

# International Intelligence

## **Iran firms up ties to Steadfastness Front**

Khomeini's Iran is busy firming up ties with the radical Arab "Steadfastness Front," which is composed of such Soviet KGB assets as Libya and Syria.

Last week, Jaleleddin Farsi, a leading member of Iran's ruling Islamic Republican Party (headed by Ayatollah Beheshti), declared that Iran would attempt to establish a military and political alliance with the Libya-Syria bloc in the Arab world.

Farsi declared that the IRP had just completed a major foreign policy review that concluded that the Khomeini regime should not support the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria because of its attacks on the Syrian regime of Hafez Assad, but instead should back Assad and Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi.

Farsi recently returned from a trip to Moscow.

## **Venice, IMEMO concur on ECU use**

Nearly identical proposals advocating the formation of a European currency bloc in competition to the U.S. dollar are circulating under the stamp of the Soviet Union's IMEMO institute and the Venice-based Assicurazione Generale di Venezia, one of Europe's largest insurance companies.

European Community Commission monetary official Padua-Schioppa, a Venetian nobleman, argued that the European Currency Unit, now the numeraire of the European Monetary System, should become full-fledged circulating money and compete with the dollar as an international reserve asset. The to-be-established European Monetary Fund, he added, should be a full-powers central bank for Europe.

A month before Padua-Schioppa

made this proposal before an Assicurazione-sponsored meeting in Trieste March 30, the Soviet IMEMO institute's bulletin *Memo* had had the same idea. "Especially dangerous for the dollar is that the to-be-formed European Monetary Fund will be the embryonic form of a European central bank," leading to dumping of dollar reserves in favor of the European Currency Unit.

European leaders Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing believe that the European Monetary Fund should strengthen, not undermine, the dollar. But the Benelux central banks hold the same perspective as the Venetians and the Soviet institute. IMEMO is associated with Philby codefector Donald Maclean and does not always reflect the view of the Soviet government.

## **Soviet-Canada grain accord signed**

Canada and the Soviet Union have completed negotiations for a five-year agreement under which Canada will sell the U.S.S.R. 5 million tons of grain per year—two-thirds wheat and one-third barley—according to Canadian trade sources. While the government wheat board declined comment on the negotiations, sources indicated that the Soviets had initially requested more grain than could be delivered with Canada's logistical difficulties. The Soviets, says the *Journal of Commerce*, are attempting to rebuild stocks to aid their East European allies.

In a related development, a spokesman for Argentina's national grain board told Unicom News that the Soviets had assured Argentina that it was committed to diversifying the source of its grain imports. Traders and grain analysts in Buenos Aires have been speculating as to whether Argentina would lose any Soviet business now that the embargo has been lifted. Under a 1980 agree-

ment Argentina supplies the Soviet Union with 4.5 million tons of corn and sorghum per year, and this year has already contracted for sales of an additional 2.25 million tons of grain to the Soviets.

On April 27 U.S. Agriculture Secretary Block told an American farm editors banquet that the Soviets had given no indication what they will demand in a new bilateral grain agreement to replace the five-year accord expiring in September. He also said that the Soviets would probably not buy much grain from the U.S. right away with the lifting of the embargo, since they have covered their needs elsewhere. "And frankly, I cannot blame them," he added, referring to the effect of America's 15-month demonstration of its unreliability as a supplier.

## **Archbishop wants new antibomb movement**

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert K. Runcie is now in the U.S. trying to mobilize a Bertrand Russell-type antiwar movement. In a major speech to the National Press Club April 28, Runcie claimed that "the world is dangerous because all regimes in varying degrees . . . deal in lies and propaganda which create the possibility of doing the unthinkable, destroying human life and our civilization." Runcie called for an international effort to force a ban on tactical nuclear weapons, further nonproliferation measures, and a complete ban on nuclear testing. Runcie also announced his support for a proposal to bring together Eastern and Western church leaders, including Pope John Paul II, to address the peril of nuclear war.

Runcie is in the United States for an extraordinary meeting of the world's Anglican leaders. Sources report that one of the key topics that the conclave is addressing during its sessions is Runcie's a ban-the-bomb proposal. While he is in the U.S. Runcie plans major addresses in

Los Angeles on illegal immigration, in Iowa on land use, and in Chicago.

Runcie's antibomb rhetoric coincides directly with Second International-KGB efforts to revive the antiwar movement in the West as a battering ram against the governments of Giscard, Schmidt, and Reagan. The Anglicans are full participants in this effort; last week, 76 liberal and conservative Episcopal bishops in the U.S. wrote a letter to the White House calling for an immediate termination of aid to El Salvador.

### **Qaddafi falters in Moscow trip**

Libya's Colonel Muammar Qaddafi ended three days of talks in Moscow April 29 without the unqualified endorsement of his activities sought by Qaddafi and predicted by many people who take Libyan-Soviet convergence as axiomatic. A rumored friendship treaty between Libya and the U.S.S.R. failed to materialize and the communiqué on Qaddafi's talks with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev referred to "an atmosphere of friendship and frankness"—the latter word denoting substantial disagreements.

In a speech greeting Qaddafi, the Soviet president voiced support for "anti-imperialist" struggle, but then proceeded to use the occasion for addressing Washington with an appeal for an international conference on the Mideast.

Brezhnev rejected formal establishment of new "spheres of influence" in the Third World, adding that existing rules of conduct excluded "outside support for separatist movements." While referring to the topical case of Lebanon, this Brezhnev formulation could not fail to recall Qaddafi's own approach to some neighboring countries; European observers found it significant that Qaddafi did not win any Soviet statement on his bid to annex Chad and other North African nations.

Qaddafi's arrival in Moscow, fresh

from his latest tour of Africa and in the midst of a political intervention in Italy in collaboration with proterrorist forces there, was premised on the tendency of a Moscow "destabilization" faction to embrace him as a prime Soviet ally. Brezhnev's handling of Qaddafi showed that this was not a sure bet.

### **Plans to sabotage U.S.-Mexico summit**

With the announcement of the rescheduled López Portillo-Reagan summit to take place June 8-9 at the Camp David retreat, the enemies of U.S.-Mexican détente have stepped up their efforts to sabotage the meeting.

Sources in Washington report that the original site of the summit, San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico, was changed because of extreme security risks, including reported arrests of several persons for threatening to kill both presidents.

In Mexico, radical-leftist *Excelsior* columnist Manuel Buendía commented April 30 that López Portillo is selling out for going to Washington instead of Reagan traveling to Mexico. In addition, the office of the Mexican subsecretary of health for environmental affairs told *EIR* that they are working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "and the authors of 'the world in the year 2000' [Global 2000]." The subsecretary, Manuel López Portillo (a cousin of the president) recently gave an environmentalist speech publicly citing Global 2000, to decry the dangers of pollution caused by industrialization in Mexico.

On the U.S. side, a Treasury Department official currently in Mexico issued a press statement announcing that the United States is planning to substitute imports of Mexican oil for solar and coal forms of energy. The official, Tim McNamar, spoke at a three-day seminar on solar energy organized by the State Department and the U.S. embassy.

## **Briefly**

● **THE BRITISH** government is secretly extending offers to the Saudi Arabian government to sell the Saudis the British-made Nimrod radar aircraft system if the U.S. Congress forces the Reagan administration to back down on its offer to sell AWACs to the Saudis. "The Nimrod has many of the capabilities of the AWACs, the British are telling Saudi military people," a Gulf intelligence source told *EIR*.

● **EAST GERMAN** and Israeli aircraft have been landing at a Paris airport to unload ammunition for transfer onto Iranian planes. "These transfers imply East German-Israeli intelligence collaboration to back up the Khomeini regime," a well-informed Middle Eastern intelligence source told *EIR*.

● **BOB MARLEY**, the stoned reggae superstar and Rastafarian cultist, has been bestowed the "Order of Merit" by the Jamaican government. The Order of Merit is the third highest award the Jamaican government can give. Jamaica, whose Prime Minister, Edward Seaga, has endorsed Jamaica's growing drug economy, hailed Marley as "the person most responsible for the growing acceptance" of reggae, a bestial, drug-based music that incorporates elements of the Rastafarian marijuana cult.

● **FIDEL CASTRO**, at the opening of the Second Congress of Third World Economists in Havana on April 28, demanded a so-called South-South conference of Third World nations to discuss strategy against the advanced sector, the North. According to the Cuban premier, the North-South conference scheduled for Mexico City in October is based on a "theory developed by the opulent North to treat the impoverished and backward South with contempt."