

National News

Who says President Reagan is a 'lame duck'?

Georgii Arbatov is telling everyone who will listen, that President Reagan is heading a "lame-duck" administration, which has started to lose key congressional votes, and which has had to accept the paring down of the U.S. defense budget, the London *Guardian's* Moscow correspondent Martin Walker reported on May 15. Arbatov is the director of the Soviet Union's U.S.A. and Canada Institute, and a close associate of Henry Kissinger.

Arbatov is finding substantial agreement for his views among the Washington, D.C. press corps. "Reagan is a lame-duck President, whose influence and magic are beginning to wane," the *Washington Post's* Hobart Rowen wrote on May 16.

Israel's revenge against Reagan

Intelligence sources have reported to *EIR* that the May 12 and 13 *Washington Post* and *New York Times's* front-page leaks of CIA responsibility for a March 8, 1985 car-bombing in Beirut that claimed 80 lives, was the handiwork of the Israeli intelligence services, seeking revenge against President Reagan for his appearance at Bitburg Cemetery in West Germany.

In point of fact, that March 8 action, which was ostensibly an assassination attempt against Shi'ite terrorist leader Fadlallah, was carried out by "counterterror" teams directed by the Israeli Mossad intelligence service. The teams detonated the powerful bomb despite the fact that Fadlallah was nowhere nearby at the time. The immediate Israeli motive was a Shi'ite kamikazi attack against Israeli patrols in southern Lebanon, just days prior to the car bombing.

As the result of the false Israeli "leak" pinning the massacre on the CIA, the Senate Intelligence Committee launched immediate hearings into CIA overseas counterterror

programs—a move that has both Moscow and Tel Aviv chuckling, and has U.S. intelligence hands bracing for a new round of Church Committee-style intelligence-stripping.

Schiller Institute honors journalists

At an awards dinner held in Leesburg, Va. May 11, the Schiller Institute honored two journalists for outstanding work in "educating and informing the public." The Institute's first annual awards for Excellence in Journalism were given to Venezuelan publisher Miguel Angel Capriles, and Cleveland radio talk show host Dr. Morton Downey, Jr.

Capriles, publisher of *Ultimas de Noticias* and *El Mundo* of Caracas, has defended the sovereignty of Ibero-American nations against the international banks and the drug-traffickers. He has fought courageously for a free press in Venezuela. When *Narcotráfico, SA, (Dope, Inc.)*, an *EIR* book exposing the international drug-banking conspiracy, was banned by Venezuelan authorities in February, on orders of the mafia-linked Cisneros family, Capriles fought to make sure that the truth was told.

Downey, host of a nightly talk show at Cleveland's WERE radio, is also known to listeners in North Carolina and Sacramento, Calif., for talk shows he has hosted on WAYS and KFBK radio, respectively. He was the first broadcaster to cover the Ohio banking scandal this year, in which banker Marvin Warner precipitated a run on 71 Ohio banks. He also created a sensation after uncovering Ohio Sen. Howard Metzenbaum's ties to the drug lobby. Metzenbaum, who refused a rebuttal on WERE, has threatened to sue Downey for the broadcast.

In accepting his award, Downey declared, "The saying is that 'the truth will set you free'—but that's only if you hear it. In this time of crisis, we in the honest news media cannot afford to compromise with the truth. . . . We must circulate the news that the *Washington Post* and the *Cleveland (Very) Plain Dealer* refuse to circulate—

because they are owned by those who would compromise the well-being of our nation to the point of treason."

Congressman calls for military to fight drugs

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, has called for expanding the role of the military in fighting drugs. In a two-hour, closed-door meeting with members of his committee and Defense Department officials on May 15, he said, "There's no question in my mind that an expanded military role is needed." It will be necessary, Rangel added, to avoid compromising military readiness and to reimburse the Pentagon for support services.

Several groups have recently called for a stepped-up military role in drug interdiction, including the Southern Governors' Association, the Gulf State Governors' Association, and the National Association for Attorneys General. *EIR* published a call for such a war on drugs in its April 2 issue.

Right-to-Die lobby on legislative offensive

The modern-day advocates of Nazi-style euthanasia—and their backers from the major insurance companies—have recently scored victories in their drive to terminate health care for the "terminally ill" and elderly.

- The Ohio Association for the Freedom to Die has arranged for a bill to be submitted to the state legislature which would allow hospitals to "withhold or discontinue medical measures" from "permanently unconscious persons who have not made living wills or directives."

- The New Jersey State Assembly's Judiciary Committee unanimously approved a bill on May 12 giving legal recognition to living wills. Sponsored by Assemblyman Karl Weidel, the bill establishes the right to living wills, and to medical power of attor-

ney if someone becomes incompetent and terminally ill. It would require hospitals to establish ethics committees to make decisions for incompetent, terminally ill patients. The state Senate will soon consider a bill passed recently in the Assembly, to establish a 25-member commission to study all aspects of the Right-to-Die issue.

● In Massachusetts, the Right-to-Die movement is championing what it calls "the next major case" in the battle "to develop legal precedents for doctors and families around the country." New England Sinai Hospital is being challenged in court for its refusal to abide by a family's desire to murder a 48-year-old patient, by slowly starving him to death.

Father John Paris, S.J., a euthanasia advocate called in as an "expert" witness, told the court that keeping patients alive with food and water is "draining relatives' emotions, consuming time and resources of medical facilities, and straining private and public finances. Insurance companies like Blue Cross pay the bills, but passes [sic] the cost onto other subscribers."

MOVE cult shootout means terror explosion

The fiery confrontation between police and the terrorist MOVE cult in Philadelphia on May 13, is a trigger for broader activation of black separatist and leftist groups for terrorism and riots in the United States. Events surrounding the incident and the reaction of radical groups following the explosion and fire at the MOVE headquarters, establish that the domestic infrastructure for terrorism is already in place for a "hot summer."

Sources report that during the night of May 13, when the MOVE headquarters and some 60 homes in the immediate three-block area in Philadelphia were ablaze in a fire that resulted in the deaths of at least 10 MOVE cult members, threats from black terrorist groups from across the country were being phoned in to the Philadelphia police.

Police tried to evict MOVE members on May 12, after repeated complaints from neighbors about the violent behavior of the group, and were hit with a barrage of gun-

fire, beginning a 12-hour siege. The standoff ended when police finally dropped a shape charge on the roof of the cult's house, to blow a hole in the roof large enough for tear gas canisters. The charge ignited several large drums of gasoline stored in the house, and the house blew up.

MOVE was a 1970s test-tube creation of the American Friends Service Committee's Movement for a New Society, the Wharton School of Management and Behavioral Science, and self-proclaimed "social experimenter" Donald Glassey of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work.

Bishops' letter demands agriculture shutdown

The U.S. Roman Catholic Bishops' Committee on May 14 released a draft statement on agricultural policy, intended as part of the forthcoming document, *Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy Pastoral Letter*.

The 4,000-word statement is at once an endorsement of the grain cartels' plan for shutting down U.S. high-technology agriculture, and a challenge to the theological doctrines of Pope John Paul II.

It suggests that "mandatory" production controls may be necessary to hold down the costs of government aid to farmers, and to distribute the "benefits" of reduced production fairly. The draft blames big technology for contributing to the development of what are described as overly large American farms.

The piece calls for "stewardship of the natural environment"—a coded reference to the U.S. Bishops' environmentalist bias in their dispute with the Pope, who instead endorses the Biblical appeal of Genesis for man's "lordship over nature." (See *Vatican, EIR*, April 23, p. 43).

Archbishop Rembert Weakland, the head of the committee and former international chief of the Benedictine order, says, "Food and agriculture are but one aspect of ecology and good stewardship . . . of limited and exhaustible resources."

● **SUN MYUNG MOON**, the founder of the Unification Church, has been awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Shaw Divinity School in Pennsylvania, which hailed his alleged commitment to Christianity. Moon is serving an 18-month federal prison sentence for tax evasion. School officials insisted that the degree was in no way related to a recent \$30,000 donation from the Unification Church to the independent, predominately black school.

● **CLAIBORNE PELL**, Democratic senator from Rhode Island, sharply denied that terrorism is run from the Soviet Union, in hearings at a joint session of the Senate Foreign Relations and Judiciary Committees on May 12. He repeatedly asked witnesses to cite a "specific example" of "direct evidence linking the Soviet Union to a specific case" of terrorism, rejecting "circumstantial evidence." Pell, during a visit to Moscow in August 1983, was the last Westerner to meet with Yuri Andropov.

● **THE DISCOVERY** space shuttle in its June flight will carry the first experiment related to the Strategic Defense Initiative. An "optical tracking device" will be carried by Discovery's seven-man crew, which will include a Frenchman and a nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

● **WILLIAM BROCK'S** first major appointment as labor secretary, was to name Stephen Schlossberg as Deputy Undersecretary of Labor for Labor-Management Relations. Schlossberg served on the staff of the United Auto Workers before joining a law firm in Washington in 1981. He was a leading figure in the 1970s battle of the UAW and the Anti-Defamation League against Lyndon LaRouche, which included legal actions against *New Solidarity* newspaper. Schlossberg's clients were forced to back down on that case.