

National News

Will anti-drug war get Libyan planes?

Representative George Darden (D-Ga.) announced on Oct. 25 that he plans to introduce legislation when Congress reconvenes in January to have the Pentagon confiscate eight C-130H planes built at Lockheed's Georgia plant in Marietta in the late 1970s, when Jimmy Carter banned delivery of the planes because of evidence of Libya's involvement in terrorism.

"The C-130 is ideal for drug patrols," Darden said.

President signs \$1.7 billion drug bill

President Reagan on Oct. 27 signed into law the \$1.7 billion Omnibus Drug Abuse Act of 1986. "The American people want their government to get tough and go on the offensive, and that's exactly what we intend, with more ferocity than ever before," he said.

The new law conforms to the President's six-point War on Drugs agenda in the following ways:

1) A drug-free workplace. It requires prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs for federal workers. This corresponds to an executive order signed by the President Sept. 15, that included mandatory testing for workers in sensitive positions.

2) Drug-free schools. It authorizes \$200 million this year, and \$250 million next year and the year after, for a grant program to "assist state and local governments in establishing drug-free learning environments."

3) Expanded drug treatment. It appropriates \$198 million this year for drug research, develops programs for clinical training of drug-abuse professionals, and authorizes \$42 million through 1989 for counseling and medical treatment.

4) Expanded international cooperation. Among other measures, it provides an additional \$322.5 million to add surveillance aircraft and radar systems, and almost \$250

million to Customs for additional personnel and equipment to fight drug smuggling.

5) Strengthened law enforcement. It provides life sentences for principals in major drug enterprises and toughens penalties for those using minors in drug-related crimes. It makes drug-money laundering a federal offense carrying up to a 20-year sentence.

6) Expanded public awareness and prevention. It creates a new Office of Substance Abuse Prevention in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as a President's Media Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, with 12 members appointed by the President to disseminate information.

Lawsuits settled between First Fidelity, LaRouche

Two years of intensive litigation between First Fidelity Bank of New Jersey, and the campaign committees and associates of presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, were ended Oct. 29, as all parties consented to a settlement of the lawsuits involved.

The settlement involved three separate cases: 1) The suit brought by LaRouche's 1984 campaign committees, The LaRouche Campaign and Independent Democrats for LaRouche, against First Fidelity, charging breach of contract and unlawful seizure of the committees' bank accounts; 2) First Fidelity's suit for libel and fraud against the LaRouche committees, which included claims that the bank had sustained over \$700,000 in credit card charge backs stemming from alleged fraudulent charges and unpaid loans to the campaigns; and 3) First Fidelity's racketeering (RICO) lawsuit brought against LaRouche personally, 17 organizations, and 20 individuals that the bank called the "LaRouche Enterprise."

Under the terms of the settlement, all parties are enjoined through Nov. 15, 1990 from "making or publishing any accusations against the opposing parties which accuse said opposing parties of tortious or criminal conduct; from making or publishing any statement with respect to any past activity, affairs, business, or operations of any party, its subsidiaries or affiliates or their officers,

agents, or employees which was the basis of any legal or factual issues in the within actions. . . ."

A spokesman for the LaRouche committees said the committees were "extremely pleased" with the settlement, and that all sides were happy to settle the lawsuits, which had become very expensive for all parties. Aides to Mr. LaRouche reported that the candidate was very pleased with the settlement.

Catholic feminists, lesbians in pagan frenzy

Over 2,000 Catholic feminists gathered in Washington, D. C., Oct. 10-12 for a conference entitled "Women in the Church," according to *The Wanderer* of Oct. 23. The meeting included pagan appeals to "the loving goddess" and denunciations of the "male-dominated" church.

Featured speakers were Sr. Joan Chittister, president of the Conference of American Benedictine Prioresses, and Fr. Richard McBrien, a theologian from Notre Dame University. Sister Joan told the assembled feminists and lesbians of her suggested "Agenda for the '90's," including an appeal to the Virgin Mary as "a Third World woman. . . . Mary's agenda was fullness of personhood. Mary was the liberated and the liberator."

Probably the highlight of the proceedings was a "feminist liturgy," conducted by the Women Church Convergence, which includes Catholics for a Free Choice, the Conference for Catholic Lesbians, and the Women's Ordination Conference. The woman conducting the liturgy spoke of how "We are empowered by a loving goddess," and "We proclaim the power of our foremothers." She then "consecrated" bread and wine, saying, "We bless this bread of the eucharist of Women Church," telling the others to "raise your hands to proclaim that we, as well as this bread and wine, are the living eucharist of Women Church." The crowd put their hands on each others' shoulders and rocked rhythmically from side to side.

Briefly

● **CHESTER CROCKER**, assistant secretary of state, met Oct. 29 in Paris with Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA, the U.S.-backed guerrillas seeking to overthrow the government in Angola.

● **HOWARD PHILLIPS**, head of the United Conservative Appeal, endorsed Proposition 64 on the Cable Network News "Crossfire" program Oct. 30. "The only reason the same public health standards which apply to syphilis, gonorrhea, typhoid, and tuberculosis don't apply to AIDS, is that there is no political lobby for syphilis, but there is for AIDS," he said. Los Angeles ACLU lawyer Susan McGreivy, who was a guest on the program (along with *EIR*'s Webster Tarpley), maintained that the California AIDS initiative would persecute homosexuals, whereas in fact "lesbians have the purest blood of anyone."

● **TWO BOMBS** exploded in Puerto Rico Oct. 28, injuring one person, and federal authorities disarmed eight other bombs placed outside recruiting stations and military installations. Three radical pro-independence groups claimed responsibility: the Popular Puerto Rican Army, the Volunteer Organization for the Puerto Rican Revolution, and the Armed Forces for Popular Resistance.

● **PRESIDENT REAGAN** called the Strategic Defense Initiative an economic benefit "that will open the door to a new technological age." In a campaign speech in Colorado Springs on Oct. 30, he said, "Just as America's space program created new jobs and industries, SDI could open whole new fields of technology and industry, providing jobs for thousands right here in Colorado and improving the quality of life in America and around the world."

● **MICHAEL ARMACOST**, undersecretary of state for political affairs, has been in Central America on an "orientation visit" to discuss military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, the State Department revealed on Oct. 29.

Archbishop Hunthausen rallies against Trident

Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, who has been disciplined by the Vatican for opposition to the Church's social teachings, was among the 400-odd people who rallied in the rain outside a Trident nuclear submarine base in Bangor, Washington, on Oct. 26, UPI reported. The protest was held to mark the deployment of the *USS Alaska*, the nation's seventh Trident sub, said a spokeswoman for the anti-nuclear group Ground Zero.

The rally, one of a series organized by Agape, a nationwide Christian peace organization, was led by Bishop Michael Kenny of Alaska. Hunthausen was making his first public protest since September, when the Vatican turned over many of his duties to Auxiliary Bishop Donald Wuerl.

The following day, the Vatican issued a "chronology" of the Hunthausen case, which has drawn criticism of the Vatican from the "American heresy" faction of the Catholic Church. The chronology was reportedly written by Apostolic Pro-Nuncio Pio Laghi. It spells out five "problems" in Hunthausen's ministry, centering on the issues of divorce; contraceptive sterilization; homosexuality; permission for non-Catholics to receive communion at Catholic masses, and Catholics to receive communion at Protestant services; and use of inactive priests to teach and to say Mass.

Did Atlanta CDC sabotage AIDS research?

A team from the National Academy of Sciences has begun investigating allegations that AIDS experiments by the national Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia were sabotaged and mismanaged, UPI reported on Oct. 24.

The CDC is the control-point for a nationwide cover-up of the AIDS epidemic,

and has maintained, against overwhelming evidence to the contrary, that environmental factors such as sanitation and insect population play no significant role in transmission of AIDS; that there is no risk to non-addict heterosexual populations; and that the "solution" to the AIDS epidemic is "safe sex and clean needles."

The three-person panel from the Academy's National Institute of Medicine will try to determine why 7 of 13 AIDS researchers left the center in recent months.

Kathryn Lord, a center spokeswoman, said the investigators "are specifically looking at allegations of impropriety and mismanagement in the AIDS laboratory program." One report cited infighting so severe among researchers, that some were sabotaging the experiments of their rivals.

Reagan hails Pope's message on terrorism

White House spokesman Larry Speakes, asked to comment on Pope John Paul II's call for a worldwide "truce" on Oct. 27, in which terrorists and other armed protagonists would lay down their arms for one day, commended the initiative, and pointed to the hope offered by the Strategic Defense Initiative for ridding the world of the threat of war.

The President has sent a message to the Pope, said Speakes. [He] states that it is his fervent goal and hope . . . that we will someday no longer have to rely on nuclear weapons to deter aggression and assure world peace. To that end, the United States is now engaged in serious and sustained effort to negotiate major reductions in levels of offensive nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal of eliminating these weapons from the face of the Earth. In addition, we are exploring the possibilities presented by new technologies to protect human lives from the threat of nuclear destruction, through the use of strategic defenses which threaten no one. Such technologies offer the hope of placing deterrence of war on a safer and more stable basis."