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Reagan asks MX dense pack deployment

President Ronald Reagan has urged Congress to fund his MX missile plan at a level of \$26 billion. Over the next ten years the plan would cost more than \$40 billion.

The U.S. wants peace, Reagan said. "But unless we demonstrate the will to rebuild our strength and restore the military balance, the Soviets, since they are so far ahead, have little incentive to negotiate with us. If we had not begun to

modernize, the Soviet negotiators would know we had nothing to bargain with."

Reagan has recommended that the MX missile silos be placed in a "dense pack" formation in a 20-square-mile area near Cheyenne, Wyoming. This is a change from President Jimmy Carter's proposal to house the missiles in movable sites over a large area of Utah, which was met with public opposi-

tion. Reagan's plan is based on the theory of "fratricide." About 100 missiles would be placed in concrete-and-steel capsules about 1,800 feet apart in a long slender column. Theoretically when a Soviet missile exploded, other missiles entering the small area would be destroyed by the blast of the first. As a result some of the MXs would survive and could be used in a retaliatory strike.

Criticism of the plan takes two major thrusts. First, Reagan based his case for added nuclear strength on statements that the U.S. is behind the Soviet Union. Critics say U.S. nuclear forces are superior both in quality and flexibility and the U.S. has already budgeted \$1.6 billion for military build-up over five years. The U.S. superiority is in its submarine and other sea-based missiles that the president forgets to count when comparing warheads.

Others say the "dense pack" formula will not work. Richard Garwin, one of the builders of the hydrogen bomb, said all an enemy

would have to do to avoid "fratricide" is to deliver its missiles in waves 20 seconds or more apart. Garwin said the MX is a waste of money and that upgrading the

"The Soviet Union knows that we are now serious about our own strategic programs and that they must be prepared to negotiate in earnest," Reagan said.

In the strategic arms talks the U.S. has proposed reducing missile warheads from about 7,500 on each side to 5,000 on each side. The U.S.S.R. has countered by seeking a reduction of strategic delivery vehicles, including long-range ballistic missiles and long-range bombers—from 2,250 agreed to in the strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT II) to 1,800 on each side. That accord was negotiated by the Carter Administration in 1979 but not ratified by the Senate. Reagan opposed that treaty.

In Congress, opposition is already building. House Speaker Tip O'Neill said the program is a waste of money. Senator Ernest Hollings (D-

S.C.) said he has enough votes to cancel 1983 funding for the MX. In September, Congress had voted to leave funds in the budget to keep the project research alive.

Hollings said he believes the U.S. is overprepared for nuclear war and underprepared for conventional warfare.

Rather than prove to the U.S.S.R. that the U.S. "means business," Hollings is of the opinion that deployment of the MX system would demonstrate that the U.S. doesn't know what it is doing—that the \$35-\$40 billion would be wasted in a non-survivable system.

He supports the Catholic Bishops' efforts for a nuclear freeze. "We have got to forswear the use of nuclear weapons on both sides of the Iron Curtain.... I think it should be done in the context of the survival of mankind. That would give our foreign policy more credibility."

The first test for Reagan's proposal will be a November 30 House Subcommittee vote on military funding.



RONALD REAGAN



If you happened by the home economics classroom at Jefferson High School recently, you would have seen a room full of students whose eyes were riveted to a cooking demonstration at the head of the room. Principal Nate Jones visited the classes and demonstrated preparation of a chicken dish and some oriental cooking techniques. (JHS Photo: Fred Greatorex)

Mediation resolves neighborhood conflicts

Four years ago the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission began a pilot project to involve volunteers in the resolution of neighborhood conflicts to avoid police and court involvement. Purely voluntary, the project uses trained volunteers to bring disputants together, find a mutually satisfactory resolution, and make a contract between the disputing parties.

Reduction of funds reduced the four area offices to one located at King Neighborhood Facility, directed by Emmanuel J. Paris. The project continues to serve a city-wide clientele with a phenomenal success rate.

Of the 360 cases accepted during the 1981-1982 fiscal year, 359 were resolved successfully. Ninety-three per cent of the parties responding to a one-month follow-up survey expressed satisfaction with the service and 92 per cent had no further contact with law enforcement officials.

The Mediation Center handles a variety of problems between neighbors involving minor crimes and civil disputes. Sixty-five per cent were civil cases—property related, nuisance, and inter-personal problems. The criminal cases included: verbal abuse and disorderly conduct (22 per cent), vandalism and property damage (23 per cent), trespass (21 per cent), littering (18 per cent). Disorderly conduct, vandalism and littering make up the largest number of adult complaints and juveniles are most often referred for disorderly conduct, vandalism and trespass.

Although referrals are made by the police and city bureaus and social agencies, nearly one-third of the persons seeking mediation were self-referred. Southeast residents take advantage of the service in the greatest numbers, followed by Northeast. Black people were 12 per cent of the participants, an increase over the previous years. Other minority persons using the service

were: Asian, 2 per cent; Hispanic, 1 per cent; Native Americans, a negligible number.

The mission of the Mediation Center is to settle neighbor to neighbor problems and conflicts at the neighborhood level and to prevent the issue from exploding into a situation that involves police and the courts and the resulting cost to the participants and the community. A side benefit is the freeing of police agencies and the justice system from being entangled in persistent and time consuming problems that they are not suited to handle. In this regard the Mediation Center shows striking success.

During the past year 48 per cent of the disputes had been reported to the Police Bureau, with police being dispatched in 23 per cent of the cases. One month following conclusion of mediation, only 6 per cent had further contact with police. Also 92 per cent had no further contact with law enforcement, city/county agencies or social agencies.

A large category of complainants consisted of landlord/tenant related conflicts and were assisted with information and referral to appropriate services. All persons in the City of Portland are eligible, but Multnomah County residents were provided services via telephone.

Although new to Portland, neighborhood mediation is not a new concept. In many less industrialized areas of the world local non-professional discussion and conciliation is the normal method of solving problems. In the industrialized world, Australia has a highly sophisticated nation-wide mediation system that resolves civil disputes and minor criminal cases at small cost and great success and which commands equal respect with the court system.

Portland's Mediation Center—if appropriately supported by local government—could serve as a model for more efficient problem-solving in this country.

Mental health workshop explores cultural differences



BYRON KUNISAWA

A conference on "Minority Issues and Mental Health: Problems and Practices," will be held in Portland on December 2nd and 3rd. The conference will explore policies and issues of concern to mental health professionals working with minority people.

Mrs. Barbara Gaines, conference coordinator for the North/Northeast Mental Health Center, Inc., the conference sponsor, said this is the first major conference held in Oregon to discuss the provision of social services to minority people.

Providing mental health services to minorities requires knowledge of and sensitivity to minority cultures," Ms. Gaines said. "It is natural for any person to see others in light of their own culture, but this makes it impossible for white social

workers to treat minority clients unless they learn to avoid their own cultural value judgements.

"Some traits that are seen as illness are part of minority culture. For example, when black people are noisy and excited, this is not illness—it is a cultural expression. It is the way we act. If a white professional does not understand that, he can label the behavior as inappropriate and consider it a symptom of illness."

Very little has been done to expose mental health professionals to cultural differences, according to Ms. Gaines. An additional problem is the small number of minorities in the professional agencies. Since few minority clients have the opportunity to receive treatment from minority professionals it is urgent that

white professionals be exposed to cultural differences and their effects.

Mental health programs are designed to operate in the white social structure, even when they are designed specifically for minority people. Designing programs that meet the needs of minority people and are structured in a way that will encourage minority persons to participate will be discussed.

"There are many concerned white professionals who can do a good job with some exposure. The person who likes and respects people and provides a good treatment for white clients can learn to treat minority clients." That is the purpose of the conference.

Keynote speaker for the conference is Byron Kunisawa, one of the

nation's leading consultants on minority issues. Born in a concentration camp in Topaz, Utah, Kunisawa grew up in housing projects in West Oakland.

With a background in Sociology and Educational Administration, his clients include government agencies, Indian reservations, alcohol and drug abuse programs, school districts, etc. He recently designed a program of Multi-Cultural Awareness Training Initiative for the State of Arizona.

Kunisawa will speak on "American Problems of the '80s: Systemic Failures and Design of Omission," on December 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

The conference will cover issues of importance to all of Oregon's major minority groups and will con-

centrate on policies and programs, clinical treatment, child and family, service delivery, education and community. Among the 27 workshops to be offered are: Natural helpers within the mental health community; Mental health perspective of minority children in the school system; Pitfalls of diagnosing mental illness in minorities; Psychological testing and minority children; class and minority status—implications in the classroom; model programs serving ethnic minorities.

Leading workshops on minorities and education will be Dr. Robert Guthrie of San Diego, specialist in the problems of Hispanic and black children.

For information and registration, contact Barbara Gaines at 239-8871.