

International Intelligence

Soviets warn against Chinese war buildup

The Soviet Union has issued a new series of warnings on the heels of Jimmy Carter's talks with Peking in Tokyo. The government paper *Izvestia* said July 11 that Carter and Hua, together with the Australian and Thai leaders and Pol Pot deputy Ieng Sary, were "without doubt . . . essentially working out a joint strategy of actions by imperialist forces in league with Peking in a broad region from Iran and Afghanistan in the West to the Korean peninsula and Australia in the East."

Citing Carter's proclamation of Sino-American common strategic interests, *Izvestia* says, "There is clear evidence of the Carter administration's blessing for the adventurist plans of the Peking leadership." Correspondent Yuriy Bandura adds that it was no accident that last year's invasion of Vietnam came just after Teng Hsiao-ping toured the United States.

TASS observer Yuriy Kornilov, in a July 10 commentary, charges that China is being granted a sphere of influence that will condemn entire Asian peoples to butchery as in Cambodia, then states that the plan to accomplish this will fail. "Do not cherish illusions, gentlemen."

Israel maps violence against Iraq

A special ministerial committee met in the Knesset July 16 to escalate Israel's campaign against Iraq, following reports that Iraq has received supplies of enriched uranium from France. According to Washington sources, the committee resolved to "carry out a wave of assassinations against Iraqi leaders" as the centerpiece of a destabilization drive against the Saddam Hussein government.

Throughout the week, Israeli leaders have issued acrimonious attacks on both Iraq and France. Emerging from his hospital stay July 14, Prime Minister Mena-

chem Begin called France's shipment of enriched uranium an "extremely dangerous development."

One day earlier, the architect of Israel's nuclear bomb capability, Yuval Neeman, proclaimed in a nationally broadcast speech that Iraq's sole objective in obtaining this material was to "put into operation atomic weapons," not to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Neeman called on Israel to take appropriate strategic measures to meet the "Iraqi threat."

What Neeman had in mind was pinpointed in a July 11 speech by Moshe Dayan, former Foreign Minister and 1950s collaborator of Neeman in building Israel's intelligence networks: "We never said that we would not use atomic weapons, or that we would be too late in employing them. We only said we would not be the first to bring them in," Dayan declared.

On the same day as Dayan's speech, British member of Parliament Winston Churchill III published a *London Times* commentary blasting France for having "lit a nuclear fuse in the Middle East" and creating an "intolerable" threat to Israel. Churchill warned that if this policy were not reversed, Israel would be forced to carry out preemptive actions to prevent the completion of Iraq's nuclear projects.

South Africa's labor policy under debate

A wave of strikes in the Cape Province of South Africa hit about a dozen companies from mid-June through the first week of July. Though the companies already paid among the highest wage levels in South Africa, the strike wave resulted in significant raises in pay, despite the fact that the strikes were illegal under South Africa's rigid anti-labor apartheid structure. The main target was Volkswagen, whose wage agreements apply also to General Motors and Ford. The minimum wage at Volkswagen went up from around \$1.50 to \$1.90.

The strike wave coincided with a concerted push by certain British circles to back up black South African wage demands as a way of forcing change on the rigid Afrikaner apartheid apparatus. The *London Economist* and the *London Times* have both been attacking the South African government of P.W. Botha as a "fascist" regime implementing a more rigid "neo-apartheid" structure. The *London Times* stated editorially July 5 that "In the encouragement and recognition of black trade unionism—a key factor in the equation existing industrial unrest shows—British firms and investors have cards they must play wisely. It is not enough to exhort them generally."

Opposition strengthens: is Khomeini finished?

Admiral Ahmed Madani, a prominent collaborator of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, has formed an opposition party inside Iran, called the National Struggle Front, to challenge the rule of Ayatollah Khomeini. The party has received broad support from throughout the Iranian population, and has begun to publish an independent newspaper. According to Iranian sources, the authorities cannot touch Madani, who was implicated in an alleged coup plot against Khomeini, because he has the entire Iranian navy as well as a significant chunk of the air force behind him. Should he be arrested, the sources report, the navy and air force would revolt immediately.

Faced with the growing threat to the Islamic dictatorship by this European-backed opposition, Khomeini's Revolutionary Guard has gone on a rampage against the population. Leading members of the National Front, the social-democratic coalition that helped to bring in Khomeini but has since broken with his regime, are being rounded up. The rate of political executions rivals the situation just following the February 1979 revolution, with victims being lined up in the streets of Teheran. In Shiraz, the Revolutionary Guard launched a major

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assault on the leftist Mujaheddin, a sizeable guerrilla force that recently broke with the mullah-dominated government.

Last week, the fanatical Islamic Republican Party under Ayatollah Beheshti ordered all of Iran's borders to be sealed and cut air traffic into and out of the country, while the purges and persecutions are carried out.

As a result of the recent shifts by the military command and the National Front against Khomeini, Khomeini has lost all basis for governing. Even President Bani-Sadr appears to be aware of this. Sources report that Bani-Sadr may be opportunistically playing a card in favor of Madani and the Bakhtiar forces, perceiving that otherwise his days are numbered.

'Talk to Russians,' says Israeli spokesman

Shlomo Avineri, the former Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, has called upon Israel to actively pursue negotiations with the Soviet Union. In a July 14 op-ed in the English-language *Jerusalem Post* entitled "On Talking to the Russians," Avineri criticizes Israel's insistence on excluding the Soviets from the Middle East peacemaking process as a "legacy from a bygone era."

Claiming that the days of Henry Kissinger's "step-by-step diplomacy" in the Middle East are over, Avineri says that Israel must "reassess" its policy. Now, Avineri asserts, "the Arab world has become America's senior partner in the Middle East," and Israel must seek to balance this to some extent by "engaging in dialogue" with the Soviets on issues of mutual concern.

In this context, he continues, Israel can offer the Soviets peace. "It may sound strange," Avineri comments, but "I do not believe that the Soviet Union is interested in another war in the Middle East, which might involve it in a confrontation with the U.S."

Reporting on Avineri's policy proposal July 15, France's *Le Figaro* identi-

fied it as an attempt to reawaken the idea of Israeli "non-alignment" that had been Israel's official foreign policy in its first two years of existence under Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett. *Le Figaro* adds that Avineri's idea has increased credibility in the current Middle East situation because of the strong mutual antipathy of the Soviet Union and Israel to the outbreak of Khomeini-style Muslim fundamentalism in the region.

According to *Le Figaro*, in the 1976-77 period, Avineri had advocated a positive response to Soviet overtures for a resumption of relations, but had been rebuffed by then-Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Israel and the Soviets have not had diplomatic relations since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Italy's coalition not yet unstuck

At last week's national council meeting of the majority Italian party, the Christian Democrats (DC), "Preamble" faction supporters of the present DC governmental coalition with the Socialist Party squelched the followers of ex-Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and ex-DC President Benito Zaccagnini, whose policy is one of collaboration with the Communist Party and its trade-union base.

Zaccagnini spokesman Ciriaco de Mita warned the council against continuing the party's alliance with what he termed the unreliable and unprincipled Socialists, and stated that "the lack of a political initiative for renewed dialogue [with the Communists] may result, not in the defeat of this or that party, but in the death of democracy in Italy. . . . The risk is that the DC is jumping on the back of a tiger from which it will be unable to free itself, and which will succeed in gnawing away the consensus—less among the Communists than among the traditionally Christian Democratic middle class. Governability will be crushed along with the democratic forces. The end of the republic will come in sight."

● **A SECRET COMPONENT** of the recent U.S.-Britain deal over Trident missiles involves the stationing of nuclear weapons on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, according to confidential sources. Included in the Trident deal is an unwritten agreement by Britain to provide a "supplementary Rapid Deployment Force" to back up Washington's RDF in deployments into the Persian Gulf.

● **MATITYAHU DROBLESS**, Menachem Begin's personal representative in the World Zionist Organization, has just written a confidential report for the WZO's Settlement Department calling for Israel to create 85 new settlements in the West Bank over the next five years. He details a road and infrastructure complex that would keep the Palestinian Arabs under tight control, and wants the Zionist population there to be increased tenfold by 1986.

● **BENITO AQUINO**, Philippine opposition leader, is reported to be in Damascus, Syria, for talks with leaders of the Philippine Muslim rebel movement. Efforts to confirm the Agence France Presse report have been unsuccessful, however. Many observers of the Philippines express doubt about its accuracy. Aquino, in the United States since May for medical reasons after living in detention for over seven years in the Philippines, has expressed his intention of organizing a "Christian-Muslim" unified opposition to the Philippines government of Ferdinand Marcos.

● **ITALY'S HEALTH** Ministry held a stormy staff meeting recently after the European Labor Party staged a series of Rome demonstrations against Health Minister Aldo Aniasi's proposal to decriminalize marijuana and hashish and introduce a British-style heroin maintenance program. Sources say supporters of the plan were outnumbered.