

# International Intelligence

## **Europe welcomes Reagan victory**

French president Giscard has sent Ronald Reagan a telegram in which he said he would be delighted to meet with the candidate who was elected president in such difficult times. Giscard stressed that France wants a dialogue with the new President. French radio, which is run by a government monopoly, reported that Reagan was elected because the American people were sick and tired of Jimmy Carter's economic policy. Reagan, French radio said, will revive the "frontier spirit" in America. Reagan is more pro-European than his predecessor, the radio broadcast added.

The contents of West German chancellor Schmidt's telegram to the President-elect have not been made public. However, the Chancellor's spokesman, Klaus Bölling, told reporters that the West German government welcomes the fact that Reagan has emphasized his wish to have good relations with the Soviet Union, and hopes for the continuation of good American-German relations.

## **Iraq offers Khomeini an end to the war**

In a speech before Iraq's National Assembly Nov. 4, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein asserted that if Iran's ayatollah Khomeini accepts "just demands" for control over the disputed Shatt al-Arab waterway area, the Iraq-Iran war could be ended "tomorrow."

"If Khomeini wants to continue the war," Hussein stated, "he can continue it until eternity. But he must know that war imposes its own claims which are greater than those that existed before the war. . . . We never wanted a war, and we gave Iran chance after chance to avoid one. They refused and thus we are now locked in battle."

Hussein said that "those who feel the Iraqi army will get tired from the war are wrong. What we are giving them now is measured doses."

As he spoke, Iraq was consolidating its control over major supply centers and urban regions in the southwestern oil-producing province of Khuzestan in Iran.

Iraq has been aided in its war effort by the French government. According to France's *L'Express* magazine, the French government has sent a directive to the Dassault aircraft company to speed up the date of delivery of Mirage jets to Iraq so they will arrive in December, rather than in February of next year.

Iraq is also being helped by Saudi Arabia. According to Defense Department sources, Saudi Arabia is threatening to hold up oil shipments to the U.S. if Jimmy Carter, in his last weeks in office, sends arms to Iran.

Arab diplomatic sources at the United Nations report satisfaction with the results of the American elections. They estimated that Carter's defeat will speed the collapse of the Khomeini regime in Iran.

## **Africa refugee deaths continue to rise**

A large increase of refugees now totaling 3,000 new arrivals a day has started to flood Somalia's overburdened facilities and strain its battered economy, reports the London *Guardian*. It is estimated that at least 1 million refugees from the Ogaden area between Ethiopia and Somalia have died since August.

The Committee for a New Africa Policy, a U.S.-based organization fighting for U.S. aid to Africa, estimated earlier this year that 10 million African people would die of famine by December from drought. "That 10 million figure did not take into account the deaths resulting from famine conditions now existing in rural and bantustan areas of South Africa.

ca. Thirty percent of the rural population of South Africa may die from malnutrition," said a spokesman for the Committee Nov. 5. "We can also add to this total the worsening conditions in the Hiran and East Africa, where a do-nothing policy of the Carter administration and others has compounded the problems of refugees."

According to the London *Guardian* of Nov. 4, the field director for Oxfam in Somalia, Stephen Green, claimed that 2,000 refugees, mostly ethnic Somalis, were arriving daily in the northwest portion of the country which lies closest to the Ogaden, a desert area bordering Ethiopia and Somalia, and 500 a day were arriving at Hiran in the south. Another 400 to 500 appeared daily at refugee reception points in southwestern Gedo province which was the scene of riots by starving refugees demanding food.

Green claimed that the figures were corroborated by the U. N. High Commission for Refugees, which is coordinating Western relief efforts in Somalia, and the Somali Government's National Refugee Commission which is operating the country's 26 camps.

Official figures for Somali refugees are placed at 848,000, before the recent arrivals. It is also revealed that at least an equal number of refugees are settling with Somali relatives, bringing the total of refugees to 1.8 million. In August the total number of refugees was 1.5 million. Even accounting for miscalculation and other difficulties, at least a million people have died since August.

Throughout the continent millions more are confronting death by starvation. The latest World Health Organization report states that sub-Saharan Africa has the highest mortality rates in the world "and has made least progress in lowering mortality during recent years."

In the Sudan, the southern regional economy has collapsed, after development projects for irrigation from the Nile River were forced to be scrapped by the International Monetary Fund. And, in South Africa, an estimated 50,000 children will die this winter, with another 100,000 at risk.

## Briefly

● **PRESIDENT TURBAY** of Colombia said in an interview with the *New York Times* published Nov. 2 that "The leading power in the Western world with its millions has confiscated less [drugs] in its territory than Colombia with its limited resources has in its. If the United States would only make a substantial investment in Colombia to match the contribution made by the Colombian government, drug traffic would be reduced in a very big way."

● **EDWARD HEATH**, former British prime minister, attacked fellow Conservative Margaret Thatcher's economic policies as "catastrophic" in a BBC interview Nov. 5. Heath accused Thatcher adviser Milton Friedman of wishing to eliminate the U.S. industrial base British-style. "If you [Friedman] persuade Mr. Reagan to accept that," he said, "then the future of the American people is really bleak."

● **DIE WELT**, West Germany's leading conservative daily, recalls that "It was Nixon who introduced a 10 percent import tax and decoupled the dollar from gold—a disastrous decision."

● **ERICH HONECKER**, the East German party chief, said in an interview with the Austrian press Nov. 2 that he is still interested in a summit meeting with West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The two were to have met in East Germany in September, but the Polish crisis supervened. Honecker stated that the summit was delayed at Schmidt's initiative, which in Honecker's opinion ran counter to Schmidt's general policy that such meetings are all the more necessary during crisis situations.

### ***New Lebanese government jeopardized***

Recent attempts to form a new government in Lebanon have been upset by an outbreak of fighting in Beirut on Oct. 31.

The fighting occurred when the Lebanese national armed forces tried to assert its control over areas claimed by the Lebanese Falangist Party. In response to the army actions, the Falange opened up fighting on the army, forcing it into retreat. This retreat discredited the central authority in the eyes of many Lebanese, exactly at the moment when the newly named Wazzan government was trying to put together a cabinet.

The Wazzan team's consolidation was further undermined when two parties in Lebanon, the pro-Iran Shiite Al-Amal organization and the pro-Syrian Baath Party, publicly announced their opposition to the new government.

Lebanon's anarchy has otherwise been blamed on the Carter administration and the Begin regime in Israel by leading Lebanese spokesmen.

In an Oct. 30 statement, Foreign Minister Fuad Butros stated that it was "hard to detect" beneficial aspects of Carter's Lebanon policy, since "for the Carter administration, Lebanon was above all a pawn on the Middle East chessboard."

On Nov. 5, leading Lebanese politician Raymond Edde, now living in exile, stated "It is incumbent on the superpowers . . . to prevent Israel from annexing southern Lebanon." Edde's statement followed reports of stepped up Israeli military activity within the southern Lebanese area.

### ***Polish politician back on the scene***

Mieczyslaw Moczar, a Polish "nationalist" leader who was demoted from power during the 1970s by then party chief Edward Gierek, is now making a comeback,

according to press reports. Moczar was reelected chairman of the largest Polish veterans' association, "Zbowid," a position he held from 1964 to 1969, when he was replaced by an associate of Gierek. Gierek had him removed from the ruling Politburo in 1971.

Moczar was never trusted by the Soviets, reported the French daily *Le Figaro* Nov. 5. During World War II he fought in the resistance inside Poland, and never went to Moscow. He was said to have been anti-Semitic and to have collaborated with the Nazis.

Since the fall of Gierek during this summer's Polish strikes, Moczar has been coming back into prominence, leading a crackdown against "corruption" in the Polish United Workers Party. *Le Figaro* predicts that he will be reinstated to the Politburo at the next congress of the party.

Moczar delivered a speech Nov. 3 upon his election to the veterans' association, expressing full support to party leader Stanislaw Kania as well as "warm support" for the Solidarity trade union.

### ***French security deal with Saudi Arabia***

French interior minister Christian Bonnet and his Saudi Arabian counterpart, Prince Abdul Aziz, signed a security cooperation agreement in Riyadh, on Nov. 2. The agreement covers training and equipping of Saudi internal security forces by the French, and came at the end of four days of consultations between the two ministers.

Last year the French were called in by the Saudi government to root out a group of Islamic fundamentalist rebels who took over the Grand Mosque at Mecca. Since then, the Saudis have been increasingly reliant on France in security and military matters, a role previously ascribed to the United States.

The French-Saudi agreement is part of increasing French involvement in the Persian Gulf generally, where France is also closely cooperating with Iraq.