

National News

Universities chosen for SDI research

Five universities have been chosen by the Defense Department for a \$19 million research project to develop new technologies for President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

According to a letter that Gen. James Abrahamson, who heads Reagan's SDI program, sent to the Texas congressional delegation on Feb. 27, the five schools will be Texas Tech in Lubbock, the University of Texas at Arlington, the Polytechnic Institute of New York in Brooklyn, the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Auburn University in Alabama.

The five schools will take part in a four-year research project to develop the technologies for powering rockets carrying space weapons.

General warns of Soviet operations on U.S. soil

General Wallace H. Nutting, commander in chief of the U.S. Readiness Command, told a Senate panel on March 1 that there is a very real threat of Soviet spetsnaz (special forces) operations in the United States itself. He said that United States is particularly vulnerable to these deployments, because "we today do not have a single soldier, airman, or sailor solely dedicated to the security mission within the United States."

He disclosed that the U.S. Readiness Command has been given a new mission by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to list key U.S. industrial facilities, and to be prepared to provide protection to those facilities, if required, against spetsnaz or related kinds of sabotage.

He described the operations "composed of KGB infiltration teams, possibly in-place agents and the special purpose forces of the GRU [Soviet military intelligence], known as spetsnaz," who "are tasked to perform acts of sabotage and assassination deep in

the enemy's base. . . . Their overall goal would be to degrade or destroy the U.S. war-waging capability."

Florida governor hits David Stockman

Florida Gov. Robert Graham called a press conference on Feb. 26 to denounce budget director David Stockman for his statement that current U.S. radar capabilities are adequate to detect incoming airplanes and the AWAC system is not needed. The director of the Office of Management and the Budget is opposing President Reagan's proposal to allocate \$100 million to deploy six older AWACs radar-surveillance systems to monitor air-traffic in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida coastline.

Under current U.S. radar capabilities, Governor Graham said, in Florida low-flying planes have gone largely undetected. Calling drug-trafficking a threat to national security, Graham suggested that perhaps Russia should purchase low-technology airplanes, so that they could enter U.S. airspace without detection.

AWACs, with their "down-seeing" radar and ability to fly for 16 hours without refueling, would allow for identification of all boats and airplanes—no matter how low they were flying—entering U.S. territorial waters.

General Rogers: Stop Nunn amendment

Gen. Bernard Rogers, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Europe Command, called on Congress on March 1 to reject any further attempts by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and his collaborators to force a U.S. troop withdrawal from Europe.

"Don't pass the Nunn amendment!" Rogers warned in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee. "It's counterproductive and punitive." In heated exchanges with Nunn and Sen. Carl Levin (D-

Mich.) on the issue, Rogers firmly rejected charges that European allies aren't meeting their obligations to the alliance. "No, I don't agree that the Europeans aren't doing their fair share [of NATO]. I would agree with Secretary Weinberger that the Europeans are carrying an equitable share of the burden."

Nunn, Levin, and several other senators have recently indicated that they will make fresh moves to pull out U.S. troops from Europe.

Committee chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) asked Rogers what Europe actually thinks about the administration's Strategic Defense Initiative. "There is still considerable confusion," the General replied. "But those of our allies who do understand it are shifting from opposing it to supporting research, although they want to be consulted before it is deployed." The Europeans' key concern, Rogers stressed, is whether the SDI could be used to defend Europe. "They've been told by Jay Keyworth [Reagan's science adviser] and Edward Teller that it could be, if the research leads to the development of a defense against Soviet SS-20s. This has caused our allies to become increasingly supportive" of the program, and "more interested in the applications of SDI research and development to areas other than the SDI."

Military says yes to 'right to die' ruling

A cancer patient at the Walter Reed Medical Center was given the right to die by a Washington, D.C. Federal District Court judge Feb. 28. Under Judge Thomas Jackson's ruling, life support devices must be removed from 71-year-old cancer patient Martha Tune of Falls Church, Virginia, who is described by her lawyer as a "very feisty, spirited lady who is very lucid."

According to assistant U.S. Attorney John Birch, "This is the first time a ruling has involved a military installation."

Mrs. Tune petitioned the court, saying that the doctors at Walter Reed were sympathetic to her desire "to die a natural death" but were advised Army policy is "that with-

drawal of a life support from a patient in a military treatment facility is not permitted.”

According to Birch, the government “took no position as to whether the court could or should issue the release she sought.” He said there will be no appeal.

Helms calls for buy out of CBS TV

North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms March 1 called for support in taking over CBS-TV by buying up its stock so as to impose “fairness and objectivity” on the network. Senator Helms made the call at a Washington, D.C. meeting of the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Helms accused CBS of character assassination and of psychological warfare against the American people through attempting to set the agenda for Congress and the President. Helms said he was considering a Responsible Free Press Act of 1985.

More steps toward Democrats' disintegration

In defiance of Democratic Party National Chairman Paul Kirk, moderate and conservative Democrats have bolted to form a “Democratic Leadership Council” within the Party. The grouping, which is largely composed of southern and western Democratic governors and members of Congress, announced the formation of the council on March 28.

A strategist close to Kirk noted: “The fear of a lot of people is that this group wants to take the cream of the party’s leadership and leave Kirk with Jesse Jackson and the single-issue interest groups.”

This supposed “cream of the party’s leadership” is unfortunately not much better than the Kennedy machine’s Kirk. One of the council’s new leaders, Virginia Gov. Charles Robb, on Feb. 24 at a meeting of the National Governors Association, called for gouging President Reagan’s defense

budget and freezing entitlement programs, including Social Security. Another of the big names in the council, Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt, used the same conference to issue a blood curdling call to reduce Medicare, Social Security, and related programs—the precise areas in which cuts would cause a precipitous rise in the death rate among older Americans.

When some of the group went to the White House to lay their demands before the President, Reagan rejected outright Pentagon cuts and a Social Security freeze.

U.S. gives aircraft to Mexico to fight drugs

The U.S. government has donated 70 used aircraft and helicopters to the Mexican government to be used in Mexico’s war on drugs. U.S. Ambassador John Gavin presented the \$20 million gift on March 1.

The donation includes 47 Bell helicopters (models 206 and 212), 18 Cessna 206 aircraft, three “Twin Otters,” one twin motor Beech King Air, and one Lear Jet.

Gelb persona non grata at State Department

The New York Times’ Leslie Gelb has become a non-person for the State Department’s Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs, which he once headed, because Gelb put out an article blowing classified information on U.S. war-contingency plans. Gelb, who worked for the State Department under the Carter-Mondale administration, is the *Times’* Washington correspondent.

Current politico-military affairs director Lt. Gen. John Chain, Jr., ordered his 100-person staff the last week in February to refrain from speaking to Gelb, and Gelb’s official photograph, displayed in the Bureau’s waiting room along with other past directors, has now been removed, with a note on it saying it was taken down “for cause.”

Briefly

● **WHY** is Secretary of State George Shultz meeting with William Weld—“Mr. Cover-Up” in the money laundering between the Bank of Boston and Crédit Suisse—to discuss the problem of international narcotics trafficking? According to the State Department, the meeting will take place on March 6.

● **ROBERT REILL** hosted a huge formal waltzing ball at the OAS in order to conjure up the spirit of the “peace” following the 1815 Congress of Vienna. Reill, White House advisor and agent for the Tradition, Family, and Property cult, sounded like Henry Kissinger in explaining the event: “Between the Congress of Vienna and the outbreak of World War I, the world enjoyed an unequalled period of grace and tranquility. Can it be only coincidence that it was then that the waltz reached the apex of its popularity.”

● **OLIVER REVELL**, second in command of the FBI, is reportedly enlisting journalists who will retail KGB slanders against Lyndon LaRouche and his associates. What is the FBI doing spreading the KGB line against LaRouche?

● **SCIENTIFIC SOURCES** report that the latest battle for the Strategic Defense Initiative is being fought over the use of bomb-pumped beam weapons such as the x-ray laser. Of course, High Frontier has been attacking nuclear SDI all along, but the newer attacks are apparently even coming from President Reagan and Caspar Weinberger. “The defense establishment sees that they have a very popular thing and they want to keep it clean and not involve dirty nuclear weapons,” one source quipped.