

Nonproliferation Shuffle

The Reagan Administration is moving to make major changes in both policy and organization in the handling of nuclear nonproliferation affairs.

Policy shifts by the new Administration are expected to bring the United States into closer accord with its European allies and Japan on nonproliferation questions.

Organizationally, a move is afoot to centralize most responsibility for nonproliferation matters in the State Department by transferring to it nonproliferation functions from the Department of Energy (DOE) and, particularly, from the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA).

Reagan advisers have been sharply critical of ACDA, and talk of a shift of nonproliferation authority is being interpreted as evidence of intentions to reduce the staff and scope of the agency.



James L. Buckley

At the State Department, major operating responsibility for nonproliferation matters will apparently be placed in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES). Nominated to head OES as assistant secretary is James Malone, a Washington lawyer who gained familiarity with international nuclear issues as general counsel for ACDA during the Ford Administration and later as an attorney in a Washington law firm specializing in nuclear affairs.

Malone has been serving as acting director of ACDA after working on the Reagan transition organization's State Department-ACDA team.

Other major players in nonproliferation matters at State will be former New York senator James L. Buckley, who is now Under Secretary for Security Assistance, Science and Technology, and Richard Burt, a former correspondent for the *New York Times*, nominee for assistant secretary for political and military affairs. Buckley ranks as Malone's immediate superior in the State Department hierarchy.

Malone, if confirmed, will replace Thomas R. Pickering in the assistant secretary post. Pickering, a State Department career officer and former ambassador to Jordan, is generally credited with improving the effectiveness of OES and establishing it in a stronger position in the department.

In respect to ACDA, there has been speculation that changes would follow lines laid down in the report of the transition team working at DOE. The report recommends that ACDA's nuclear export division should in part be transferred to State. There is said to be sentiment among Reagan advisers for reducing ACDA to a size adequate only to carry out statutory activities.

A major consolidation of authority over nonproliferation matters would require changes in legislation. This applies not only to ACDA, but to DOE as well. The DOE transition team report calls for the centralization of international nuclear affairs in a single office in DOE with the possible transfer of responsibility over exports to the State Department. Such a transfer would require changes in the Atomic Energy Act.

Nuclear policy generally and nonproliferation policy specifically have not yet been staked out by the Reagan Administration. At his recent confirmation hearings, Buckley said that nonproliferation issues are under active study; he indicated that changes from Carter Administration practices could be expected.

Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr., struck a consonant theme in a brief comment during his confirmation hearings. Haig expressed the view that nonproliferation issues should be judged in the context of the overall security interests of the nation.—JOHN WALSH

oratory in Oakland. Nelson-Rees called back almost immediately to say that the karyotype was of a species he had never seen before and could not identify, but that in any event it was not human. O'Brien, using a larger battery of enzymes, confirmed that this was the case. Meanwhile Nelson-Rees, spotting a feature in one of the chromosomes that is a marker for horse, sent the cultures to an expert in identifying a cell's species, Ward Petersen of the Child Research Center of Michigan in Detroit.

By strange coincidence, Petersen had an associate, Bharati Hukku, who happened to notice certain similarities between the chromosomes of FQ and those of a species she had once worked with, the brown-footed owl monkey. From there it was only a few more steps until N. S. F. Ma, of the New England Regional Primate Research Center, identified FQ and the two other lines as derived from a northern Colombian brown-footed owl monkey (see photo*). Harris,

"The problem was that I had tremendous faith in the cell lines."

Nelson-Rees, and others announced this resolution of the problem in a paper published in *Nature* last month. Apart from brief press accounts which appeared several months after Long's resignation, the *Nature* article afforded the first public glimpse of the Long affair.

Searching back through the notebooks of Zamecnik and Long's laboratory, Harris found that Long had been working with an owl monkey cell line, known as OMK-210, at the same time as the FQ cell line was being established. The explanation for the presence of the HeLa marker is that the owl monkey is one of the nonhuman primates that have the type A G-6-PD. As for the fourth line, RY, it is human, but cannot be said to be of Hodgkin's disease, since no tumors were found in the patient from whom the line was derived.

Was the contamination of the three lines with OMK-210 deliberate or accidental? Contamination is a frequent dan-

*Photo of Colombian brown-footed owl monkey, courtesy of New England Regional Primate Research Center.