

National News

Judge demands Reagan Iran-Contra entries

Judge Harold Greene ordered former President Reagan Jan. 30 to turn over certain entries from his personal diaries to the defense in the Iran-Contra case of former National Security Adviser Adm. John Poindexter.

Defense lawyers have described Reagan as one of their most important witnesses, claiming he would provide evidence showing that Poindexter's actions had been known or approved.

Greene, in a 16-page ruling, said Reagan has until Feb. 5 to give Poindexter copies of all diary entries on six specific Iran-Contra categories and for 29 dates ranging from July 17, 1985, until Dec. 2, 1986, right after the scandal became public.

Greene said a defense subpoena seeks classified and highly sensitive information. If Reagan claims executive privilege, there would be a hearing in open court on whether the diaries were material and crucial to Poindexter's defense. Greene has reviewed the material in secret, and it probably would be difficult for Reagan and the Justice Department to convince him the entries were not needed for Poindexter's defense.

The specific diary entries that he said Reagan must turn over generally involve the secret arms sales to Iran, the diversion of the proceeds to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels in 1985-86 when Congress banned U.S. military assistance, and U.S. efforts to help arm the Contras.

New York Times covers du Pont Smith case

The *New York Times* gave prominent coverage on Jan. 29 to the fight of Lewis du Pont Smith to overturn a court declaration of mental incompetency which had been sought by his family because of his support for the ideas and political movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche.

The *Times*, after laying out the basic details of the case, including Smith's claim that he lost \$3.3 million in the 1987 stock

market crash "because the court had not let him rearrange his portfolio," examines the family's disagreement with him. Lewis Smith's father "Newbold Smith has previously said the case is not 'Smith vs. Smith, but Smith vs. LaRouche,'" the *Times* reports, quoting Lewis saying, "Money is the family blood. Passing money down through the generations defines parental responsibility in the du Pont family."

The *Times* states that Lewis Smith "told his side of the story with clarity, anger, and humor," but failed to share any of it with its readers. One of Smith's lawyers, James Crummet, is quoted asking, "I smoke cigarettes, and that is listed as a personality disorder in the classification manual [of mental illnesses, used as evidence]; does that make me incompetent?"

The Jan. 30 London *Times* broke a months-long blackout on news in the British press on coverage of LaRouche or his associates, in reporting on the case. While hostile to Lewis's fight, the *Times'* James Bone reports, "He has taken his case to the press, telling one journalist who visited his house while he was cooking: 'Anyone who can cook *gnocchi alla Gorgonzola* cannot be incompetent.'"

Wallop condemns Vienna troop talks

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) condemned the willingness of the U.S. to accede to Soviet aims of reducing the U.S. troop presence in Western Europe in the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks.

The Soviets are using CFE levels "as the major pretext for maintaining troops where they are obviously not wanted," hence, their desire to conclude CFE quickly, Wallop said. "It is harder and harder to sympathize with the U.S. officials who want to go along.

"Neither Mr. Gorbachov nor anyone else can justify a U.S.-Soviet military condominium of Europe. Against whom would it be directed? Germany? . . . The only country that threatens the world militarily is the Soviet Union." Whereas CFE can only provide for parity and some additional warning time, "full democratic sovereignty in East Europe . . . would ensure zero Soviet troops in the region."

The CFE talks should be postponed, while democracy takes its course, Wallop said, noting that "the political roof has fallen in on the Warsaw Pact." It is possible that the new governments in East Germany and Czechoslovakia may not only demand Russian troops out, but non-communist control of their own national forces.

Fewer defense companies a good thing, says Taft

U.S. Ambassador to NATO and former Deputy Secretary of Defense William Taft said that there should be fewer defense related companies, in remarks to a Jan. 27 strategic studies conference in Paris.

Taft said that no nation, including the United States, could now afford to maintain an independent industrial base able to support military requirements. "The number of defense firms is already declining, and it should."

Taft proposed that NATO countries undertake more joint efforts to develop and produce weaponry.

Navy officer convicted in 'rocket docket'

Retired Navy SEAL Commander Richard Marcinko, one of the world's foremost experts on counterterrorism, was convicted on Jan. 26 of one count of conspiracy to defraud the government. He now faces up to five years in prison and \$50,000 in fines.

Marcinko's attorney Yale Goldberg said that he will fight to reverse the conviction. "The testimony of government witnesses was among the most incredible testimony I've heard in 30 years," he said. "The government's prime witness testified that the government twisted and molded his testimony to fit the facts they wanted to prove."

The conviction was run by the secret government apparatus that also convicted Lyndon LaRouche: U.S. Attorney Henry R. Hudson, Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Klein, and federal Judge Albert Bryan.

Last October, the jury acquitted Marcinko on one charge of conflict of interest, and

failed to reach a verdict on two other charges. It appears that Hudson kept the jury on call for the past three months until the jurors finally gave in and convicted.

Commander Marcinko went public with his story by speaking at the Martin Luther King Tribunal event in February 1989, offering his support in the fight against political prosecutions.

After founding SEAL Team 6, the elite of the SEAL units, Marcinko went on to create (OP-06D), a highly secret Navy unit whose job was to test the readiness of Navy facilities around the world to withstand a Soviet *spetsnaz* attack. It is known that Marcinko proved that security systems and facilities were not at the level of readiness which would withstand a *spetsnaz* assault.

Interior Department capitulates to greens

Eco-fascist groups suing the Interior Department have reached an agreement on a new plan for strict enforcement of the nation's strip-mining law.

The agreement reached Jan. 26 was hailed by lawyers for environmental groups as an "unqualified victory for the environment." They said it will make it easy to revoke strip-mining permits issued to companies and individuals with past records of infractions, no matter how small, and to block new permits in such cases. At the heart of the new enforcement system is the planned installation by July 1 of a computer system with complete information on mining companies and their owners.

Energy Department joins green bandwagon

The U.S. Department of Energy is abandoning the old energy policies of production of energy, and will now emphasize the environmentalists' agenda of promotion of conservation and renewable resources, according to W. Henson Moore, Deputy Secretary of Energy, at a Jan. 26 press conference.

Moore said the Energy Department will spend \$336 million to make lighting in federal buildings more efficient, will promote increased use of hydroelectric power and commercial incinerators that burn trash to produce electricity, and will promote the use of alternative fuels including methanol and ethanol which, he said, "represent the cleanest, cheapest, safest means of meeting our nation's growing energy needs."

The hydroelectric side of their plan will be very difficult to meet, since federal licenses to hundreds of medium and small hydroelectric generators expire in the next three years, and environmentalist groups are demanding they either be rebuilt or dismantled.

Soviet defense minister embarrasses appeasers

The open admissions by Soviet Defense Minister Dimitri Yazov, that the Soviet Army had invaded Azerbaijan to prevent the Azerbaijani Popular Front from seizing power from the communists, has embarrassed the Bush administration which has been doing everything possible to keep Mikhail Gorbachov in power.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Jan. 29 that the administration had found Yazov's statements "very disturbing." Boucher added that comments by former KGB gangster, now Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, that the Soviet goal was "for the purpose of saving people," were far better. He praised Shevardnadze's line as fitting the official U.S. view of the conflict in the south as being "an age-old ethnic conflict, not a fight for independence."

Boucher also cautioned the National Salvation Front in Romania run by Gorbachov's close associate General Iliescu, not to backslide in the transition from revolution to democracy. However, in the same State Department press conference, he praised East German communist chief Hans Modrow for having advanced the timetable of the elections there, which can only benefit the ruling communist party, since it gives the opposition less time to build new organizations.

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT BUSH** unveiled his latest war on drugs proposal Jan. 25, which includes asking for the death penalty for those convicted as "drug kingpins," a penalty so far reserved for murderers.

● **THE U.S. STATE** Department's attempt to evict the ambassador of Prime Minister Michel Aoun from the Lebanese embassy in Washington was blocked by U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene on Jan. 26, who granted a 10 day injunction. Noting that Aoun controls a sizable portion of Lebanon, Greene said the issue is "whether the U.S. government can take control of property controlled by one sovereign and deliver it to another sovereign."

● **ENVIRONMENTAL** Protection Agency Administrator William Reilly said on the ABC News program "Good Morning America" on Jan. 25, that President Bush's endorsement of elevating the EPA to cabinet status puts it at "the big table." When the EPA administrator is doing his job, "he is in everybody else's hair," he said.

● **A PLUTONIUM** processing plant in Idaho using advanced lasers which was to have been the first new nuclear weapons manufacturing plant since the Hanford, Washington nuclear reactor was completed in 1963, has been stopped. The Bush administration notified Idaho lawmakers that it will not provide money in next year's budget for the plant.

● **NASA'S** Earth monitoring station that will gather data on global climate warming and ozone depletion has soared to more than \$30 billion from an original estimate of \$12 billion, which would make it the most expensive space science project ever.

● **ELLIOTT ABRAMS**, the former assistant secretary of state, told a forum in Washington that "defeating the drug cartels is more important than sovereignty," reported the Buenos Aires daily *Clarín*, Jan. 21.