

## National News

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### Weinberger attacks proposed defense cuts

Former Reagan Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger warned that "cutting the heart out of our defenses for the next several years, is roughly like canceling all your fire insurance because you did not have a fire last year," in a Nov. 28 *New York Times* commentary entitled, "Too Soon to Slash Defense."

Weinberger, known for submitting defense budgets based on world realities, said, "These cuts will hurt all the military services, cast doubt on the future success of the all-volunteer program, reduce our readiness and cast aside many of the elements of our regained strength. And all of this because of some pleasing rhetoric and some clear demonstrations that people who have been forced to live under Communism hate it as much as always."

"There is no evidence yet that Mr. Gorbachov, if he is sincere, can last. And there is no question whatever that if Mr. Gorbachov or his successor wants to use force and repression, the Soviet Union, with its military might not yet meaningfully reduced, will continue to be the biggest threat to peace and freedom."

"Less than six months ago, China, under Deng Xiaoping, was 'irreversibly' launched on the road to free market economics and more democracy, or so most people believed and hoped. One afternoon in Tiananmen Square reversed all that. . . . But it is certainly clear that the Soviets did not reduce their military forces on the China border on the ground that there was less of a threat because of apparently 'irreversible' changes in China."

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### World AIDS conference focuses on depopulation

A "World Conference on HIV-AIDS and Global Depopulation" was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Nov. 27-29, despite heavy counterorganizing against the confer-

ence by the U. S. Information Agency.

Conference chairman Samuel Evans told the Nov. 22 *New Observer*, the largest black weekly newspaper in the Philadelphia area, "The conference seeks clarification of disturbing rumors and grave allegations which have achieved widespread international circulation . . . that HIV-virus causing AIDS was cultivated artificially, in laboratories as an instrument of biological warfare; . . . that plans for depopulation, targeting certain racial and ethnic groups are being implemented through ethnic weapons."

Among the presentations to the conference were: "AIDS: Helping Viruses Across the Species Barriers," by Dr. John Seale, M.D., member Royal Society of Medicine, London, England; "Intercontinental History of AIDS," by Dr. Georges Mathé, M.D., Director of Cancer Science, Hôpital Paul-Brousse, Paris, France; "The Eruption of Global Pandemics," by Warren Hamerman, *EIR* Biological Holocaust Task Force; and Dr. Ricardo Veronesi, founder of the Brazilian Society on Infectious Diseases. Physical economist Lyndon LaRouche also wrote a paper which was delivered at the conference.

The *New Observer* reported that the Organization of African Unity, representing 50 governments on the continent of Africa, expressed support of the conference.

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### Eastern pilots end eight-month strike

Eastern Airline pilots threw in the towel Nov. 21, voting unconditionally to end their bitter eight-month strike in support of striking machinists. The pilots' vote came after President Bush vetoed legislation that would have created a special commission to investigate the machinists' dispute, on the grounds that Eastern's future was being determined in bankruptcy court.

Eastern is now operating at about 75% of its pre-strike schedule and has hired 1000 pilots plus about 870 Eastern pilots who had crossed the picket lines. The returning pilots will be put at the bottom of a preferential recall list. The pilots' capitulation is expected to anger the machinists, who are still on

strike.

The Air Line Pilots Association complained that with the veto of the legislation, "George Bush did not pursue a hands-off policy in this strike. He kicked the workers off the end of the gangplank. We did everything in our power to win a just war against a greedy and insensitive management."

Skip Copeland, chairman of the executive council of the Eastern pilots, conceded that the "long bitter strike" cannot be called a victory for Eastern workers, but added that Texas Air's "scorched earth policy" will be felt by Eastern Air creditors, employees, and customers for years.

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### U.S. stabs Lebanon, backs terrorist Syrians

The U.S. State Department, in a policy statement delivered by spokesman Margaret Tutwiler on Nov. 30, said that Lebanese Prime Minister Gen. Michel Aoun should "step aside for [the] legitimate government," and complained that Aoun "continues to reject the legitimacy of the Hrawi government."

The "legitimate government" is that of the Syrian-backed puppet government of Elias Hrawi.

These latest U.S. statements are the clearest indication yet that the Bush administration does *not* support a free and independent Lebanon, but is backing the Syrian dictator Hafez al-Assad, who controls terrorism and drug running throughout the region.

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### Soviets have lasers in space, defector says

"Space laser weapons deployed by Soviets, scientist-defector says," is the headline of a front-page article in the Nov. 20 *Washington Times*.

The *Times* reports that "Bush administration intelligence sources" have leaked to them that an unnamed high-ranking Soviet scientist who defected to the West earlier

this year, has confirmed that the Soviets deployed an anti-missile laser system called Project Astrophysica in 1983.

Both the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency reported the existence of the space-based laser system in separate reports that were circulated to the administration and congressional officials in recent weeks. One official told the *Times* that the existence of the laser system is being discussed by an interagency group as a possible violation of the 1972 ABM treaty.

## DoJ embarrassed again by bankruptcy decision

The Department of Justice was criticized for having "acted willfully and fraudulently" to take and keep the software of a computer firm, Inslaw, and that it improperly harassed that firm, by U.S. District Court Judge William B. Bryant of Washington, D.C., who rejected virtually every argument of the DoJ in upholding a 1987 bankruptcy court decision.

"Bryant also ruled that the department had violated bankruptcy law by continuing to harass Inslaw after the company filed for bankruptcy protection, and that it had improperly attempted to force the company to switch its bankruptcy filing from a Chapter 11 reorganization to a Chapter 7 liquidation. 'Instead of following the orderly procedures established by the bankruptcy code for resolving its dispute with Inslaw . . . [Justice] pursued a course of self-help,' Bryant wrote," the Nov. 23 *Washington Post* reported.

Inslaw has been fighting the DoJ for four years. The bankruptcy court had ruled in 1987 that the DoJ "took, converted, stole" Inslaw's software "by trickery, fraud and deceit," and that several DoJ employees—which included at least one former employee of Inslaw—showed bias against the company. In 1985, Inslaw had filed for protection under Chapter 11 after the DoJ stopped paying the company for contracted computer services, and after it had seized its software, saying the company no longer owned it.

"Two months ago, the staff of a Senate

investigative subcommittee issued a report concluding that Justice Department officials 'exercised poor judgment' and showed personal bias in dealing with Inslaw. At least one other congressional investigation into the Justice Department's dealings with Inslaw is under way," the *Post* said.

## Environmentalists are threat to liberties

Civil liberties will be eliminated if environmentalists gain power, warns syndicated columnist Alston Chase, a strong environmentalist, on Nov. 27.

"Environmental reform requires coercion," he warns, adding that leading environmental groups, from the German Green Party to the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Worldwatch Institute, are now supporting totalitarian governments and dictatorships as the only form of government that will enforce environmental laws.

Noting that the German Green Party just gave the Sandinistas \$400,000, Chase points out, "Many ecological fools, enchanted with the idea of a central planning, are rushing in where all but resolute Marxists fear to tread.

"Although [the greens] preach 'grass-roots democracy,' they would regulate every nook and cranny of citizens' lives. As one German Green representative explained to me: 'Grass-roots democracy sounded wonderful before we were elected to Parliament. But now we are in power, centralized solutions seem far more effective.'

". . . [E]nvironmental protection and civil liberties are on a collision course. As problems worsen, the temptation to solve them by coercion grows. Governments are already tightening . . . a host of environmental regulations. Major bureaucracies have been created to enforce them. There are calls for an international environmental regulatory agency. The trend is to more control, not less. And while much of this is good and seemingly necessitated by events, it may go too far. . . . We don't want to create an eco-police empowered to search houses for D-Con or aerosol sprays and to arrest citizens for burning wood in the fireplace."

## Briefly

● **GENERAL DYNAMICS** filed suit against the U.S. government seeking to recover the costs of its legal defense in the Divads air defense gun case in which James Beggs was forced to resign as administrator of NASA.

● **HOUSTONIANS** overwhelmed organizers of free Thanksgiving dinners for the hungry and homeless. About 25,000 dinners were served in 1988, and organizers had food for 35,000 people, which fell far short of the 60,000 turnout.

● **DAIRY COWS** increased milk production by 5.5% when listening to classical music such as Beethoven's Fifth and Haydn's Seventh symphonies, in a study presented to the Indiana Academy of Sciences earlier in November.

● **NEIL HARTIGAN**, Illinois Attorney General and candidate for governor, backed out of a fight to ensure health and safety regulations for abortion clinics which would have come before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Ragsdale v. Turnock*.

● **NO NEW APPLICATIONS** from Polish and Hungarian refugees will be processed, the State Department said Nov. 22, citing the "democratic evolution" in the two states. It will reject some 19,000 of the 20,000 applications already on file.

● **CRACK DEALERS'** work long, dangerous hours for sub-minimum wages in conditions which compare unfavorably with slavery, and where the wealth is concentrated among only the top dealers, according to facts presented by the *New York Times* Nov. 26.

● **VIRGINIA** sterilized about 8,300 people under its state eugenics law between 1924 and 1972, the *International Herald Tribune* reported Nov. 22 in an article on eugenics in Communist China.