

Congressional Closeup by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

Mavroules revives Global 2000

Representative Nicholas Mavroules (D-Mass.)

April 21, a "sense of the Congress" resolution praising the *Global 2000 Report*. The resolution is one tack in the attempt to revive legislative initiative for the Global 2000 program. The second tack is a bill, to be sponsored by Reps. Albert Gore (D-Tenn.) and Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), to establish an "autonomous and independent" office within the executive branch of government that would project U.S. needs in areas of population, resources, and environmental planning, and coordinate the Global 2000 program.

Mavroules submitted his resolution after having mustered only 22 other co-sponsors, a far cry from the roughly 140 who originally signed the letter to President Reagan demanding that the Global 2000 policy be given due consideration. A Mavroules staffer noted that the Gore and Gingrich bill intends "to avoid the red flag of Global 2000. It was a very controversial report, you know."

Mavroules, however, is not yet afraid to praise Global 2000 by name.

"Whereas the Global 2000 study concluded that the ability of the Earth to sustain life will have severely deteriorated by the end of the century, and that prompt and vigorous changes in public policy are necessary now to avert disaster. . . .

"Resolved . . . that it is the sense of the Congress that the executive branch take immediate action to systematically coordinate and improve its projections of world population, resource and environmental trends, and their analysis, as outlined in Global 2000."

Democrats seek bipartisan policy

House Democrats led by Majority Leader Rep. Jim Wright (D-Tex.) attempting to win the Democratic Party to a bipartisan approach to U.S. foreign policy in Central America. In an extraordinary House session following the President's April 27 address to a joint session of Congress, Democratic Whip Rep. Bill Alexander (D-Ark.),

quested and organized the session, opened the remarks by stating that "it has been in the tradition of the Congress since the beginning of this nation that the security of our country as well as the protection of freedom throughout the world should be shared with bipartisan support."

Wright, who castigated the Democratic Party for its "response" to the President, stated that "fundamentally, I agree with the basic precepts set forth in [the President's] speech." Wright cautioned that "we have a responsibility, if we embark upon this course, to persevere and not to grow weary in well doing."

The Democrats who spoke next had heretofore been highly critical of the administration's policy. Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.),

ber of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that "an effort has been made to start as of several days ago . . . in the committee on foreign affairs . . . to see if we can truly come together to form a consensus and a policy that the administration can go along with."

Even Rep. Michael Barnes (D-Md.),

Subcommittee on Inter-American Affairs and one of the strongest Reagan critics, said that he "was very pleased by the general thrust and tone of President Reagan's address. . . ."

Ruckelshaus exposed

The responsibility of Environmental Protection Agency nominee William Ruckelshaus for the deaths of tens of millions of people by disease in the developing sector was laid bare May 3 before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in the first day of hearings on Ruckelshaus's nomination.

Despite heavy-handed efforts by committee chairman Robert Stafford (R-Vt.)

lished" environmental groups, a National Democratic Policy Committee representative detailed the genocidal motivation of the Ruckelshaus decision to ban DDT, which was responsible for the resurgence of malaria and other water-borne diseases in the developing sector. The witness warned the committee that "Ruckelshaus will function within the administration as an emissary of those Eastern Establishment or Kissinger Republicans who are out to undercut the President."

Representatives of the Sierra Club, Environmental Action, the National Wildlife Federation, the Natural Resources Defense Fund, and the Audubon Society—with whom Ruckelshaus conspired in his DDT ban—found points of "concern" over Ruckelshaus positions on various technical and environmental issues, but had privately made Ruckelshaus the first choice of the environmentalist lobby.

Actual opponents of the Ruckelshaus nomination, however, had to fight their way into the hearing schedule—in some instances only after the intervention of other congressmen. The Club of Life was denied an opportunity to testify, despite the direct request of one senator.

The concluding panel, composed

of Dr. Irwin Tucker of the National Council for Environmental Balance, Dr. Marilyn Stanton of the Spokane County Air Pollution Authority, the NDPC, and Michael Bennet, presented scientific opposition to Ruckelshaus's policies. Dr. Tucker reviewed the totally capricious decision made by Ruckelshaus in the 1972 DDT case, which ignored the conclusions of 10 months of scientific testimony and his own hearing examiner. Tucker quoted from Ruckelshaus's own justification for the decisions, "decisions by the government involving the use of toxic substances are political with a small 'p' The ultimate judgment remains political."

When Ruckelshaus testified before the committee May 4, he declared that he had been told by the White House that he was free to carry out policy as he saw fit and intended to do so. "I couldn't get any more assurances than I did," he told the committee, which is expected to approve his nomination and set up a confirmation by the full Senate.

"I think that the EPA is crippled, . . ." he stated. "If I didn't believe that I would not be back here. There will be no hit lists, there will be no big "P" political decisions, there will be no sweetheart deals," he claimed. Ruckelshaus further announced that he would recruit his own staff and would have veto power over all environmentally related appointments by the administration.

Senators discuss space defense

The Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces held its first hearing on the policy of space-based ballistic

missile defense systems May 2. While proponents of some kind of space-based system dominated the hearing, the discussion was marred by lack of clarity as to the direction the country must take in the wake of President Reagan's historic March 23 speech.

Senators Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) spoke in terms of broad support for the President's efforts to abandon the policy of MAD in favor of strategic defense. However, Wallop questioned the efficacy of the proposals. Most significantly, he parted company with the President and the Secretary of Defense on the issue of joint development and/or deployment of such systems with the Soviets, stating, "I wish the President had not said that [we might give these technologies to the Soviets]."

Senator Armstrong was less specific in his proposals, but gave an impassioned defense of the President's decision to drop MAD. Citing various historical examples of technological breakthroughs affecting military strategy, Armstrong noted that in Tudor England the national bank played an important role in the creation of the Elizabethan navy.

Subcommittee Chairman John Warner (R-Va.), support for the President's initiative and who has fought for additional funding for directed-energy weapons systems, asked a series of questions reflecting concern over a "European disengagement" from the United States.

Capsule updates on major legislation

• The quota increase for the International Monetary Fund (I) advanced in both the House and Senate the week of April 2. The Senate Bank-

ing Committee reported its IMF bill, S.695, to the full Senate "without objection." Senators Armstrong (R-Colo.), Hawkins (R-Fla.),

"present."
The House Banking Subcommittee on International Trade, Investment and Monetary Policy passed the IMF bill, H.R.2756, and sent it to the full Banking Committee by voice vote May 5. The full House Banking Committee is expected to mark up the IMF bill on May 9.

• The Labor Management Corrupt Practices and Labor Racketeering Act of 1983, S.366, the so-called Nunn bill, which would remove any convicted union official from office before he could appeal his case, passed out of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee unanimously on May 3. The reputed friend of labor Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) for the bill. The bill is expected to come before the full Senate no later than late May.

• Former Associate Attorney General Rudolph Giuliani was confirmed as the new U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York in Senate floor action on May 4. Despite efforts by the National Democratic Policy Committee and trade unionists from around the country to force an in-depth examination of Giuliani's role in the Abscam and Brilab witchhunts against political and labor officials, the Senate Judiciary Committee had reported the Giuliani nomination out without dissent. The full Senate routinely accepted the nomination with little discussion. Giuliani, who came out of the notorious Southern District prior to his Justice Department appointment, presided over the railroading of New Jersey Democrat Harrison Williams out of the Senate in 1982.