

# National News

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## Bowen says war on drugs is being lost

Health and Human Services Secretary Otis Bowen issued the text of his remarks to President Reagan in late April, in which he stated that he was pessimistic about the effectiveness of the administration's much-touted anti-drug effort. The administration's "War on Drugs" is headed by Vice President George Bush, the GOP presidential candidate, and the President's wife Nancy plays a significant role.

"Generally, speaking, Mr. President, I prefer optimism as you do," Bowen told the President. "But today, I don't know how I can honestly be very optimistic about the war on drugs."

The Secretary also took a swipe at Nancy Reagan, saying that her "Just Say No" campaign was being used by "some" as a "political football" and an "empty slogan."

Although Bowen's criticisms are to the point, his proposals—stressing expanded treatment facilities, rather than a more aggressive attack on the dope cartel itself—are hardly an improvement over the Reagan-Bush policy.

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## More calls for drug legalization

After Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke used the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington April 26 to issue a call for a "debate" leading to drug legalization, the Baltimore *Sunday Sun* featured more than six articles—including two on the front page—arguing for "decriminalization" of drugs.

The paper published excerpts from Schmoke's remarks and, in its lead editorial, argued for drug decriminalization, saying: "Decriminalization could in fact take the profit out of drug sales. . . . Drug treatment must become as pressing a national priority as enforcement. Treatment programs that obtained drugs from controlled, government laboratories and put abusers on

prescriptions could dry up the street crime that disrupts neighborhoods, for there would be no reason to pay street dealers' exorbitant prices. Moreover, treatment specialists would be better able to attack the problems that cause people to seek solace in drug highs if the pervasive street drug culture were dampened."

Earlier, both "conservative" William Buckley, a confessed pot smoker, and "free marketer" Milton Friedman, a heroin-legalization advocate, had expressed support for Schmoke's idea.

The Baltimore mayor, in his statement, said, "One way [to take the profit out of drug trafficking] is to heed the lessons of prohibition and treat drugs as a health problem, not a crime problem, and decriminalize narcotics."

"Stop and think what could be achieved if we redirected billions of dollars from interdiction of a small percentage of illegal drugs to fighting the problem of addiction as a public health matter. Let us not be timid in thinking about a new and possibly more effective approach to fighting the scourge of drugs," he concluded.

Schmoke's remarks followed the presentation of the latest Inter-American Dialogue report on the question by Elliot Richardson, Sol Linowitz, and Rodrigo Botero, Colombia's former finance minister. The three advocated "selective legalization" of drugs.

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## New York paper attacks McKay on Meese probe

The *New York Daily News* in its May 1 edition accused Special Prosecutor James McKay of botching the case he was supposed to build to indict Attorney General Edwin Meese.

"Special prosecutor James McKay may have botched his own probe of Attorney General Edwin Meese through 'unusual' actions that critics say reflect his lack of experience in criminal investigations," the *News* claimed.

It accused McKay of sidestepping rules of grand jury secrecy and showing "an un-

usual willingness to make public disclosures of the investigation's progress."

McKay is especially criticized for issuing a press release saying he had no plans to indict Meese, shortly after the resignation of Justice Department officials William Weld and Arnold Burns, who both stated at the time that their boss should be indicted.

"The grand jury decides whether or not to indict, not the special prosecutor," the *News* quoted a Washington attorney.

A former government prosecutor is quoted saying, "What we've seen here is on-the-job training. [McKay] is a decent human being whose shortcomings are a lack of criminal experience and layered on top of that, a lack of good gut instincts in this type of case."

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## Jackson linked to IRA terrorists

Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson has met with leaders of the IRA-linked NORAID organization, and said that those who support the "fight to liberate Northern Ireland," should be brought together in a "rainbow coalition" with human rights activists in Latin America, South Africa, and elsewhere.

As part of that "fight to liberate northern Ireland," IRA terrorists murdered three British soldiers in the Netherlands in late April.

According to the *Sunday Times* of London May 1, Jackson pledged "absolutely" to end the present American policy of refusing to grant visas to IRA spokesmen, and said he wanted to visit Northern Ireland to meet all political parties, including some closely linked to the IRA.

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## WHO scored on AIDS policy in Africa

Kenneth Adelman, writing a guest commentary in the *Washington Times* May 2, attacked the World Health Organization

(WHO) for lack of seriousness in the fight against AIDS. Adelman was the former head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the Reagan administration.

*EIR* has charged that the WHO, controlled by Soviet health officials, but with the full connivance of U.S. officials at the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control, had been conducting a cover-up of the AIDS threat to Africa, where it is reliably estimated that there are already tens of millions of AIDS cases.

Adelman's commentary included some devastating statistics:

- In 1989, "WHO planned a piddly 0.3 percent growth [in spending] for countries in Africa, the world's AIDS den, though a whopping 65 percent boost for Europe."

- WHO will spend \$2.7 million on its two-week conference in Geneva in May, but has budgeted less than half that amount on treating malaria in Africa.

## Bush aides had large role in Central America

Testimony and documents newly presented in the lawsuit of the Christic Institute against Lt. Col. Oliver North and 20-odd associates, show that aides to George Bush were deeply involved in operations in Central America, the *Washington Post* reported May 1.

The evidence shows that Bush's chief of staff, Donald Gregg, was not being exactly truthful with congressional investigators during earlier stages of the Iran-Contra affair. Documents date his and the vice president's involvement in the affair, a full six months earlier than he had previously admitted.

One piece of evidence is a Gregg memo to Bush on June 3, 1986, advising him of the Salvadoran Air Force's need for spare parts for its helicopters and new helicopters equipped with armored pilot seats. The memo said these were needed "soonest" because "we may be at a turning point that could win the war for Duarte."

Bush scrawled the word "Good!" at the top of the memo.

Gregg was in contact as early as March 17, 1983 with NSA chief Robert McFarlane, endorsing the plan for a "small elite strike force" to destroy Salvadoran guerrilla units.

Bush's deputy national security adviser, Col. Samuel Watson, testified that he saw two warehouses full of weapons and ammunition during a visit to Contra base camps in Honduras in January 1986, and that, several days later, he got close enough to a combat operation to observe a rocket near-miss on a helicopter carrying CIA man Felix Rodriguez (a.k.a. Max Gomez) into action.

Telephone logs and testimony provided at the Christic Institute trial by Gregg and Watson also make it clear that both men were in frequent contact with Rodriguez in 1985 and 1986, when he was working for Oliver North in Contra supply operations.

The documents and testimony were presented by Christic Institute lawyers in order to establish a pattern which shows that Bush's office was in charge of the Contra supply and combat effort.

## Army data show teen spread of AIDS

Data from the U.S. Army's testing of all personnel for the presence of AIDS antibodies show a higher-than-expected incidence among the nation's teenagers, the *Christian Science Monitor* reported May 2.

Incidence is reported to vary from as few as 1 in 20,000 teens in some non-urban areas of the central United States, to 1 in 200 in cities like New York or Baltimore.

Both male and female teenagers are affected, with a slightly higher percentage in males.

Another statistic uncovered by the Army is that the incidence of AIDS in black officers and enlisted men is about 5 of every 1,000—three to four times as high as that found among whites.

The ugliest fact, however, is that this information was disclosed 10 months ago at an international conference on AIDS in Washington, but has still not been published by the Army.

- **THE PENTAGON** has failed to brief President Reagan on the need for an emergency \$6-12 billion for the Indigo-LaCrosse spy satellite, essential in treaty verification efforts. Columnists Evans and Novak now report that if the President isn't persuaded to find the money, "he can abandon whatever hopes remain for his strategic treaty."

- **SPECIAL FORCES** units will undergo a new "cheap" deployment, which treats them as "the front line of defense in skirmishes between the superpowers," Jack Anderson reported on May 2. "Congress . . . recognizes that we are far more likely to use front-line elite forces in coming years than nuclear weapons, tanks, 'Star Wars' and many of the other budget-breaking items in the Pentagon arsenal."

- **NUCLEAR TESTS** in the Nevada desert and similar tests last September in Russia were labeled a success May 1 by American and Soviet scientists from the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The tests used sensitive seismographs. Their purpose was to prove that a test-ban treaty is verifiable.

- **THE PROSECUTION** finished presenting its case against top Medellín Cartel drug-runner Carlos Lehder Rivas in Florida, having called 115 witnesses during 22 weeks of testimony. Defense counsel will now try to portray Lehder as a flamboyant businessman framed by angry drug smugglers whom he ejected from his Caribbean island.

- **JAPANESE TERRORIST** Yu Kikumura had the United Nations building and New York's garment district as targets, according to the May 2 *Wall Street Journal*. He was arrested on the New Jersey Turnpike in late April.