

Andropov Democrats back from U.S.S.R. with slingshots

by Ronald Kokinda in Washington, D.C.

Taking advantage of the August congressional recess, Democratic senators, congressmen, and several presidential aspirants recently visited two areas of major U.S. foreign policy concern, the Soviet Union and Central America. Their resulting political pronouncements and the press play they have received from these trips forebode an attempt by the Democratic Party leadership to portray President Reagan as a reckless "warmonger."

For his part, President Reagan is showing signs of cutting the ground out from under the peace movement as presently constituted. For the first time since the Scrowcroft Commission approach to arms control came to overshadow the President's March 23 defense strategy initiative, he seems to have begun an aggressive organizing effort for beam weapons development, a policy which could in fact bring peace (see Special Report).

These Democratic travelers came back Aug. 22 identifying Soviet Party leader Yuri Andropov as a "man of peace," and poised to help the Soviets back Reagan down.

On Aug. 18, Andropov took the occasion of a visit by nine Democratic senators to call for a "complete" ban on the research and development of "any space-based weapons for hitting targets on Earth, in the air or in outer space." He claimed that the Soviet Union would impose a "unilateral moratorium" on the deployment of its "killer satellites" as long as the U.S. refrained from deploying its anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons, which will be significantly more effective and which are scheduled for testing this fall. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a former Averell Harriman campaign

chairman, responded—with a brief qualifier that this might be an Andropov ploy to "forestall U.S. tests"—that Andropov's proposal "should be examined seriously [in order to determine] whether it is a genuine offer."

Pell was accompanied by Paul Sarbanes (Md.); Don Riegle (Mich.); Howard Metzenbaum (Ohio), James Sasser (Tenn.), who is coordinating John Glenn's campaign in the South; Russell Long (La.); Patrick Leahy (Vt.); Dennis DeConcini (Ariz.); and Dale Bumpers (Ark.), whose wife heads the KGB-contaminated women's "disarmament through friendship" organization known as Peace Links.

Banning space-directed weapons

Andropov's formulation was almost identical to the text of Senate Joint Resolution 129, which the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed on July 19. Originally cosponsored by Pell, Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.), and Alan Cranston (D-Cal.), along with Kissinger Republicans Larry Pressler (S.D.) and Charles Mathias (Md.), the resolution seeks an immediate moratorium and a permanent treaty on the testing and deployment of anti-satellite weapons as well as negotiations for a treaty "prohibiting the testing, production, deployment, or use of any space-directed or space-based weapons system which is designed to inflict injury or cause any other form of damage on the Earth, in the atmosphere, or on objects placed in space." This "protect the ICBM" defense of the Mutually Assured Destruction doctrine was lifted from a draft ASAT treaty written by the Union of Concerned Scientists—a conduit of the KGB-contaminated Pugwash Conference scientific circles.

With Andropov's boost, renewed attempts will be made to get Senate floor action on S.J.R. 129. As part of this Capitol Hill offensive, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is also scheduled on Sept. 20 to consider the nuclear freeze resolution, cosponsored by Senators Kennedy (D-Mass.), Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), Pell, Tsongas, Sarbanes and others. Tsongas has already succeeded in attaching an amendment to the defense authorization bill calling for "good faith" efforts to negotiate an ASAT treaty prior to the testing of the U.S. ASAT weapon. This language has reportedly been retained in the House-Senate conference report, which will come to a up-or-down vote when Congress returns from recess. Opponents of the President's defense modernization program will also probably force a number of votes on the House and Senate appropriations bills on the MX, the Pershing IIs, the ASAT, and other defense systems.

The day before he received the senators, Andropov met with William Winpisinger, head of the International Association of Machinists and a leader of the Socialist International; TASS reported that their meeting took place in a "warm and friendly atmosphere."

At home, presidential aspirant Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) has been cultivating both an image as a "middle of the road" type, his major selling point over Jimmy Carter's Vice-President, and also as "no Johnny-come-lately to the peace movement." Glenn appeared at the August peace conference in Iowa, and his top advisers say nuclear nonproliferation will be the centerpiece of his campaign. One Glenn strategist confirmed that Glenn thinks "there is a bigger danger posed to peace by the proliferation of nuclear weapons to third countries than by the Soviets," and that Glenn is totally "opposed to any militarization of space," including directed energy beam systems. Glenn would like to "sit down with the Soviets and work out a ban on weapons in space," the adviser said. "Glenn is the real Mr. Star Wars, and he realizes that space is not the place for weapons, as opposed to the false Mr. Star Wars [Reagan] who wants to put weapons in space."

The Central America front

This "paint Reagan as a warmonger" offensive has a similar platform in Central America, where Democratic spokesmen have made a series of Democratic trips. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), will tour the area Sept. 6-9. Alan Cranston, in an Aug. 22 press conference upon returning from a tour of the region, called upon the administration to withdraw "the enormous naval flotilla" of U.S. ships from the region, charging that "tensions have increased markedly" because of the Reagan policy. "It's time the U.S. government pursued a dialogue with Cuba through the Contadora process," Cranston said, "because no lasting solution can be reached without the involvement of Cuba and the United States. At some point, directly or indirectly, there has to be some form of communication." Cranston underlined his point that "Reagan's strategy of tough talk and guns" was "undermining Contadora." "To continue down the path of brute force fighting the inev-

itable tide of social change in Latin America means the United States will always be on the wrong side."

This is the grossest hypocrisy on all counts. The same Harriman Democrats who blast U.S. military involvement in Central America have pushed the Boland-Zablocki amendment in the House, which calls for an \$80 million program of "overt" U.S. military operations to interdict arms flows from Nicaragua and Cuba—hardly the approach of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela); which wants the superpowers out of the region. Indeed, the Boland-Zablocki approach would leave Nicaragua an untouched sanctuary for arms supplies while requiring American military efforts to cut off arms flows to other countries, a strategy which, as Republicans have pointed out, failed in Vietnam.

As for "social change" in Ibero-America, the Harriman Democrats have done nothing to halt the blockage of all U.S. aid to Guyana, which condemns that nation to hunger and misery. They are avid supporters of "appropriate technologies" and "population reduction," euphemisms for Third World genocide which emerged under the Carter administration. They cynically relish every blunder the White House has made in Central America, seeking to use it against the President, instead of to rescue the people of the region.

The four Democratic front-runners, Mondale, Hart, Glenn, and Cranston, have been competing for advisers on Central America from the same group that took the foreign policy helm under Carter and presided over the takeover of the anti-technology Sandinista Jesuits in Nicaragua. Names that have surfaced in this talent search include Lawrence Pezzullo, ambassador to Nicaragua before and after the Sandinista takeover; Wayne S. Smith, former head of the U.S. interest section in Havana, who resigned to protest the Reagan attitude toward Cuba; Robert Pastor, an NSC staffer during the Carter years; Viron Vaky, assistant secretary of State under Carter; Profs. Jorge Dominguez of Harvard and Wayne Cornelius of Stanford University; Ambler Moss, former ambassador to Panama; and Sally Shelton, a Carter deputy assistant Secretary of State for Central America.

Senator Paul Tsongas, visiting Managua, Nicaragua, went so far as to invite junta leader Daniel Ortega to visit the United States as his guest. Tsongas, who has endorsed John Glenn, added that Ortega had accepted the invitation. Rep. Frederick Boucher (D-Va.), who visited Nicaragua with Reps. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Frank Harrison (D-Pa.), and Thomas Carper (D-Del.), reported to the press Ortega's justification that the military buildup backed by the Soviets and Cubans was a response to the U.S. show of force. Boucher and his colleagues recommended immediate negotiations with Nicaragua, ending U.S. aid to the "contra" rebels, and pressure on the U.S.-allied El Salvador government to accelerate its agricultural reforms.

Some Capitol Hill observers were wondering why these legislators didn't simply make Andropov's announcements for him from the steps of the Capitol, and save the taxpayers some travel money.