National News

EIR's Mexico conference features LaRouche

EIR founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. re-emphasized the dangers of a North American Common Market approach from the U.S. to Mexico in his remarks at a March 26 session of EIR's conference on U.S.-Latin American relations. Mexico's concept of bilateral relations is appropriate, he said, and should be pursued at the April 27 Reagan-López Portillo summit

LaRouche sharply attacked both the "left" Socialist International/Jesuit and "right" Kissingerians advising the U.S. administration. He went on to note that "dirigism" built the United States, Japan, and every other industrial capitalist power; dirigistic investment and credit policies, he said, are the key to the apparent paradox that war helps a country get back on its economic feet, even though most of the production is squandered on the battlefield.

Attending the conference were representatives of the White House, Departments of Defense, State, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Naval Reserve, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, along with diplomats from the Mexican, Dominican, Venezuelan, and Soviet embassies, and many business executives and university personnel.

CFR conference pushes China arms sales

"The Reagan administration will begin selling arms to China during its first term. It's inevitable," declared one of Henry Kissinger's associates, an attendee at a March 21-22 conference on China at Averell Harriman's former estate in New York, Arden House.

A campaign for selling weapons and weapons technology as part of closer U.S.-China security relations was the

major outcome of the conference, attended by more than 40 individuals from the Reagan and Carter administrations, military, business, and academic circles.

"We are talking about a 15 to 20 percent buildup in which the U.S. supplies the technology, components, and training for China to build its weapons. Its economic program rules out major weapons transfers or some five-year buildup," commented one of the academics

Asked what security benefits China could provide the U.S., he responded: "keeping Soviet troops tied down, deterring Vietnam, and enabling us to deploy our forces elsewhere without having to worry about Chinese threats to the security of the Philippines et al."

One former National Security Council staffer said the U.S. arms package could "only try to stop the military decline [China] is now undergoing."

Italian-Americans oppose possible Raab appointment

According to CBS, the Washington Post, and other national media, the projected appointment of attorney Max Raab as U.S. ambassador to Italy is strongly opposed by the Italian-American community. Raab's mooted appointment was first reported by the New York Times. Italian-Americans claim Raab is unqualified for the post, since he knows nothing of Italian politics or culture.

Raab is a senior partner of the Warburg law firm Strook, Strook and Lavan, which is also the law firm of Warner Communications. Warner was a leading backer of the 1976 campaign of Jimmy Carter, under whose ambassador to Italy, Richard Gardner, relations with Italy had severely deteriorated.

A Boston-born Republican, Raab is also a leading member of the U.S.-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Hebrew Union College and the United Jewish Appeal.

Equally unqualified, though Italian-American, is another candidate for the post: former ABC newsman John Scali. Scali's nomination is expected to be backed by Secretary of State Haig and CIA Director William Casey. Italian-Americans who believe that U.S. interests in Italy lie in promoting the industrial development of southern Italy, have backed the president of the National Italian-American Foundation, Frank Stella, as the most appropriate choice.

New York officials destroy geriatric health care

As part of the deurbanization of New York City, the commissioner of the state Office of Mental Health, James Prevost, is dismantling the New York mental health system. Over the past three years, Prevost has replaced the psychiatric medical model with local control and "patients rights," creating bedlams, not hospitals.

The Manhattan Psychiatric Center (MPC), Manhattan's state mental hospital, is being dismantled. One building is to be turned into a prison for the criminally insane; elderly inpatients will be deported to an upstate backwater facility, Harlem Valley. The MPC's Mobile Geriatric Team, a service with a good track record in reaching the most concentrated elderly population in the United States, is to be abolished.

Prevost's description of his program is "a revolution seeking nothing less than a reduction of all conceptual division in society: to reduce differences and enhance similarities."

Request visa denial to Wiesenthal

In a memorandum directed to Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the International Caucus of Labor Committees requested that the State Department revoke the entry visa of Austrian citizen Simon Wiesenthal on the grounds that he may have assisted Nazi authorities in the persecution of Jews in Poland, the Ukraine, and Austria. Wiesenthal, head

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of the Jewish Documentation Center, is a self-proclaimed "Nazi hunter" who plans to tour the U.S. to speak about what he calls a new rise in anti-Semitism.

According to his autobiography, Wiesenthal's war record appears less than unblemished. Although a Jew, and interned in several concentration camps, when brought before several firing squads, he alone was suddenly removed on each occasion. While working at the Ostbahn rail works, Wiesenthal was even permitted to hide two revolvers in the desk drawer of the camp's Oberinspector Adolph Kohrautz. Camp commander Heinrich Guenhart after the war was invited to Wiesenthal's daughter's wedding.

Wiesenthal, who admits his funding comes virtually entirely from non-Jewish sources, is a friend of the Dutch Prince Bernhard, a former SS officer.

The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which has oversight for seeking out and extraditing Nazis, maintained that Wiesenthal's possible collaboration with the Nazis was "bizarre." According to the OSI liaison to the State Department, Mr. Mausner, such collaboration had to be under "coercion."

Yorktown Committee invites Giscard

The Yorktown, Virginia Bicentennial Committee has made known to Congress and President Reagan that its plans for a gala commemoration this fall of the 1781 Battle of Yorktown include full participation of the French government, especially President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The gala event, which occurs every 50 years commemorates the final battle of the American Revolution. The problem is that President Reagan must extend the invitation which he has not yet done.

The Battle of Yorktown culminated on October 19 after a brief siege and naval blockade executed by General Washington and French Admiral Rochambeau. Their brilliant land/sea strategy had boxed 8,000 British troops in the small area of Yorktown. Their escape route to the sea was cut off by Admiral de Grasse, who drove off a British fleet sent to rescue Cornwallis. Colonel Alexander Hamilton and the Marquis de Lafayette led the combined 18,000 Franco-American land forces to victory in the final assault. Latest word from France is that President Giscard will match Reagan "one for one" in dignitaries, bands, color guards, and warships to help the celebration. No word has been heard from the losing side of the battle, Prime Minister Thatcher and the British.

New Jerseyans want TMI turned on

Though their activity has been blacked out of major newspapers, New Jersey and Pennsylvania residents have been campaigning for some time to get back the nuclear energy they rely on from the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

In Forked River, N.J., residents are now planning a petition drive to demand the opening of TMI Unit 1, and the election of a pronuclear fifth commissioner to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Fusion Energy Foundation Director of Nuclear Engineering Jon Gilbertson addressed residents of nearby Toms River last week on the facts and myths of Three Mile Island. "No official group investigating the incident has answered the simple question of who turned off the emergency feedwater valve—whether deliberately or accidentally—that triggered the incident," he said.

Gilbertson, a nuclear engineer, was part of an Independent Commission of Inquiry on Three Mile Island that found good reason to suspect sabotage as the initiating cause of the 1979 accident there. The commission also debunked the wildly exaggerated press stories of dangers arising from the accident. The Toms River meeting grew out of a series of public hearings on utility rate hikes in several Jersey counties served by Three Mile Island.

Briefly

- TRILATERAL Commission members plan to spend a lot of time discussing the efforts of the White House to reassert control over foreign policy when they meet in Washington, D.C. March 29-31. "We will retool the administration," boasted a member of the commission.
- ROBERT GARCIA, a congressman from the South Bronx was confronted by a group of angry constitutents last week who forced him to reconsider his support for the Ottinger bill H.R. 907 which calls for imposing zero population growth by the year 2000. Responding to the pressure, Garcia denied claims made by Congressman Ottinger's office that he had signed on as a cosponsor of the bill.
- BENJAMIN HOOKS, the executive director of the NAACP, said last week in Atlanta that talk of a racist conspiracy behind the killings of black children in that city is "irresponsible," and "only intensifies the trouble and anguish."
- ROBERT A. GEORGINE. president of the Building and Construction Trades department of the AFL-CIO, stated March 27 that the antinuclear march against the Three Mile Island power plant did not represent the views of labor. Georgine said that "coal and nuclear offer the only source of energy for the near future" and that 'electricity means jobs." The march, scheduled for March 28 was cosponsored by Socialist International elements within the labor movement. The United Mineworkers, originally promised that the demonstration would support their contract demands, have decided not to attend. Now in the midst of contract ratification, one UMW official declared: "We have more important things to do than walk with some environmentalists."