

in a commentary in the *New York Times* on Jan. 5, said that ratification of the treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces should be tied to agreements providing for "Soviet-American equality in offensive intercontinental nuclear weapons and defensive systems. . . . Both at home and abroad, there is a strong dissenting view that sees the INF treaty as a new Munich."

He warned, "The Soviet goal in the arms control negotiations is to denuclearize Western Europe, which would lead inevitably to a neutral Europe . . . [which] has been part of the primary strategic objective of the Soviet Union since the Second World War."

## NASA: safety problems with Space Shuttle

An internal NASA report leaked to the *Atlanta Constitution* maintains that the space agency still lacks the skilled engineers, clear guidelines, and leadership to ensure the safety of manned space flight. "Despite heightened safety concerns after the worst accident in spaceflight history, the agency is falling into a 'safety second' mind-set," the *Constitution* charged Jan. 5, reporting on a three-month safety risk assessment made by an ad hoc committee last August.

"The concern for safety which peaked shortly after the Challenger accident appears to be waning, and in many areas this has been translated by workers, engineers, and supervisors to a 'business as usual' attitude," the *Constitution* reported, citing the report.

## Senator Melcher demands protectionism

Trade legislation, cuts in military aid to U.S. allies, and the buildup of American industry and infrastructure were the three "New Year's resolutions" outlined by Montana Sen. John Melcher, in the Democratic reply

to President Reagan's Jan. 2 address.

"We must stop paying for everyone else's national defense," Melcher demanded. "We must stop running up U.S. deficits by paying for everyone else's armaments, and always sending our men and women and planes and ships to rescue foreign interests. That means Europe and Japan have to pay their way, or at least their fair share for U.S. air and naval support that we provide to protect their land and their air space and the ocean trade lanes for their shipping."

Melcher's economic proposals had a similar cast, calling for taking care of "our problems here at home." He did recognize, however, that the U.S. economy was "bleeding," and said: "Let's help our own basic industries: agriculture and energy and steel and mining."

## Virginia doctors can report AIDS carriers

Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles signed an emergency order Jan. 4 giving physicians the right to report the names of patients who test positive for the AIDS virus to state medical authorities. The new order replaces one which permitted doctors to report only known cases of AIDS to local health departments.

"It is absolutely important that we intervene as quickly as possible to help curb the spread of this disease," said a new report on AIDS in Virginia, written by Dr. A. Martin Cader, director of the state Division of Communicable Disease Control, and other state health officials. "The sooner we can give physicians the regulatory authority to report HIV antibody test results, the better we can accomplish this."

In a related development, the School Board of Fairfax County, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C., voted unanimously on Jan. 2 to allow a child will AIDS to attend school, thereby reversing the previous decision of School Superintendent Robert Spillane. The decision will be reviewed weekly, in light of the child's medical condition. Spillane had apparently recommended the change after a suit was filed against the school system by the child's parents.

## Briefly

● **'BUSH JUST CAN'T** cut it," said a senior representative of New York banking interests, explaining why some on Wall Street are moving to back Robert Dole for President. "After all, how can you have a preppie for President during the middle of the upcoming financial dislocation? Bush has no credibility, and will have no credibility to push the economic programs which are necessary. On the other hand, Dole has humble beginnings and is from the farm belt."

● **ANDREW CUOMO**, son of New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, was served with a RICO suit in Florida at the end of December, by a thrift institution which charges that he violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act in an attempt to bankrupt Oceanmark Federal Saving and Loan Association.

● **OTIS BOWEN**, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has requested \$1.145 billion for AIDS-related research for FY89, according to confidential budget documents leaked to the *New York Times*. Bowen's figure is 20.5% more than Congress allocated for FY88, and 45% more than what President Reagan requested. There is no indication that Bowen has abandoned his "just give 'em condoms" approach to AIDS.

● **CHARLES WICK'S** U.S. Information Agency has conducted a series of studies purporting to prove that Western Europeans prefer the Soviet Union over the United States. The studies allegedly show that it is "almost impossible" to prevent the Finlandization of Western Europe, according to a report published in *National Review*.

● **BOB DOLE**, if elected President, would likely name Democratic Party honcho Robert Strauss as his top financial adviser, either as Treasury Secretary or chairman of the Federal Reserve, according to the *New York Times*.