

After a secret countdown, a giant Titan 34D carrying a classified Defense Department satellite blasted off on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 10:27 p.m. from Cape Canaveral. The launch lighted up the sky for miles.

It put some smiles on the faces of Defense Department officials, for whom the launch was the end of the long "dry spell" that began with last year's string of space disasters, following the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger.

The classified payload was thought by "space experts" to be a satellite to provide early warning of enemy missiles.

"We are really back in business now," said Col. Lawrence Gooch, commander of the Eastern Space and Missile Center at Patrick Air Force Base, near Cape Canaveral. "We're going to be very busy around here from now on."

Reagan renews pledge on SDI

President Reagan, even as his summit with Mikhail Gorbachov approached, continued to vow that the United States will see through the development and deployment of Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) systems—the program to which the Russians remain the most hostile.

In a speech at the Heritage Foundation Nov. 30, the President called SDI "a cornerstone of our security strategy for the 1990s and beyond," and vowed, "We will research it, we will develop it, and when it is ready, we will deploy it."

The statement seems to contradict repeated statements by other administration officials close to the arms control process that delay in deployment, of at least seven years, had already been agreed to with the Russians, as the only way to get a "Russian signature" on the proposed treaty on Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) in Europe.

But the President called on the Russians to "stop holding strategic offensive missile reductions hostage to measures that would cripple our research and development of SDI," adding that the Soviets had expended

more than \$200 billion to develop and deploy their own "Red Shield" ABM system.

He described the Soviet radar installation at Krasnoyarsk as "part of an early warning and tracking system" that indicates that the Russians "may be working toward a breakout" from the 1972 ABM Treaty.

AIDS tests for CIA and immigrants

Aliens applying for legal status in the United States under the new immigration law began to be tested for the AIDS virus on Dec. 1. Immigration and Naturalization officials announced the action one day earlier.

Immigrants who test positive for the virus will be denied entry into the United States, except in rare cases in which waivers may be granted.

Seasonal farm workers who are applying for admission under the Special Agricultural Worker Program must also take the AIDS tests.

Another program of AIDS testing in the United States has also begun, according to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. He reports that the Central Intelligence Agency "has begun routine testing of applicants, employees, and their families to identify carriers of the deadly virus."

In a memo sent out earlier this year warning agents to be careful about sexual contacts, 15 "highest risk" countries were identified by the agency. They were: Haiti, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, West Germany, the Central African Republic, Congo, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The CIA is testing:

- 1) Applicants for employment.
- 2) Employees and their dependents over age 18 who have physical examinations for official purposes.
- 3) Those recommended by a staff physician; persons who received blood transfusions from 1978 through the spring of 1985, such as hemophiliacs.
- 4) "Selected other individuals."

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** has decided to approve the sale of stinger missiles to Bahrain despite congressional threats of a legislative ban on the sales, "in an attempt to reassert executive prerogatives," wrote columnists Evans and Novak Dec. 2. "The administration's greater purpose here is to prove the United States . . . can still assist [its friends] with open military aid instead of being forced into covert operations," they quoted a "Reagan policymaker."

● **A CONCERT** of extraordinary nature took place on Dec. 4 in Boston. It was the first American solo recital of Norbert Brainin, principal violinist of the legendary Amadeus Quartet, with Günter Ludwig, a leading German pianist. The concert, which included sonatas by Mozart, Brahms, and Beethoven, was dedicated to Mr. Brainin's good friend, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

● **KUWAIT** has approved a U.S. request to station a floating base in Kuwaiti waters, the *Washington Post* reported Dec. 2, contradicting the newspaper's own reports of Nov. 29, saying the request had been rejected. The base will house barges, equipped with attack helicopters, fast patrol boats, Army and Navy commando teams, and intelligence units.

● **'UNDECIDED'** is still the biggest vote-getter in New Hampshire at 50%. A random poll of 283 Democratic voters by the *Manchester Union Leader* showed "Undecided" way ahead of Michael Dukakis, who ran second with 28%, and of third-placer Paul Simon, who "surged forward" to 9%. Five months ago, Simon scored only 1%. Lyndon LaRouche was not included in the poll.

● **A BOMB** exploded outside of Lawrence Livermore Laboratories Nov. 28, leaving a two-foot crater in a parking lot and shattering windows at the lab. The FBI is investigating to determine if the blast was in fact directed at the lab, site of important work on the Strategic Defense Initiative and other defense programs.