

National News

Congressmen plan junket to Moscow

House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Tex.) and 20 other congressmen will visit the Soviet Union April 10-20, according to a spokesman for Wright's office. The trip will overlap that of Secretary of State George Shultz to Moscow; Shultz will be discussing the "zero option" plan for withdrawal of nuclear missiles from Europe with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The final details of the Wright delegation's trip are not yet available, but his aide said the trip was a reciprocal visit to one made last year to the United States by members of the Supreme Soviet. Included in the delegation will be House Democratic leader Tom Foley (Wash.), assistant Democratic leader Tony Coelho (Calif.), and Republican Dick Cheney (Wyo.).

Wright will also visit West Berlin, where he is scheduled to address the opening session of the annual meeting of European parliamentarians.

Dukakis seeks to brown out New England

Michael Dukakis (D), the governor of Massachusetts, devoted his first speech as a presidential hopeful to a blast against nuclear power. In a Louisiana campaign appearance in March, he called for expanding research in extraction of fossil fuels, so that the United States can cut back its use of "unsafe" and "unreliable" nuclear power.

Dukakis's machine in Massachusetts is using every dirty trick in the book to prevent the Seabrook nuclear plant from operating. The Massachusetts attorney general is suing a pro-nuclear group that has spent \$2.3 million in television advertising throughout New England to defend the Seabrook nuclear plant in New Hampshire. The attorney general has called the advertising of the Coalition for Reliable Energy "deceptive" because it "falsely" suggests that the coalition is run

by volunteers who have no ties to Seabrook.

The Coalition maintains that New England will have an electricity shortage unless all forms of reliable energy are used. To counter the pro-nuclear advertising, the three major television stations have given the environmentalists free time.

Seabrook, which is 10 miles from the Massachusetts border, is ready to go online, but cannot go to full power because Dukakis has refused to participate in an emergency evacuation plan.

At a hearing of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Feb. 24, Dukakis denounced a rule change proposed by the NRC which would permit Seabrook and the Shoreham nuclear plant on Long Island to operate. "What you are proposing is the nuclear equivalent of cutting the number of lifeboats for the 'unsinkable' Titanic, because it would reduce the space for passengers and make the voyage unprofitable," he said. New York's Gov. Mario Cuomo (D) attacked the NRC for protecting the "multibillion-dollar" investments of the utilities, and Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) vowed retaliatory legislation curbing the NRC if the change is adopted.

Weinberger concerned at NATO 'backtracking'

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on March 19 warned of the erosion of NATO capabilities on the Southern Flank. In a pointed reference to Spain's decision to reduce American troop deployments there, he said that the Western alliance could not afford "backtracking" from commitments such as maintaining U.S. military facilities in host nations. Weinberger was speaking in Istanbul, Turkey, on a European tour that also took him to Spain.

"If we do not do enough in time, we will never do it until it is too late," he said. "It would be damaging indeed to NATO to consider removing U.S. military facilities without providing a full substitute for the loss of defense capability, so that there is no loss in either defensive military strength or political support."

He added that the United States and other industrially developed nations need to provide more security assistance to Turkey, Greece, and Portugal. The current level "is not adequate." Turkey alone, he said, "needs well over \$1 billion in annual security assistance to modernize effectively—well above current levels our Congress will appropriate." He said that unless more foreign military sales credits are provided, and additional help from NATO allies is forthcoming, "Turkish armed forces modernization will be impeded seriously and NATO will be correspondingly weakened."

Not much headway in U.S. war on drugs

Drug smuggling is at an all-time high, according to a study released in March by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment. "Despite a doubling of federal expenditures on interdiction over the past five years, the quantity of drugs smuggled into the U.S. is greater than ever," the study said.

The stepped-up government effort has had little long-term effect on the availability of illegal drugs, according to the report. "Illegal imports of cocaine, the drug now of intense national concern, have about doubled since 1981, supplying a growing number of users at prices that have fallen as the supply has increased."

Congressman hits Soviet disinformation film

Representative William Broomfield (Mich.), the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, attacked the Soviet Union's film, "Who Killed Olof Palme?" in the March 5 *Congressional Record*. The film blamed the CIA and Lyndon LaRouche for the February 1986 assassination of the Swedish prime minister.

Without mentioning the film's treatment of LaRouche, Broomfield attacks the Sovi-

ets for "hints that the CIA was behind the still unsolved assassination of the late prime minister. That is patently ridiculous." "Mr. Gorbachov must turn off this propaganda machine if he truly wants to improve relations with the United States," he said. "Mr. Gorbachov boasts that this is the so-called age of *glasnost*, or openness, but Soviet conduct shows otherwise."

Deaver indicted, loses constitutional challenge

Former top White House aide Michael Deaver was indicted by a grand jury on March 18 for allegedly lying about his lobbying activities on behalf of South Korea, Canada, Puerto Rico, and four airline companies. The indictment was handed down after Chief Justice William Rehnquist denied a plea by Deaver challenging the constitutionality of the use of a special prosecutor to investigate his activities. A federal appeals court had rejected the plea on March 17.

Deaver, who had temporarily restrained a grand jury indictment on four counts of perjury on Feb. 25, argued through his attorney that the office of independent counsel violated the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers and no indictment could properly be returned by a grand jury functioning under the supervision of the independent counsel.

Federal Judge Thomas Jackson of the District of Columbia, who had issued the unprecedented restraining order, found against Deaver on three grounds. First, Deaver had a viable remedy at law, which is to move to dismiss the indictment after it is returned. Second, Deaver could not demonstrate "a likelihood of ultimate success on the merits," which is the traditional legal standard for the issuance of preliminary injunctions. Judge Jackson found the constitutional issues to be novel, without significant case law precedent, and therefore, the ultimate success on the merits is not "clearly foreordained."

Finally, the Court decided that the public interest required both an expeditious res-

olution of the constitutional issues as well as a speedy enforcement of the criminal laws.

In a related case, a suit filed by Lt. Col. Oliver North, challenging the constitutionality of independent counsel Lawrence Walsh's investigation of the "Irangate" scandal, was thrown out of court on March 12 by U.S. District Court Judge Barrington Parker. "The nation demands an expeditious and complete disclosure of our government's involvement in the Iran-Contra affair," Parker wrote.

Where did Gary Hart get these 'new ideas'?

Former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart, the unannounced but vigorously campaigning contender for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, went on the stump in Brazil in mid-March, borrowing heavily from the policies of Lyndon LaRouche in an effort to present himself as a viable candidate in the eyes of U.S. allies in Ibero-America. Brazil has declared a moratorium on interest payments on its foreign debt.

Hart met for 40 minutes with President José Sarney on March 16. Then in a speech on March 18, he declared, "The U.S. government should act more like a champion of global growth and less like a collection agency for the overextended banks. If we help expand Latin American economies rather than squeeze them, we can increase U.S. exports as we strengthen southern democracies—and our mutual security."

Debtor nations, he said, need "to avoid capital flight by elites and irresponsible fiscal policies. . . . The banks should know that full repayment of these loans is no longer tenable as a primary goal of U.S. policy."

In order for the United States to be able to increase its exports to Latin America, he said, the debt crisis will have to be solved. "According to a recent study, nearly half of Latin American interest payments were generated by reducing purchases of U.S. products." Banks should consider "selected direct debt relief and in some cases, corresponding writedowns, extended repayment schedules, interest rate relief and new international lending mechanisms."

Briefly

● **THE FBI** has asked Attorney General Edwin Meese to designate the Israeli Mossad "a hostile agency of a foreign power," in light of the Pollard espionage affair. Sources report that this information was leaked to the press by Israel itself, in part because American leaders of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) are worried that they will come under FBI surveillance the minute this occurs.

● **MARIO BIAGGI**, the Democratic congressman from New York, and Brooklyn Democratic Party boss Meade Esposito were indicted on March 16 on bribery and conspiracy charges, for using their influence to bail out the failing Coastal Dry Dock and Repair Co., whose insurance Esposito handled. The indictments are the newest round in an ongoing dismantling of the New York Democratic Party apparatus.

● **ANDREW STEIN**, the New York City Council president, voted to award more than \$2 million in city contracts to Telecom Plus, a company in which his father, Jerry Finkelstein, owns stock and is a member of the board of directors, according to a report in the *Village Voice*. The votes appear to violate conflict-of-interest guidelines in the City Charter.

● **THE POPE'S** American tour Sept. 10-19 has raised fears for his security, particularly in San Francisco. The Secret Service has vetoed the idea of a motorcade down Market Street, because of the danger of an assassination attempt by a sniper. Homosexual groups unsuccessfully attempted to persuade Mayor Dianne Feinstein to bar the visit.

● **SIX FORMER U.S.** defense secretaries were praised by the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* March 11, for their opposition to a "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty. *Izvestia* reported that "R. McNamara, C. Clifford, M. Laird, E. Richardson, J. Schlesinger, and H. Brown" have urged President Reagan "to uphold the traditional interpretation of the agreement."