

National News

Administration calls for laser development

The Reagan administration took the opportunity of the annual Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (CLEO), held in Baltimore May 17-20, to tell U.S. laser and optical engineering firms that they would be expected to solve the problems of laser anti-missile weapons over the near future. The conference occurred within a week of a Washington press conference in which Dr. Richard DeLauer, Defense Department Undersecretary for Research and Engineering, announced that "80 percent" of an ABM research and development budget, rising to \$3 billion by fiscal 1985, would go into development of advanced laser systems.

Major Gen. Donald Lamberson, head of the Directed Energy Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, addressed the CLEO conference for the administration. Lamberson "issued an administration challenge to the optics community, and he appears to have the dollars to back up his request," according to the post-conference press release of the sponsoring organizations, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Optical Society of America.

Lamberson predicted, as DeLauer had, that more than \$2 billion would be spent on directed-energy beams, aside from other components of ABM systems, by FY1985, which begins next summer. He called on the industry to demonstrate "an order of magnitude improvement over currently planned demonstration levels in mirror surface figuring, beam control, beam 'cleanup,' and beam 'jitter' on target," to achieve necessary gains in "focusing to small spot sizes at very long distances."

Successful laser test in space

U.S. defense intelligence sources report that a test has been conducted in space of a critical component of the U.S. beam weapon anti-missile defense system.

According to an article in the authoritative journal *Aviation Week* that appeared at the time of the test, the Space Shuttle SS-5 carried an infra-red telescope as its classified military payload in the summer 1982 flight. *Aviation Week* further reported that a laser was fixed to the telescope, for undisclosed purposes. Other press coverage at the time of the Shuttle flight spoke of a test, for undisclosed purposes, of the pointing of lasers.

Intelligence sources report that the test, which was completely successful, was a test of the pointing and tracking required to shoot down missiles in the ascent phase of flight with an x-ray laser. Such tests, as well as tests of other components of an x-ray laser system conducted on the ground, were said to have convinced President Reagan and his advisers that a beam weapon anti-ballistic missile system was feasible.

Kirkland opposes defense policy

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland told the national press corps assembled May 24 for the opening of the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Baltimore that he did not support President Reagan's program to build a beam weapon anti-ballistic missile defense system.

Kirkland, asked by a reporter from *EIR* if he would support a beam-weapons development program "since a large research and development program for laser engineering and its technological spin-offs in the civilian economy will create more than 2 million skilled jobs for American workers," replied, "No."

More cautious sounds are coming from the AFL-CIO headquarters on the beam weapons question. An aide to Kirkland admitted that there were many questions from union leaders, especially in the building trades, about the Reagan program. "We have to tell them something that won't get them ticked off," said the aide.

"Our position is somewhat complicated," he stated, constantly referring to President Reagan's March 23 speech announcing the beam weapons program as "Star Wars proposals."

"On the one hand, we feel that it would

be very good if we did as the President suggested and explored whether such a missile defense system based in space that could end the nuclear missile threat was feasible.

"On the other hand, Lane feels that the President presented the ideas in a politically charged manner, as a cheap trick to get votes for a suspect defense package. The ballistic missile defense is really pie-in-the-sky to talk about when we have to make tough decisions now about the budget and weapons programs where the evidence is in. What we want Reagan to do is specify what program he wants on this defensive weapons program and put a price tag on it."

KGB pulls the strings at freeze conferences

Two conferences held May 24 in Baltimore and Minneapolis gave the lie to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's April report that the Soviet KGB does not exercise any significant control over the U.S. nuclear freeze movement. At both conferences, high-level Soviet representatives attacked President Reagan as a war-monger, and declared that the U.S.S.R. will not allow the United States to regain strategic parity.

The Baltimore conference, held for "Peace with Justice Week," was a direct attack on President Reagan's anti-missile defense policy. It was opened by Alex Ilichev, the foreign policy attaché of the Soviet Embassy. Ilichev began by attacking Reagan's Mutually Assured Survival defense policy as a "Star Wars" gambit which, he claimed in the face of repeated statements by both the President and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, was designed to give the United States strategic superiority.

Admiral Eugene Carroll, a member of the Center for Defense Information disarmament think tank, and a former aide to Alexander Haig, repeated Soviet leader Yuri Andropov's lie that beam weapons are a "first-strike" capability. The U.S. population is being manipulated by Secretary Weinberg to fear the Soviets, Carroll stated. But Russian policy has always been the same: "It doesn't matter if it's Soviet Russia or Tsarist Russia—the policy is to defend the motherland. . . . The question is not do we

trust the Russians, but can they trust us?"

The Minneapolis conference, jointly sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. and Georgii Arbatov's U.S.-Canada Institute in Moscow, was set up one year ago during a visit to the Soviet Union to arrange for peace demonstrations by a delegation headed by Bishop Paul Moore of the Episcopalian Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Marcus Raskin of the Institute for Policy Studies, and Mayor Donald Fraser of Minneapolis, a member of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee.

The Soviet delegation to Minneapolis included top officials such as Gen. Michael Milshtein, a member of the Palme Commission and the U.S.-Canada Institute who has been identified in the Swedish press as a KGB general; V. Kobyshev from the Central Committee International Information Department; Fyodor Burlatskii, a close associate of Yuri Andropov for two decades, who in 1967 was one of the first Soviet propagandists to promote limitation on the development of anti-ballistic-missile systems. More recently Burlatskii has run the Soviet liaison to the British Labour Party. About a dozen others of comparable rank attended, including Russian Orthodox Church Bishop Serafin of Penza, of the Moscow Patriarchate. N. Mostovets, head of a section of the Central Committee's International Department, was to have been part of the delegation, but was denied a visa.

U.S. hosts included Aspen Institute head Harlan Cleveland, Richard Barnet and Marcus Raskin from IPS, Randall Forsberg from the Institute for Disarmament Studies and a national organizer for the freeze movement, Bishop Moore, Carter administration arms negotiator Paul Warnke, and Herbert Scoville, former assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Senator Goldwater wants 'budget process' repealed

Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) said that he is considering submitting legislation to end the so-called congressional budget process.

Goldwater, appearing on the May 22

CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program, also revealed that he had been advised by Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) to go home rather than stay in Washington for a crucial vote on the Senate budget resolution the week of May 16. The bill, opposed by both Goldwater and President Reagan, passed on May 20 by 50-49.

Goldwater described the budget process, which has virtually ended substantive committee debate over the real economic and social value of proposed projects and programs in favor of juggling numbers within the parameters of a general budget resolution, as "a bad joke."

Wallop endorses Scowcroft report

As the U.S. Congress has begun to seriously debate proposals for shifting strategic doctrine from Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) to a strategic defense policy, Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) endorsed the Scowcroft Commission report on the Senate floor debate on the MX on May 24, and made statements aimed at undermining any policy shift away from the MAD doctrine.

Wallop, who has heretofore advocated the development of a directed-energy defense system in statements on the floor of Congress, called MAD "wrong, both morally and strategically. . . . But that is not the issue today. Those of us concerned with these issues argue about how quickly space defense systems can be operational, but they are not in the 1986 initial operational capacity time frame."

Wallop then showed the real drift of his argument. "The Scowcroft Commission has mapped a path for our strategic forces for the near term, positive choices that we can take now," he stated.

Wallop asserted that the Soviets had accepted the MAD doctrine, implying that they were not committed to achieving strategic superiority over the United States—something virtually no senator in his self-identified circle of conservatives believes. Wallop stated that "we had agreed with each other—we and the Soviet Union—on a doctrine espoused and devised by Robert McNamara to hold our civilian populations hostage."

Briefly

● **NEW YORK** magazine claims a new scandal involving alleged Nazi papers has arisen, this time about the authenticity of *The Goebbels Diaries, 1939-1941*, published this year by G.P. Putnam's Sons. In its May 30 issue, *New York* states that the Goebbels papers have not been termed a forgery, but their acquisition by the publishing company involved dealings as shady as those uncovered in the recent scandal over phony Adolf Hitler diaries published by *Stern* magazine in West Germany. The diaries were "apparently leaked to the West by a department head at an East Berlin Institute—which may explain why there are no entries for May 31 through October 8, 1939, a period when one of the most acute episodes in Soviet history, Stalin's non-aggression pact with Hitler, took place."

● **THE REAGAN** administration request that Japan ease its extensive health and safety inspections on imported goods was complied with when the Japanese Diet passed a bill May 28. Now new inspections are not required for each shipment of a product, with some exceptions. Many goods can also be certified by U.S. authorities as meeting Japanese standards. Companies, however, still cannot "self-certify" their products as meeting the standards. U.S. officials say they will object to the latter limitation.

● **THOMAS O. ENDERS** resigned May 27 as Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Interamerican Affairs, reportedly because of "policy differences" with members of the White House staff. The dismissal of Enders, a long-time Kissinger protégé, could improve administration handling of the crisis in Central America. Enders has been appointed U.S. ambassador to Spain. His replacement at the Statement Department will be the current ambassador to Brazil, Langhorne Motley.