

Congressional Closeup by Kathleen Klenetsky

Schroeder bill to cut U.S. forces abroad by 50%

Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) introduced legislation into Congress May 20 that would mandate a nearly 50% cut in the number of American troops stationed abroad over the next five years.

"She's very serious about this," a spokesman for the Congress-thing told *EIR*. "The Congresswoman introduced similar legislation in 1982, but this time around, the climate is much more favorable to passage."

A prominent member of the so-called Military Reform Caucus, and former national co-chairwoman of Sen. Gary Hart's 1984 presidential campaign, Schroeder has motivated the bill on the grounds that European members of the NATO alliance have failed to fulfill their promise to raise defense spending by 3% each year. Only one NATO country has kept the 1981 pledge, she says—"Uncle Sucker."

Schroeder's legislation, which she also intends to introduce as an amendment to the FY87 defense authorization bill, proposes a new "division of labor" among NATO and allied nations. That formula is contained in Henry Kissinger's recent call for the United States to redeploy its forces out of Europe to fight colonial-style wars in the developing sector—the perspective of the so-called Military Reform Caucus.

"We will continue to provide strategic and common defense needs," says Schroeder. "But it's time for our allies to take up the slack in defending their own land and the sea and air lanes connecting them with the rest of the world."

This, she claims, will send a "sig-

nal to our allies that it's time to bear some of the burden for their defense."

Under the terms of the legislation, the 325,000 American troops now stationed in Western Europe would be reduced to 165,000 by 1991. Troops stationed in the Pacific and elsewhere would also be affected.

Furthermore, the measure specifies that one of every two divisions brought home every year after its passage, be decommissioned.

A Schroeder aide reported that the Congresswoman will seek co-sponsors for the bill when Congress reconvenes in early June, and will also try to ensure that a complementary measure is introduced on the Senate side. The aide also reported that Schroeder had lobbied for a U.S. troop drawdown from the European theater while attending the NATO Parliamentarians meeting in Luxembourg in May.

Showdown looms over Saudi arms sale

Asserting that withholding arms from Saudi Arabia would "damage our vital strategic, political, and economic interests in the Middle East and undermine our balanced policy in that region," President Reagan May 21 vetoed Congress's ban against the administration's proposed sale of defensive weapons to the Arab country.

The Senate will vote on whether to uphold the veto when it returns from its Memorial Day recess, June 5.

Although the Senate okayed its "resolution of disapproval" by 77 votes—more than the two-thirds of the Senate required to override a presidential veto—administration sources

are reportedly confident that they will be able to win over enough senators to uphold the veto.

In a bid to rally Senate support for the arms deal, Reagan, after consulting with Saudi Prince Bandar, decided to drop one of the most controversial elements from the package—the request for Stinger missiles.

Response to the compromise, made public just before Reagan's veto, was swift: "The White House and the Saudis have caved in," chortled Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), one of the leading opponents of the sale. "They've dropped the key part of the program; they [the Stingers] were the most objectionable part of the package. I'm glad they're out, but I'm still opposed to the package."

But Cranston just may find himself laughing out of the other side of his mouth. The administration appears to be prepared to fight dirty on this one—as indicated by Sen. Orrin Hatch's statements on national television May 25.

During an appearance on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation," the Utah Republican accused the opposition senators of having a "knee-jerk reaction" to a sale that Israeli Prime Minister "Shimon Peres and the AIPAC [American-Israeli Political Action Committee], the Israeli people, are not really fighting."

What it really amounts to, he said, is that the sale's foes "are supporting the hawks in Israel, people like [Trade and Industry Minister] Ariel Sharon, who moved into Beirut against his own cabinet's advice, and they are supporting the radical Arabs."

Further, said Hatch, citing his membership on the Senate Intelligence Committee as authority for his statements, Saudi Arabia "does an

awful lot for us in intelligence around the world, and they have spent hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars, helping America. . . . I can't talk much about this, because it's top secret, but they have helped us all over the world. A lot of people in Congress don't know that."

'Nuremberg-style' court for terrorism proposed

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) has mounted an intensive campaign on behalf of a measure he introduced approximately a year ago to campaign on behalf of a measure he introduced approximately a year ago to stiffen anti-terrorism laws, and create a court modeled on the post-World War II Nuremberg Tribunals in which to try terrorists.

Specter testified on behalf of the measure during Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings May 7.

The bill, SR-190, would "define terrorism as an international crime and establish a Nuremberg-type court for the trial of international terrorists," he told the committee.

The Pennsylvania senator named Libya's Qaddafi as a prime candidate for trial in such a court. Consideration should be given to "treating Qaddafi as an international criminal, of using the force necessary to take him into custody, to try him, to convict him, and to punish him," Specter told the committee.

"And I suggest that that principled approach in accordance with international law principles precedented at Nuremberg in accordance with principles of criminal law prosecutions, may well be a preferable way, zeroing in on the specific individual who is

responsible for acts of terrorism, as opposed to retaliatory raids which, no matter how carefully planned or executed, must reach some of the innocent, as well as those who are guilty."

Specter also asserted that his legislation would have dealt harshly with NBC for its refusal to divulge the whereabouts of terrorist Abu Abbas, whom the network interviewed May 6: "If we were to proceed with S.R. 190, and have a clear-cut statement of international law defining Abbas's conduct as an international crime," Specter said, "the circumstances and the conduct of NBC would be in much clearer focus on NBC's responsibility to disclose to law-enforcement officials the whereabouts of that terrorist."

House urges quick action on Waldheim case

The House voted up a resolution May 20 calling on Attorney-General Ed Meese to expedite the Justice Department probe into whether Austrian presidential contender Kurt Waldheim should be prohibited from entering the United States because of alleged involvement in Nazi war crimes. A similar resolution was endorsed by the Senate a few weeks earlier.

Neil Sher, head of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, recommended in April that Waldheim be put on a "watch list" of persons not permitted to enter the United States, but Meese has taken no action on the case.

In urging passage of the resolution, lawmakers said Waldheim should be judged as any other person would be.

"At best, Mr. Waldheim is a liar and a Nazi collaborator," charged Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.). "At worst, he is a murderer. We all know there may be diplomatic considerations that will enter into any decision that is made, particularly after the Austrian election," Schumer said. "There will be pressure . . . to look the other way. This resolution firmly states we cannot look the other way."

Administration cutback on population-control assailed

Rep. James Scheuer (D-N.Y.) assailed the Reagan administration for reducing U.S. financial support for population-control programs in developing countries, claiming that population growth in Africa was the prime cause of starvation.

Scheuer chairs the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development—a group which holds the belief that the only good child is a dead child.

"Drought is only a trigger of starvation," Scheuer told reporters May 19. "The underlying cause is too many people trying to produce food on too fragile an ecosystem." Africa's population growth meant it was faced with the impossible task of doubling its infrastructure and food production every 22 years, he said.

Scheuer, a proponent of the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*, which called for killing off 2 billion "excess" people by the year 2000, characterized the Reagan administration's withdrawal of \$17 million in aid for abortion-sponsoring organizations, such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation, as "gratuitous meddling."