

# Reagan's Arms Plan Controversial

By Ernie Lee

Even those Americans who are at best somewhat apprehensive of the new economic policies of the Reagan administration would nevertheless agree that the President has demonstrated a legislative prowess that has astounded even Reagan's most ardent critics. However, despite the apparent legislative expertise of the current administration, President Reagan will undoubtedly face a tremendous battle over his controversial plan to sell five of the highly sophisticated Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft as part of an arms package in excess of \$8 billion to Saudi Arabia.

Despite the Administration's assertion that the planes would be used by the Saudis to counter possible Soviet moves into the Arabian oil fields which are so vital to the West, these planes could conceivably pose a major threat to the security of one of America's staunchest allies, the state of Israel. This notion was reinforced quite recently when Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ashmed Zahi Yamani stated in April that Israel, not the Soviet Union, is his country's greatest enemy.

In turn, for the Reagan Administration to believe that even with the AWACS and additional arms, Saudi military power would be a formidable force against a major Soviet thrust for the oil fields is absurd. Other foreign threats against the Saudis are highly unlikely, for even such radical regimes as Iran or South Yemen would not dare make a move against the Saudis unless their attack was orchestrated with a possible Soviet invasion.

Furthermore, the internal disorder in such radical states as Iran would severely disable that country from launching any

major attack, especially against the desolate expanse of the Arabian peninsula. The internal upheaval experienced in most nations of the Middle East should further convince U.S. officials that a massive arms deal to such a potentially unstable feudal monarchy, could threaten the security of not only the state of Israel but the U.S. as well, if the sophisticated AWACS or other arms should fall into the hands of an anti-American Saudi regime.

Recent events in Iran, where the Ayatollah Khomeini and his radical followers inherited a highly sophisticated war machine from the former Shah should convince the U.S. of the dangerous consequences of such a liberal arms policy. Although proponents of the plan state that the current Saudi government has agreed to certain limitations, including not to fly the AWACS near the Israeli border, no written accord has yet been reached. As a result, in any future Arab-Israeli war,

the AWACS could conceivably be used to coordinate Arab air forces against Israel. The U.S. Air Force has even boasted about the awesome capabilities of the AWACS as well as their virtual invulnerability to air attack when escorted by such modern fighters as the F-15, which incidentally the Saudis have purchased from the U.S. as well.

Therefore, in light of the hostility that still exists between the Arabs and the Israelis, as well as the potential instability of the Saudi regime, the Reagan Administration should cancel its plan to sell the AWACS and other offensive equipment to the Saudis. Such a sale would considerably worsen the already volatile situation in the Middle East and lead to future Arab hostility with the Israelis who would and should feel threatened by the new arms. The Reagan Administration is definitely taking a dangerous course by this proposed arms sale and therefore should halt the proliferation of such weapons to the Saudis.

# New Method of Execution Opposed

By Johnny Johnson

For years there has been a saying that America needs a better zipper. Unfortunately, we still do not have that zipper. But America has reached a new high in technology. We have, now, a humane way to kill each other. Thiopental sodium pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride is the new way.

Thomas Lee "Sonny" Hays, age 45, is scheduled to become the first human in the world to be humanely killed. The drugs will theoretically flow through a hypodermic needle into Hays, render him unconscious and paralyze his heart. It is thought that this will make dying no

more traumatic than falling asleep.

The drug has, however, never been tested for safety and effectiveness. It is possible that this humane way of killing people may actually result in slow and agonizingly painful deaths that are more barbaric and hideous than current methods.

Another drawback is that last year the American Medical Association ruled that a physician could not participate in an execution and at the same time uphold the Hippocratic Oath. So the only alternative is to allow non-doctors to administer the toxin.

What all of this boils down to is that another life will be snuffed out in less than two minutes. And while it is true that Hays did kill someone, the taking of his life will not return life to Hays' victim.

Finally, everyone will agree that a human life is, in all probability, the most valuable thing known to man. One has to wonder whether the state should have the power to end man's most sacred possession—life!

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

At the outbreak of World War I, two men, one an English Quaker and the other a German Lutheran pastor, pledged that even though their countries were at war they would remain steadfast friends. Out of this belief that the friendship of one man to another supercedes the squabbling of governments, an organization called the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) was born. The original Fellowship has grown considerably since then. Today, the FOR is active in 27 countries, with the international secretariat located in Holland. The Fellowship's aim

is to bring together men and women of various religious faiths and denominations to explore the power of love in resolving human conflicts. The phrase, "There is no way to peace - peace is the way," is a clear expression of the belief of FOR members.

The National FOR and local FOR members invite all persons interested in working towards a world of peace to join the Fellowship. The following AC students will be glad to answer any questions and to provide additional information concerning the FOR: Tim Browning, Joel Brame, Greg Coates, Dana Daniell and Kay Stanley.

Greg Coats

## Editorial Policy

All stories, editorials and letters to the editor must include the name of the writer and telephone number and must conform to the Associated Press Style. Grammatical corrections will be made by the staff. The integrity of the original text will be honored. Bylines for stories will be given at the discretion of the editors. Deadline for all stories is midnight, Friday. Any writer wishing to give approval for corrections should do so before 3 p.m. Saturday. The Collegiate reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of "The Collegiate".

## Community Church Service

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will be sponsoring a Community Church Service, in Howard Chapel Sunday, Sept. 20, at 11 a.m.

President Harold Doster will be the speaker. Music will be rendered by the Atlantic Christian College Choir. A free will offering will be collected for a rest home of the sorority's choice in an effort to help fray some of the rest home's expenses. Alpha Kappa Alpha cordially invites everyone to come and to share in this cause and concern.

## Sigma Phi

### Announces Pledges

The brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon would like to announce their Golden Heart Pledges. They are Melinda Gupton, Julia Sutherland, Anita Miller, Robin Black, Debbie Womble, Caris Newcomb, Beb Butler, Sharon Capps and Brenda Watt.

They would also like to announce newly initiated brothers Scott Major, Jeff MacLennan and George Bryant.

The Sigma Phi Epsilon house is located at 606 West Nash Street.

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