop strengths be cut in half, charged NATO Supreme Commander Bernard Rogers in an interview on May 12. He was referring to a proposal by Kissinger published on March 5 in the na-

tional weekly *Time* magazine.

In an interview with *Bild am Sonntag*, West Germany's largest Sunday newspaper, Rogers said, "American troops stationed at the German-German border are also there to defend vital interests of the United States." He added that "a withdrawal of American troops would represent a strategic victory for the Soviet Union."

Rogers, author of the so-called Rogers Plan for a conventional military buildup in Western Europe, said he agreed with Kissinger that the West Europeans ought to make more of a military effort, particularly by strengthening their conventional forces.

FBI's Mullen blasts Reagan's war on drugs

Drug Enforcement Administration chief Francis Mullen, who is also a deputy director of the FBI, has blasted the Task Force on Drugs, headed by Vice-President George Bush, and the National Narcotics Border Interdiction Service (NNBIS) as "ineffective" and guilty of maintaining illegal intelligence files on drug traffickers. Mullen's charges were first aired in a *New York Times* leak published May 13, quoting a memo to Attorney General French Smith in which Mullen made his complaints against the NNBIS.

The public attack on the multi-agency anti-drug task force, which was set up to outflank the corrupt FBI's bid for total control of drug enforcement, is part of an escalating pattern of attacks on the Reagan administration. These include the appointment of a special prosecutor on "Briefing-gate," a special investigation of Attorney General nominee Ed Meese, and an Organized Crime Strike Force investigation into the business partners of Labor Secretary Ray Donovan.

According to well-informed Washington sources, FBI Director William Webster is using every means the FBI has to help elect Walter Mondale, supposedly because the Reagan administration has denied Webster his much-coveted seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. At the same time, the FBI

is reportedly in turmoil over the continuing attacks against the agency, amid rumors that Webster will step down in the near future.

Administration big on 'McDonalds' wage bill

The Reagan administration has combined longstanding economic incompetence with election year political opportunism to come out in support of legislation allowing employers to pay teenagers sub-minimum wages for summer jobs.

Labor Secretary Ray Donovan said May 16 that the bill being introduced by Sen. Charles Percy (R-Ill.) and Rep. Ronald Packard (R-Calif.) is intended to cut the current 44.8% unemployment among black teenagers and 19.4% unemployment among teens overall, according to UPI. The sponsors of the bill, which has been endorsed by the Conference of Black Mayors, claim it could create 400,000 new jobs for youth this summer.

The Youth Employment Opportunity Act, which would allow youths 16 to 19 years of age to work for \$2.50 an hour instead of the current \$3.35, has been dubbed the "McDonalds Bill" by opponents.

Particle-beam weapon deployable by 1985

John Gardiner, a spokesman for the office of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, told the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee May 14 that the space-based particle-beam anti-missile weapon being developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory could be ready for deployment in four to five years, given already planned funding increases.

The program, known as "White Horse," is one of several national laboratory programs which are to overcome the technological barriers to beam weapons. The White House has kept quiet about these developments.

Gardiner told members of the subcommittee that a demonstration of the lethality of the neutral-particle beam, similar to that achieved by the airborne laser laboratory last May, was "relatively close at hand," and that the accelerator could be scaled down to the size and weight necessary for deployment into space within four to five years.

The House Armed Services Committee, which has been "traffic manager" for funds into the beam-weapons program, is now trying to shift the dwindling authorization amounts toward the neutral-particle beam, free-electron laser, and ground-based eximer laser programs, instead of increasing funding toward the crash effort which these results suggest. The Armed Services Committee cut the authorization request for fiscal 1985 by 25% overall, and the appropriations subcommittee now threatens to make further cuts.

The 'Mr. Clean' of space weaponry: George Shultz

Secretary of State George Shultz told a conference of the League of Women Voters in Detroit on May 12 that "The United States has long believed that the arms competition should not be extended to space. For that reason, we have sponsored or joined several treaties advancing this objective." After citing the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty and the 1967 Agreement on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Shultz said that the administration is examining the possibility of placing stricter controls on space weapons, including "control for anti-satellite weapons."

He continued: "Let me mention, in this context, the question of space-based missile defenses." He described the President's Strategic Defense Initiative as "a research program designed to explore the possibility that security and stability might be enhanced by a system that could intercept and destroy ballistic missiles before they reached our or our allies' territory. . . . It could lead to an informed decision sometime in the next decade, on the question of whether such defensive systems are genuinely feasible and practical."

Briefly

● **GEN. JAMES ABRAHAMSON**, director of the President's Strategic Defense Initiative, was himself on the defensive at a recent Pentagon briefing where he placed the SDI within the bounds of "improving deterrence," stressing "affordable systems." Although Abrahamson denounced the anti-beams report of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment as riddled with "technical errors, unsubstantiated assumptions, and conclusions that are inconsistent with its own findings," he and other officials are now presenting the SDI as "not much more than we would have done in these areas anyway, even if the President had never launched this initiative."

● **DR. RICHARD DELAUER**, the Pentagon's R&D chief, told Congress that the Soviet Union currently has 10,000 scientists and engineers working non-stop on strategic anti-missile defense.

● **JUDGE WARREN KING** of the Washington, D.C. Superior Court gave a suspended sentence and probation on May 11 to a retired army officer who shot and killed his dependent son in the hospital, in an application of "mercy-killing."

● **WILLIE BROWN**, speaker of the California State Assembly, will host a \$400,000 party for 10,000 Democrats on the first night of the Democratic national convention in July, according to UPI.

● **TIP O'NEILL** is being challenged for his congressional seat in the Democratic primary by Debra Gelber. Gelber is leading a slate of 14 Democrats backed by the National Democratic Policy Committee, she announced on May 17.