

National News

U.S. supports 'Bulgarian track' investigation

President Reagan committed the United States to support for the Italian government's investigations of the East-West terror networks behind the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II, in a speech before the conservative Republican Group of Political Action Feb. 19.

The President characterized the attempt on the Pope as "an international crime that deserves the most careful investigation possible," and praised "the courage of the Italian government in bringing this problem to the attention of the world."

At the same meeting, Secretary of State George Shultz, who has been accused in Europe and the United States of working with Henry Kissinger to sabotage the Italian investigations of the Bulgarian connection, denied that the U.S. authorities had "discouraged" the Italian investigations, in response to questions.

Cuomo to close Shoreham nuclear plant

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo may have prevented the Shoreham nuclear plant from ever opening by arbitrarily issuing an order Feb. 18 directing the state not to approve any evacuation plan for the area around the plant in Suffolk County. "The action right now stops Shoreham," said Cuomo's secretary, Michael Del Guidice.

The Shoreham plant, which cost \$3 billion, is now complete. If not allowed to operate, it will continue to accumulate costs to the tune of \$20 billion over the next 20 years, costs which, according to Suffolk County legislature presiding officer Lou Howard, will undermine Long Island's economy and possibly bankrupt the Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO).

Cuomo made no attempt to justify his ban on the plant. His order not only stops

state approval of any evacuation plan drawn up by LILCO or the county, but he has said that he will not have the state draw up its own plan. "I will not be a party to any effort to impose an independently developed state plan upon Suffolk County," Cuomo said. "Nuclear is a threat."

A spokesman for the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission told *EIR* Feb. 23 that the state has never even bothered to subject the evacuation plan designed by LILCO to a formal review.

Cuomo has been given strong support in his anti-nuclear crusade by Suffolk County Executive Peter Cohalan. "The unique local conditions of Long Island make it impossible to protect the public safety if there were an accident at the Shoreham plant," Cohalan said. "The result is that Shoreham should never operate."

Cohalan's deputy, Frank Jones, told *EIR* that the county had hired its own experts to study the evacuation problem, but that instead of using the Nuclear Regulatory Commission guideline of a 10-mile evacuation zone, the county officials had decided to consider the problem of evacuating all of Long Island, thus increasing the number requiring evacuation from 30,000 to several million. On this basis, the county maintains that evacuation is impossible, and has refused to draw up any plan.

Shultz creates 'policy planning council'

Secretary of State George Shultz announced on Feb. 23 that he had created a new "policy planning council" at the State Department. The council will concentrate on "the concern about the problems that many countries have been encountering in paying their international debt . . . economic issues with political implications," in the words of council head Stephen Bosworth. Every member of the council is a product of the Henry Kissinger State Department or the Kissinger National Security Council under the Nixon and Ford administrations.

Bosworth was a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Resources

and Food Policy during the Ford administration, and deputy to Undersecretary for Inter-American Affairs Thomas Enders, with a history of service in Central America. Council member Paul Boeker was an Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs in the Ford administration, and in Shultz's words, "a European and Latin American specialist." Robert Osgood, a former dean at Johns Hopkins University's SAIS, was a senior NSC staffer during the Nixon administration. Peter Rodman, most recently a fellow at Georgetown University's CSIS, was an NSC staffer from 1969 to 1977. Shultz described Rodman to the press as "a close associate of Henry Kissinger's." Shultz summed up the credentials of the other council member, Jeremy R. Azrael, as a "former professor of political science at—you guessed it—the University of Chicago." Azrael's specialty is the East bloc.

The Secretary of State attempted to describe his motivation for setting up the council in sentences reminiscent of Alexander Haig. "I find myself searching around for ways to contend with the tendency to be preoccupied with what is right in front of you each day, on the one hand, and to be sure that things don't fall between the cracks and that we think broadly about our problems, on the other. One way is to take some time yourself to scratch your head. . . ."

American Legion calls for space ABM system

In a resolution passed at its national convention in Washington Feb. 24, the American Legion called for the development of a space-based anti-ballistic missile defense system.

Resolution #32, entitled "Space-Based Ballistic Missile Defense System," "urges the President and Congress to adopt a new military strategy which would take advantage of available and developing technology, assure that the U.S. maintains the lead in such technology, and would provide for developing a space-based ballistic missile defense system."

In another resolution, #148, entitled "Soviet Space Program," the Legion further

states that it "strongly recommends that the U.S. proceed forthwith to counteract the Soviet threat in space against our defensive satellites as well as the ICBM nuclear threat against our country."

Manatt and DOJ run Chicago vote fraud

A vote-fraud operation coordinated by Democratic National Committee chairman Charles "Banker" Manatt and the U.S. Department of Justice gave black politician Harold Washington a come-from-behind victory in Chicago's Democratic Party mayoral primary Feb. 22. Sheila Jones, the candidate endorsed by Lyndon H. LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee, was officially credited with only 1,278 votes.

The systematic funnelling of Chicago's black vote away from Jones, who is also black, was part of an attempt to block the growing power of the NDPC faction in the Democratic Party, which has won from 20 to 40 percent of the vote in primary elections over the past year. The defeat of the unpopular incumbent Jane Byrne, the lackluster Richard Daley, Jr., and Jones gave the nomination, and almost certainly the mayoral election, to Washington, whose campaign was sponsored by Jesse Jackson of PUSH and other operatives of the local-control poverty-program and youth-gang apparatus set up by Saul Alinsky out of the University of Chicago (see *EIR*, Feb. 15).

According to Jones's campaign manager Nicholas Benton, the fraud operation was set up by Jesse Jackson. Jackson met with Justice Department officials a week before the election, which resulted in a court order placing the city's polls under the jurisdiction of federal marshals. The FBI took custody of the votes after Jackson met with Dan Webb of the Chicago U.S. Attorney's office on election day. The FBI concentrated on Chicago's South Side, where Jones had out-campaigned all her opponents. The fraud was so severe that even primary candidate Frank Ranallo, who had announced a militant anti-black program on the city's media throughout the campaign, officially out-

polled Jones by 37 votes in the Third Ward, where Jones had been endorsed by a prominent community leader.

AFL-CIO demands make-work program

The AFL-CIO Executive Council, on the first day of its winter meeting in Bal Harbor, Florida on Feb. 22, issued a demand for a make-work jobs program modeled on the programs Adolf Hitler used to put Germans to work in the 1930s.

The proposal, announced by AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, would cost a whopping \$22.5 billion in fiscal year 1983 and \$46 billion in fiscal year 1984. The programs would put less than 2 million of the more than 11 million officially unemployed back to work in low-paying, labor-intensive public works construction, housing renovation, sanitation, and similar dead-end jobs. Several hundred thousand youth would also be employed in a new Civilian Conservation Corps.

Acknowledging that his plan would add tens of billions to the huge federal budget deficit, Kirkland proposed to alleviate some of this deficit by slashing defense spending by an additional \$5-\$10 billion this year. This marks the first time in recent memory that the AFL-CIO has backed major defense-spending cuts. Kirkland further announced some rehashed AFL-CIO proposals for raising tax rates in higher income brackets, though he admitted that this would bring in only small amounts of money.

A congressional source close to the Democratic Party leadership said Feb. 23 that there was no way that Kirkland could hope to pass anything near the \$70 billion program.

"Kirkland isn't serious," said one source. "He knows that Congress will only pass a few additional billion dollars. He is trying to build himself up as a spokesman for the oppressed minorities and others. That is who his program appeals to. He already knows that there is no power left in the labor movement. It doesn't exist any more. It has been broken by the depression."

Briefly

● **DONALD REGAN**, the Treasury Secretary, told the Senate Feb. 23 that a \$20 per barrel oil price would bankrupt Mexico. Louisiana Sen. Richard Lugar asked Regan if, "the IMF plan is going to be sufficient for Mexico if the oil price continues to plummet?" Regan answered, "There are a lot of 'ifs' involved, but if we assume oil drops to \$26-\$27 per barrel, you can then calculate the revenue loss to Mexico. But you want to calculate as well the probable drop in interest rates and savings for Mexico. I don't have numbers in my head, but at \$26-\$27, the IMF program should be sufficient. However, if it drops to \$20 per barrel . . . we'll have to study the whole thing."

● **GEORGE SHULTZ** told the Senate Budget Committee Feb. 22 that "it would be wrong . . . to characterize the legacy of the oil-shock years as a debt problem. Rather, in its broadest aspect, it is an income-earning problem." A Senate staffer was heard to comment, "I'd like to use that line on my bank."

● **REUBEN ASKEW** declared his candidacy for President Feb. 23. The former Florida governor is a born-again Christian who served as a special trade negotiator for Jimmy Carter and who is modeling his presidential bid after that of the former President. With Carter Democratic hatchetman Robert Strauss at his side, Askew told the press that his program would be to "bring labor and industry together" in order to "sacrifice."

● **REMEMBER PEARL** Harbor bumper stickers are cropping up in Michigan, and taking sledgehammers to Toyotas has become a popular sport. Unemployed auto workers have been riled up against Japan rather than against Paul Volcker by the United Auto Workers leadership. Since 1978 U.S. auto sales have fallen 3 million while imports rose only 300,000.