

signed in 1969 and 1972 which allowed the Soviet Union to construct a new embassy at Mt. Alto, approximately 350 feet above mean sea level and the second-highest land site in D.C.," Symms said. It would also direct the President to negotiate a new embassy site "not more than 90 feet above mean sea level (approximately the elevation of the U.S. Capitol.)"

At a press conference the day before atop a hotel across the street from the new embassy, Symms and a security specialist in electronic surveillance pointed out that the "line of sight access" which the site provides would allow the Soviets "interception of any electronic signal generated either by a bona fide transmission or by a secondary transmission," e.g., typewriters, computers, telephones.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.V.) praised the bill and asked to be added as a cosponsor, raising hopes that the Senate might be able to act early in May.

The initiative came as the Senate Intelligence Committee unanimously recommended that the U.S. embassy building in Moscow be demolished and rebuilt, because it would likely never be made secure against Soviet espionage. The committee said it might take two to five years just to assess the extent to which the building is compromised. The committee also said that the Soviet leadership should be notified of a U.S. intention to "negotiate a new set of construction agreements that meet our security requirements," and that the Soviets should leave their embassy in D.C. until the issues are resolved.

The House International Operations Subcommittee meanwhile voted on April 28 to subpoena State Department communications regarding han-

dling of the embassy construction in Moscow, after the State Department was found to be withholding documents promised. Foggy Bottom called the subpoena "outrageous," and compliance is in doubt.

Burton: 400,000 are already dying of AIDS

Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), who has introduced legislation for annual, national mandatory screening of the American population for the AIDS virus, spoke on the floor of the House April 29 to warn that there are not 40,000 people dying of AIDS in the United States, as is claimed by the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control, but 400,000.

"When you get the AIDS virus, it gets into your system and it gets into all your body fluids, your spinal fluids, and brain fluids. It immediately starts destroying your brain tissues," Burton said. People "are suffering from brain deterioration that is believed to be related to the AIDS-related complex (ARC), 10 times as many people as have full-blown AIDS have this mental disorder or deterioration taking place as a result of the AIDS virus, which means we do not have 40,000 people dying from AIDS; we probably have 400,000 dying from AIDS right now, because of the brain disease killing these people. It does not manifest itself as full-blown AIDS; it just causes deterioration of the brain, until they die or become mentally disabled, and it ultimately leads to complete dysfunction and death."

Burton presented extensive references from medical professionals to debunk the assertion that AIDS could not be casually transmitted. He warned

that there is the potential of insect transmission, and that if the virus mutates like the bubonic plague once did, it could be transmitted by respiratory secretions and coughing.

Burton urged quick action on his bill to get universal testing underway. "The entire human race is at risk with this disease if we do not get on with" measures to contain its spread.

Gephardt amendment approved for trade bill

The Gephardt amendment to the trade bill, H.R. 3, which would require U.S. retaliation against nations that refuse to reduce their trade surpluses with the United States, passed the House by a razor-thin vote of 218 to 214 on April 29.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), would mandate 10% annual reductions in the trade surplus of foreign nations, if the President failed to negotiate such reductions after 18 months, and dollar for dollar retaliation against nations which refuse to remove their trade barriers to U.S. products. To abrogate the reductions, the President would have to declare it a matter of vital national economic interest.

Although it would affect trade with West Germany, Taiwan, South Korea, Italy, and Brazil, the amendment is especially aimed at Japan, and was passed just as Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone arrived on a visit to the United States.

It is doubtful that the provision will make its way into final legislation, as the Senate is strongly opposed, and the White House holds the threat of a veto.