

National News

Dukakis asked Noriega for dirt on Bush

The head of Panama's Defense Forces, Gen. Manuel Noriega, said in a speech Nov. 24 that during the U.S. election campaign, he was approached by aides to Michael Dukakis, whom, he said, "asked us, through his election advisers, to tell him something about his opponent, even if it were a lie."

The request was rejected outright, he said. "We not only regarded it as blackmail, but as an insult to Panama's intelligence." He added: "We do not meddle in the election campaigns of other countries."

Noriega's refusal to go after George Bush during the campaign, led some American media to speculate that a deal had been worked out between the incoming Bush administration and the Panamanian government.

In an article Nov. 22, the *Miami Herald* went so far as to say that Noriega "may have damaging information on Bush, which would possibly give the general some leverage in future dealings with the U.S. President."

President cites Soviet ABM Treaty violations

President Reagan on Dec. 2 submitted to the Congress a report, prepared by the State Department's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA), which criticizes "continuing violations" by the Soviet Union of the ABM Treaty. It cites in particular the Krasnoyarsk radar installation in Siberia. The report falls short, however, of charging Moscow with a "material breach" of the treaty, as some critics have demanded.

U.S. experts believe the radar is designed specifically to track the new D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missile scheduled for deployment late next year. The report suggests three possible proportionate responses to the violation including the testing of space-based interceptor missiles as part of the Strategic Defense Initiative. A Pentagon study outlining possible military re-

sponses was sent to the White House in mid-November.

With the ink barely dry on the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty signed last December, nine compliance issues were raised on this treaty by the report, including Soviet rejection of the use of U.S. equipment at a missile plant in Votkinsk to check the inside of missile cannisters.

Pentagon prepares SDI anti-satellite role

The Pentagon will soon move to demonstrate the feasibility of an "anti-satellite mission" for the Strategic Defense Initiative, according to a report in the Nov. 27 *New York Times*.

"Defense officials are under mounting pressure to demonstrate payoffs from the more than \$16 billion spent to date on Star Wars research," according to the article. After a January review by the Pentagon's Defense Acquisition Board, the Pentagon is expected to formally restart work on developing an anti-satellite weapon so that it would be ready, if policymakers conclude it is needed.

The *Times* quotes Lt. Gen. Robert Hammons, Commander of the Army's Strategic Defense Command, who asserted last week that the nation "badly needs" an anti-satellite weapon, and that his command "stands ready" to build one from any of a variety of anti-missile technologies now under investigation.

Paul Stares, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, commented, "With a new administration, a new Congress, and the military services concerned about trimming the budget, the SDI program is at a critical juncture. Anything that maintains momentum will be keenly pursued, and the development of anti-satellite weapons is clearly one possible source of momentum."

The Soviet Union has already demonstrated a capability to cause major structural damage to satellites in low earth orbit, and damage components of satellites in higher earth orbits, using lasers and other ground-based directed energy weapons systems.

Mitchell wins Senate Majority Leader post

Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine) defeated Sens. Daniel Inouye (D-Ha.) and Bennett Johnston (D-La.) as Senate Democrats elected a new Majority Leader Nov. 28. Mitchell replaces Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.), who stepped down from the leadership post to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Mitchell is the most liberal and had the lowest seniority of the three candidates but was, by public accounts, chosen for his photogenic qualities as a nationally televised spokesman, and his restraint against upstaging other senators. A strong environmentalist, Mitchell both pledged to work closely with the Bush administration, and said that Democrats will prepare their agenda for the incoming 101st Congress. The deficit, health care, day care, and the environment are among their top priorities, he said.

Sen. John Breaux (D-La.) was chosen to head the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee. Breaux had the backing of Pamela Churchhill Harriman, guru and chief funding conduit for the party.

Devastating North profile revealed

A new book by Constantine Menges, a former National Security Council staffer for Latin American affairs, paints a devastating profile of the psychopathology of former NSC staffer Oliver North. According to Menges, North was unable to distinguish truth from his own fantasy life.

Excerpted in the Nov. 27 *New York Times*, Menges says North claimed to have had dinner with Jeane Kirkpatrick, and a score of private meetings with President Reagan, when he hadn't had either. North disobeyed orders, and did things for which he falsely claimed authorization. He saw himself as justified in manipulating the President.

Menges says he once challenged North

on his favorite statement, "We must cause this to happen," pointing out that the President is the one who must decide what will happen. "No, you're wrong. We have to box him in so there's only one way he can go—the right way," was North's chilling reply. Yet, National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, and after him John Poindexter, continued to promote North.

Menges reveals that in 1974, North was admitted to Bethesda Naval Hospital for a mental breakdown. It was not until McFarlane accompanied North to Iran in 1986, that he realized that North was sick. North at one point got up at 4 a.m. to secretly open negotiations with the Iranians, in defiance of McFarlane. On his return, McFarlane sent Poindexter a note saying North should be removed from the NSC staff immediately, and suggested "disability leave" at Bethesda again.

It should be noted that in "The Mind of Ollie North," written on July 15, 1987, Lyndon LaRouche identified North's psychological profile as that of the patriotic, gung-ho military grunt who finds himself hamstrung fighting "limited war" with both hands tied behind his back, as all U.S. servicemen and officers did in Vietnam, and then again in the debacle in Lebanon.

Health programs targeted for brutal cuts

The outgoing Reagan administration plans to propose brutal cuts in the federal health care budget for FY90 which it will submit to Congress in January, and which will reportedly include a \$5 billion cut in Medicare alone.

A spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services insisted to reporters on Nov. 28 that Medicare recipients won't have to pay more, or receive fewer benefits, because the intended cuts will supposedly come from the health care providers—surgeons, radiologists, and hospitals. According to an HHS summary of the cuts, "They will feel the pain."

The "liberal" *Washington Post* on Nov. 28, editorialized that further Medicare cuts by the Bush administration are "a good idea."

The *Post* suggested that the next HHS Secretary work on developing a consensus among physicians about eliminating "unnecessary" and "ineffective" medical procedures, and finding a way to reduce doctors' fees.

Incredibly, over 15% of all the money spent annually on health care and health-related research in the United States is already devoted to the "study" of how to make medical care more "cost-effective."

HHS Secretary Otis Bowen objected to a proposed \$1.1 billion cut in Medicaid program payments to states, and proposed cuts in Public Health Service programs to combat AIDS, as "unjustified and unsupported" in a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Joseph Wright on Nov. 30. "It is unrealistic to expect states to be able to absorb additional reductions in federal support of the magnitude proposed," Bowen said.

Environmentalists push austerity in Bush meet

Representatives of the elite environmentalist organizations emerged ecstatic from their meeting with President-elect George Bush on Nov. 30, after presenting him with a list of 700 recommendations compiled in a report called, "Blueprint for the Environment."

"It's night and day," said Jay Hair, president of the National Wildlife Federation, in comparing Bush's openness to Reagan's attitude. "Read my lips. Protect the environment," Hair said, reporting what he had told Bush. Hair said that Bush replied, "I will."

Bush, however, never specifically committed himself, according to press accounts, to more than being open to listen, and seemed to reject a proposal to make the Environmental Protection Agency a cabinet-level post.

But the real thrust of these oligarchic organizations, is to propose austerity and reduced living standards. While rejecting nuclear energy, these groups recommend mandating increasing car mileage to 45 mpg by the year 2000; a significant increase in gasoline taxes; and acid rain controls, i.e., industry shutdowns.

Briefly

● **THE NEW JERSEY** Right to Life Committee has called on the state Attorney General to investigate whether "vulnerable patients" are being quietly murdered in New Jersey hospitals. The Committee is charging that patients may be being denied "ordinary medical treatment such as antibiotics and basic needs such as food and water, sometimes to the point of death by dehydration and starvation."

● **A SATANIC HIDEOUT** containing satanic symbols, an altar, animal skulls, and wax doll figures nailed to a cross was discovered near Fall River, Massachusetts, by a hunter. Police said they believe both the huts and the theft of a 120-year-old body may be related to satanic activities in the state forest.

● **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** held a mid-November meeting to counter the "enemy image" which Americans hold of the Soviet Union and turn it into one of peaceful competition. The Italian Communist Party daily *L'Unita* reported Nov. 18 that the 1,500 participants focused on "the role of anti-communism in life, culture, and politics in the U.S."

● **THE GENERAL** Accounting Office, sticking its nose into ever wider domains, said that George Bush should rethink U.S. military commitments, strengthen federal regulation of banks and stock brokerages, and provide new federal incentives for private investment in low-rent housing for the poor. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher criticized the DoD handling of an "unprecedented peacetime buildup of defense," and for more "burden-sharing" by U.S. allies.

● **OF ONE THOUSAND** "street children" in major American cities, 74, or over 7%, tested positive for the AIDS virus, according to an ABC national news commentary Nov. 30. Most such children fighting for survival on the streets have had numerous sexual encounters.