

## **Congressional Closeup** by Ronald Kokinda and Susan Kokinda

### **Stratton: House is like 1936 British appeasers**

A leading advocate of a strong U.S. defense, Rep. Sam Stratton (D-N.Y.), told an American Defense Preparedness Association luncheon in Washington on March 29 that the top target of the anti-defense crowd in the Congress is the MX missile. They are trying to "outdo even the British House of Commons in 1936" in their race for appeasement, Stratton said.

Stratton outlined the Soviet military edge over the United States in conventional, theatre, and strategic areas and noted that "all congressmen are cleared to get that type of information. But few of them seem to bother. If Americans saw the charts, their hair would curl. The Soviets are not only ahead of us in numbers but in performance as well. We must speak out frankly."

Stratton criticized the Business Council and the Grace Commission for their attacks on defense spending, and warned that an increased U.S. defense effort was crucial to prevent the "separation" of Europe from the United States, noting that "even Margaret Thatcher and Helmut Kohl" are urging arms control concessions on us because they "realize the Soviets' real military edge."

### **Kissinger scored before Senate subcommittee**

Henry Kissinger's role in sabotaging U.S. strategic deterrence became a point of open discussion in the Senate Defense Appropriations subcommittee on March 28. The subcommittee, hearing witnesses on the topic of Soviet violations of arms control treat-

ties, was chaired by Sen. Jim McClure (R-Idaho) who has led the Senate effort to bring Soviet violations to light, rather than by its budget-cutting chairman, Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

At the very end of the hearing, McClure asked retired Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, "It is my understanding that there was a secret Kissinger-Brezhnev agreement added to the SALT I treaty, which gave away the U.S. right to deploy three additional submarines and a number of Titan II ICBMs. Could you elaborate on that?" Zumwalt replied, "That is true. And for the record I want to say that that information was withheld from the Joint Chiefs of Staff until after we had testified on Capitol Hill in favor of the treaty." McClure went on, "Is it not also the case that the United States is now going even further and unilaterally dismantling 54 Titan IIs, 160 Polaris SLBMs and 32 Posiedon SLBMs, and that this unilateral action along with those conceded in the Kissinger agreement has significantly reduced the U.S. deterrence?" Zumwalt answered simply, "Yes."

In powerful testimony preceding this exchange, Zumwalt had detailed not only the extent of Soviet treaty violations, but also their military implications. Zumwalt stated bluntly that the Soviets now have a first strike capability, that they are 10 years ahead of the U.S. in both offensive and defensive capabilities, and that "The Soviets may, in just another year's time, be able to defend over one-third of both their population and offensive forces from the U.S. retaliatory deterrent!" Zumwalt urged the administration to respond to the treaty violations in an escalating fashion leading up to abrogation. Throughout the hearing, Zumwalt, McClure and Pentagon spokesman Richard Perle compared

the arms-control establishment to the British pacifists of the 1930s who had allowed Hitler to rearm Germany unimpeded.

McClure reported during the hearing that he and five other senators had sent a letter to Defense Secretary Weinberger on March 1 asking him to follow up on the administration's Soviet treaty violations report with an analysis of the military implications of those violations.

### **Senators to make World Bank even worse?**

An effort by the international environmental lobby to impose further anti-development constraints on the Malthusian policies of the World Bank has begun to gain momentum. Representatives of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, the Izaak Walton League, the National Audubon Society, and the Environmental Defense Fund testified before the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 20 and urged that "environmental considerations" and "protection of indigenous peoples" be taken into account by the World Bank when providing loans for development projects in the Third World. Congress must vote soon on renewing the U.S. contribution to the World Bank.

Environmental groups argued that large, capital-intensive development projects are damaging to the environment and disruptive of local (backward) cultures. While the World Bank has never been known to press such a development approach, what little ac-

tivity it does carry out of a capital-intensive or semi-capital intensive character is too much for the environmentalists.

International Policy Subcommittee chairman Charles Mathias (R-Md.), a leading supporter of the genocidal policies of the *Global 2000 Report* and the Global Tomorrow Coalition, is said to be amenable to including language in the committee report mandating the World Bank to take such steps, but is cautious about an actual floor amendment to the legislation. That is likely to be very controversial, and Mathias appears to be anxious to prevent the bill from being encumbered by different amendments.

Subcommittee chairman Bob Kasten (R-Wisc.), an alleged conservative Republican, told the witnesses that their concerns were justified and that they should work with his staff to come up with appropriate remedies.

## **KGB kooks demand halt to beam weapons**

Delivering on his promise to make outer space safe for intercontinental ballistic missiles, a promise delivered in a speech on the House floor on March 21, Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) announced the formation of a Coalition for the Peaceful Uses of Space on March 28 and simultaneously introduced legislation demanding that the United States adhere to Henry Kissinger's Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Brown's Coalition includes Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.) and 12 fellow congressmen. The Coalition also includes the Soviet front group, the Women's Strike for Peace, and a variety of "scientific" groups spawned by the Soviet's Pugwash Conference

back channel such as the the Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Committee for National Security, and the Institute for Security and Cooperation in Outer Space.

In a press conference on March 28, Brown said: "The public is being presented with the dangerous illusion that the escalation of the arms race into space can solve our problems here on earth. However, a careful analysis of Star Wars technologies reveals that these exotic space weapons . . . will decrease our national security." The coalition will pursue a U.S.-U.S.R.R. test moratorium on anti-satellite weapons, and a funding ceiling for the President's Strategic Defense Initiative for beam weapons.

Brown's legislation is being cosponsored by 57 other congressmen. Brown charged that "this administration is threatening the only strategic arms treaty ratified between the United States and the Soviet Union with its 'Star Wars' fantasy. . . . Most disturbing about the President's Star Wars proposal is the certainty that testing and deployment of ballistic missile defense technologies would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty." The ABM treaty does not cover weapons based on "new physical principles."

## **Senate bill targets farms for further destruction**

The Senate passed legislation making changes in the 1981 farm bill on March 22 by a vote of 78 to 10 which slashes target prices for various farm commodities. The cuts come as it is estimated that farm income could drop by 25% over 1983.

Wheat target prices are cut 37¢ a bushel over 1984 and 1985 as compared with current law; corn target prices will be frozen for 1984 and then drop 15¢ below current law. Rice drops 50¢ in target price for 1985. The secretary of agriculture is also provided with discretionary powers to impose further production acreage reductions from 5-25% if carryover supplies reach specified levels.

Senator John Melcher (D-Mont.), said the fact that the "wheat producers of this country are getting a triple whammy" including not only the 1984 and 1985 reductions but also a USDA-imposed cut in their loan rates of 35¢ per bushel. Sen. Ed Zorinsky (D-Neb.) complained bitterly that farms had planned, and bankers had lent, on the basis of the 1981 farm bill. Zorinsky pointed out that the saving to the federal budget amount to "less than \$1 billion a year."

Testifying on March 28 before the Agriculture Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, the National Democratic Policy Committee slammed U.S. farm policy. The NDPC spokesman said, "The United States is in a depression, the agriculture sector is in a depression, and we've got a global food shortage on our hands that is going to mean food shortages in this nation next year unless we undertake a defense and economic mobilization like we did from 1939 to 1943." Appropriations Committee chairman Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.) told the NDPC, "I agree with you every time you come up here . . . but we appropriate the money to help farms and the administration won't spend it. . . . We gave the secretary of agriculture the power to stop foreclosures and he won't use it. I don't know what else we can do."