

National News

Microwave weapons on Soviet defense agenda

The development of microwave weapons—pulsed electromagnetic radiation used to disrupt electrical systems, disable weapons, and disorient or kill individuals—is on the agenda, said Dr. Theodore Taylor at a conference of scientists in London on Dec. 2. “Neutrons, gamma rays, x-rays, plasmas, radiowaves, radar waves, visible light,” are all examples of the new types of systems, he said, “each one with the potential to disrupt and destroy something.”

Dr. Taylor, a researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory until 1956, is now deputy director of the National Security Agency, which is responsible for a broad range of intelligence and security functions dealing with advanced technologies.

Detailing some of the effects of these new weapons, he said that “microwaves can produce all sorts of complicated effects that are very hard to anticipate, but which at very low power levels will cause confusion.” Such systems could be used to attack command and control centers, he said.

Illinois court rules for LaRouche distributor

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Hoffman ruled on Nov. 30 that Illinois Secretary of State Jim Edgar must demonstrate that he is *not* running a political vendetta against Midwest Circulation Corp., a distributor of materials written by or covering Lyndon LaRouche and his associates. Edgar must show that a subpoena issued to MCC was not frivolous and did not represent an impermissible violation of MCC’s constitutional rights to distribute and disseminate political ideas, policies, and proposals.

MCC’s attorney, Michael Null, said that, in the context of years-long efforts by Illinois officials to silence supporters of LaRouche, Judge Hoffman’s decision was a major victory which puts the state on the defensive for the first time. It also opens the

way to prove the political motivation of both Edgar’s office and that of Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan.

Judge Hoffman’s ruling came in a hearing on a motion to quash the subpoena and on a civil rights suit filed against Edgar by MCC and its officers, charging that the subpoena was part of an ongoing politically motivated fishing expedition against the company. The subpoena was issued in June for books and records of MCC in an investigation of Caucus Distributors, Inc. and MCC for alleged violations of the Illinois securities and charitable solicitation laws. Edgar has had a civil suit pending against CDI, Campaigner Publications, and four individuals for more than two years on the same issue. CDI and Campaigner were placed in involuntary bankruptcy by the federal government in April 1987, in an unprecedented action.

Null successfully argued that the subpoena was nothing but an attempt to obtain discovery illegally for the action against CDI et al., and was designed to harass and chill MCC’s capability to continue to function as a protected political organization.

Cuomo defeated, Shoreham survives

Gov. Mario Cuomo suffered a serious political setback Dec. 2, when the New York State legislature refused to approve his plan for dismantling the Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island. Legislators let the deadline for the plan pass.

Cuomo told the press that he had told the legislators, “You win. Politically, you bought yourself some headache. You just pushed me out of the way so you could jump on the *Titanic*, and good luck with your seat. I’ve suffered this terrible political setback, and I hope you enjoy the water. . . . The deal is over. We’re out. It’s over. . . . The legislature has now effectively opened the plant that will be their monument and imposed a rate hike of 100%. . . . We ought to remember this date as ‘Black Friday.’”

Continuing a shift among the Eastern Establishment press in favor of nuclear energy, the *New York Times* broke with its

usual anti-nuclear position and called for the opening of Shoreham in an editorial on Dec. 4. Entitled “Next Step for Shoreham: Open It!” the editorial advises Cuomo to play an “ace,” that is, to open Shoreham and “restore a political balance in his favor. He can also help assure Long Islanders of what they will otherwise have trouble achieving: an adequate, safe source of power.”

Nir revealed secret U.S.-Israeli accord

“A confidential Israeli-American agreement authorized still-secret counterterrorist operations” that Israeli official Amiram Nir and Lt. Col. Oliver North supervised, according to the Dec. 4 *Washington Post*. The *Post* also reported that American and Israeli officials confirmed that the agreement existed.

While an unnamed White House official quoted by the *Post* said they would have no comment on it or the operations conducted under it, Yossi Gal, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington, was quoted saying, “We have never maintained that Nir was operating on his own or as a renegade. . . . Everything he did was being done by the government of Israel.”

Nir, who died early in December in a plane crash in Mexico, told Bob Woodward of the *Post* last June that less than half of the story of the secret arms transactions has become publicly known; that he and North carried out at least two secret joint operations outside normal intelligence channels which were “only part” of their covert activities. “There is much more,” Nir reportedly said. The Israeli report to the U.S. Congress, prepared by Gen. Raphael Vardi, Nir said, conveyed very little of substance.

The *Post* noted that some sources said the agreement was signed by President Reagan and then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, while others said it was handled at a lower level. Either way, Congress was not notified of these intelligence operations, as was legally required.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater officially denied the existence of the secret agreement on Dec. 5.

Kissinger warns of war, stampede of Bush

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov is trying to stampede George Bush into concessions by rushing to meet with Bush in New York, according to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in a syndicated column published Dec. 4. The meeting was "in reality to stampede the new administration into committing itself" to arms control "before it has had an opportunity for a serious appraisal," Kissinger said.

Kissinger also warned that the superpowers are moving closer to war. Because of the success of Gorbachov's "remarkably empty publicity campaign" and "in the absence of a political dialogue, the two sides are working themselves—in the name of peace and arms control—into a classical European crisis of the kind that produced World War I. . . . By circuitous routes, the issue of world peace has returned to Europe."

Kissinger suggested that the West should "boldly accept" the challenge of a "European home," i.e., a Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, but redefine Gorbachov's intent to ensure real military security, and a permanent role for the United States in Europe.

Dukakis budget disaster grows

The Massachusetts budget disaster which Gov. Michael Dukakis desperately tried to sweep under the rug during the presidential campaign, is coming back to haunt him with a vengeance. Many now allege that by his steadfast refusal to acknowledge the gravity of the state's revenue woes until the last possible moment—which critics charge is an unwillingness to face reality that borders on a willful suspension of belief—Dukakis has further aggravated the state's difficulties in a way that will likely result in layoffs and tax increases.

Rep. Richard Voke (D-Chelsea), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said Dec. 2 that the governor's revenue projection was \$333 million too high, and that the Dukakis administration was spending at least \$300 million above the pace in the budget, a combined \$633 million budget gap. "For too long this problem has not been realized and recognized, and too many areas of government have had their heads in the sand saying this will get better," Voke said.

It was learned on Dec. 1 that November tax receipts, which had been projected to grow 11.8% over last year, actually fell 5.6%.

In a press conference Dec. 2, Dukakis did not deny Voke's overspending charge. Frank Keefe, secretary of administration and finance, confirmed that layoffs are being considered.

House Minority Leader Steven Pierce (R-Westfield), a Dukakis critic, said, "There's no reward and no satisfaction to be proven right when the problem is as serious as it is."

Carl Sagan under fire as a scientific fraud

Carl Sagan, popularizer of the "nuclear winter" hoax and disarmament advocate, has come under criticism in the December issue of *Space World* magazine. Editor Leonard David states that the joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. manned Mars mission that Carl Sagan and his Soviet counterparts have been pushing for four years, is "not a space program, but a peace program."

David writes: "An image of American astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts loping across Martian dunes together in utopian scientific kinship while decrying past decades of ideological claptrap that sparked between the two countries is appealing." Sagan's approach "weakens the foundation needed to build a sustained, logical, and orderly movement into the inner and then outer Solar System. . . . Carl Sagan's space program has all the markings of a dead-ended love affair with Mars."

● **DAN QUAYLE** urged the scrapping of a comprehensive Strategic Defense Initiative in favor of a limited system which would only protect military targets instead of population centers, in an interview with the *Washington Times* published Dec. 2. The vice president-elect said, "A limited system is more protecting military assets, protecting certain assets with a defensive capability."

● **GEORGE SHULTZ** should be "fired or sent to the woodshed" for his refusal to grant a visa to enable Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations, the founder of the daily newspaper *USA Today*, Allen Neuharth, wrote on Dec. 2. Better that "Shultz leave with egg on his face, than Uncle Sam sustain a black eye."

● **THE REAL BUDGET** deficit for FY88 was really \$255 billion, not \$155 billion, but was covered over because of borrowing from various trust funds, according to financial columnist Hobart Rowen Dec. 4.

● **THE NATION** "needs to hear from the White House what [NATO Supreme Commander Gen. John] Galvin says about the [Soviet] iron that can be brought to bear on the battlefield," syndicated columnist George Will wrote Dec. 4, giving some advice to George Bush. "The production rate of the Soviet T-80 is approximately 3,400 per year, 280 per month, the equivalent of a tank division a month," he reported.

● **JIM WRIGHT**, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, gets tips about how to maneuver the shoals of Washington politics from a seer, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. Despite this help, he remains embroiled in charges of financial hanky-panky.