

National News

New Age 'cybernetics' invades U.S. military

London's Royal Institute for International Affairs is planning a conference aimed at brainwashing the U.S. military to adopt the "information age" madness as military strategy. Scheduled for May 21-22 in London, the conference, titled "Revolution in Military Affairs? Challenges to Governments and Industry in the Information Age," proclaims in its brochure: "The concept of Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) originated in the U.S.A., in the early 1990s. Its protagonists maintain that the world is undergoing a period of change, with technology as a major driver, which will result in fundamental changes in the way warfare is organized and conducted."

One of the conference speakers, who is neither American nor British, told *EIR* that so-called RMA really began to catch fire in the Pentagon after the Gulf War, and the reversal of the "Vietnam Syndrome," when "American military people fell in love with technology again, and began to speak about the 'new technology.'" He identified the Thatcher-Bush Gulf War as the dawning of a "new kind of war," and described such utopian concepts as including "Information Warfare," whereby "computers can be substituted for most weapons," and the "System of Systems Approach," paraphrasing Vietnam-era Army Commander Gen. William Westmoreland, that the U.S. must be able to "see anything that moves, so that anything we see, we can hit." *EIR*'s source cited the doomsday fantasy *The Next War*, by former U.S. Defense Secretary Sir Caspar Weinberger, as typical RMA mentality.

Sweeney pledges support for Wheeling-Pitt strike

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney on April 26 joined more than 250 delegates from local unions in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia in pledging support for the 4,500 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) who have been striking for seven

months against Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, America's ninth largest steelmaker. Speaking at a "solidarity conference" in Pittsburgh, Sweeney stressed that this was the first such conference ever sponsored by the AFL-CIO, and promised that "this will be a part of the way we operate from now on." The strike began last Oct. 1, when the steelmaker refused to negotiate its "final demands" for the new union contract. Wheeling-Pitt is demanding elimination of protection for seniority, crafts, and contracting-out, while offering what the union blasted as "a sham pension" and "the worst managed-care program in the steel industry."

Wheeling-Pitt CEO Ron LaBow, a New York financier-consultant, is cut from the template of "Chainsaw Al" Dunlop. According to the USWA weekly strike report, *One More Day*, the company has lost close to \$150 million since the strike began, and its stock has lost half its value, but LaBow cashed in most of his stock last year, and continues to draw a \$5.5 million consulting fee annually from the company.

Maker of Lockerbie exposé film dies

Allan Francovich, the London-based American filmmaker, whose "The Maltese Double Cross" exposed the Bush-Thatcher collusion to cover up the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing, mysteriously died on April 17. The news came from a press release issued by Interfor, Inc., the New York City private investigative firm whose head, Juval Aviv, was the investigator for Pan Am's insurance underwriters, who exposed the role of Syria, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and Mansur al-Kassar in the bomb plot. Francovich's film laid the cover-up of these elements of the international drug- and arms-running networks at the feet of President George Bush and his controller, Britain's Margaret Thatcher.

Interfor's April 21 release said that Francovich "flew last week to Houston, Texas, hand-carrying documents intended for the attorneys working in Les Coleman's defense . . . [and] was detained by Customs officials at the Houston Airport. The cause of death,

according to the statement given to his ex-wife, was cardiac arrest (while being questioned)."

Francovich's film highlighted both Aviv and Coleman, and their separate, but complementary research into the Dec. 21, 1988 bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Both were indicted in the United States, in separate cases, each on charges ostensibly unrelated to their Pan Am investigations. While Aviv won acquittal, Coleman was only recently released from prison, after posting a hefty bail, pending his trial.

According to his friends, at the time of his death, Francovich was also working closely with William Pepper, the attorney for James Earl Ray, who is seeking a trial to reverse his coerced guilty plea for the murder of Martin Luther King.

Ala. lawmakers study securities transfer tax

The securities transfer tax legislation introduced earlier this year into the Alabama State Legislature by Rep. Thomas Jackson, was discussed by the House Ways and Means Committee on April 22. Jackson told committee members that the tax is estimated to raise \$540 million per year in new revenues.

Jackson reviewed his proposals that the monies be utilized for a number of key projects, including \$100 million to build the first leg of a maglev train running from Huntsville to Birmingham, and, ultimately, on to Atlanta, Georgia. This project alone, Jackson explained, would generate 6,000 jobs, and gear up high-technology machine-tool industry in the state. He also proposed that \$300 million from the revenues be used for an infrastructure development project, which would build and repair roads, sewers, and water systems in the 10 poorest counties in the state, a project which would generate 12-15,000 jobs and lay the basis for industrial development in these impoverished areas.

The committee voted to table the bill for further study, which creates the possibility that it will be heard at one of the three special sessions on the state budget scheduled for the summer.

State Dept. confirms U.S. 'One-China' policy

President Clinton was scheduled to have a "drop-in" visit with the Dalai Lama as the latter was meeting with Vice President Al Gore on April 23. One day earlier, State Department spokesman Nick Burns said that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would be meeting with the Dalai Lama in his capacity as a religious leader. When asked by a reporter about the Lama as a political figure, Burns responded: "I think you know our position. We consider Tibet to be part of China. That has been the position of the United States well before the revolution of 1949, by the way. And we see the Dalai Lama as obviously a person of high moral authority, someone who deserves the respect of many—of people around the world, and as a religious figure. . . . From our part I don't believe the discussion will be on political issues as much as religious issues, because that seems to be the point of greatest concern here."

When asked about the Dalai Lama's proposals for Tibetan autonomy, Burns answered: "We consider Tibet to be part of China—I want to be very clear about that—and have for many, many, many decades. And that position hasn't changed, and it will not change." A little later, Burns reiterated that the United States has a "One-China policy," and that "it's not for the United States to comment on issues of political autonomy within China."

Don Fowler's 'Jim Crow' won't fly, says court

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia denied a motion by former Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler to dismiss a suit by 1996 Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche and his supporters, charging that Fowler had violated the Voting Rights Act by denying elected LaRouche delegates their seat at the Democratic National Convention. Despite broad-based support of over 600,000 votes

for LaRouche in the primaries, Fowler had imposed a "Jim Crow" rule, declaring that LaRouche was not a *bona fide* Democrat, and that therefore, party chairs had to "disregard" any votes cast for him, and deny credentials to any convention delegate pledged to LaRouche.

The DNC and Fowler are represented by John Keeney, Jr., whose father, John Keeney, is a part of the Justice Department permanent bureaucracy hit-squad that ran the frame-up of LaRouche. Keeney, Jr. offered the arrogant argument that the Voting Rights Act "does not apply to the [DNC] nor its chair, Donald Fowler."

Florida sues to protect immigrant elderly, ill

In late April, Florida became the first state to sue the federal government, in order to protect needy, legal immigrants from losing benefits that will be cut under the 1996 welfare reform act. An estimated 100,000 legal immigrants in the state, many of them elderly or disabled, will lose one or more federal benefits. In announcing the suit, Gov. Lawton Chiles (D) said, "The looming crisis that we are facing . . . stems from a veiled attempt by Congress to balance the federal budget on the backs of Florida's taxpayers."

The suit charges that the 1996 Welfare Reform Act denies equal protection to disabled legal non-citizens, by terminating Supplemental Security Income and Food Stamp benefits.

Included among the plaintiffs, are two people representing the class of individual plaintiffs: Rafael Caramanzana, 32, was born with severe brain damage and cerebral palsy, who immigrated with his parents in 1983. Caramanzana, a quadriplegic, is cared for by his mother; his father earns a taxable income of \$220 a week. He has been denied citizenship because of his mental impairment. Eduardo Marsans, 21, is also a quadriplegic with cerebral palsy, and receives SSI and Food Stamps. Because he has only lived in the United States since 1993, he is not eligible for naturalization until May 1998. His benefits are set to be terminated by May 12.

DEFENSE Secretary William Cohen emphasized on April 22 that the United States has "no concrete evidence of any country being directly linked" to the bombing of the U.S. military barracks in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996. The Anglophile media have been trying to pin the attack on Iran, and are beating the drums for a retaliatory air strike.

BARRY CLAUSEN, a private investigator who exposed the eco-terrorist Earth First! group, has unearthed damning evidence that the Turner Foundation of Atlanta media mogul Ted Turner is financing eco-terrorism in both the U.S. and Canada, according to the Canadian press on April 8 and 9. Earth First! fronts on Turner's dole include the Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Road RIP, Gila Watch, Forest Guardians, the Rainforest Action Network, the Native Forest Network, and the Ecology Center.

AN IMPLANTABLE cardiac defibrillator first developed by NASA received a ringing endorsement from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, which announced on April 14 that it found the device so effective in treating some arrhythmias, that it is stopping its study and recommending that the control half of the study's patients, who used traditional anti-arrhythmia medications, consult their doctors about an implant.

ARIZONA'S Gov. Fyfe Symington (R) is proposing to build a private 1,600-bed prison in Mexico, across the border, to house the bulk of Arizona's 2,373 Mexican prisoners. According to the *New York Times* of April 20, the state pays \$40 million to incarcerate Mexicans convicted in the U.S., while a private prison builder, using cheap Mexican labor, could halve the cost.

FDR-PAC has released an updated version of *A Program to Save the Nation*, authored by Lyndon LaRouche for his 1996 Presidential bid. LaRouche is on the advisory board of the political action committee.