

International Intelligence

Japan, Mexico upgrade economic ties

The first act taken by Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda upon returning from Cancún on Oct. 26, according to Japanese press reports, was to elevate the Japanese Ambassador to Mexico, Nobuo Matsunaga, to the post of Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs. Matsunaga had been Ambassador to Mexico since 1978, and, in recent months especially, had emerged as a leading proponent of full-scale Japanese collaboration with Mexican industrialization plans.

At the same time, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) announced the largest-ever Japanese trade and investment mission to Mexico, Nov. 6-18. Headed by Bunichiro Tanabe, Chairman of the Board of Mitsubishi, Japan's largest trading company, the delegation will be composed of 131 government officials and executives of trading companies, department stores, manufacturing companies, and banks.

One of those in the mission, Bank of Tokyo head Minoru Nishima, summed up the Japanese attitude to a Mexican reporter on Oct. 26. Japan, he said, is ready to "finance the industrialization of Mexico," because it sees in Mexico a "reliable partner." Nishima, asked if Mexico's foreign debt were a problem, answered that it was not, because Mexico's imports go into industrial projects. In the short term, Mexico could be "an industrial power," he concluded.

Socialists prepare for power in Spain

The Spanish Socialist Party, led by Felipe González, is preparing itself to take power in general elections in Spain. General elections in Spain are not due to occur until 1983, but recent developments have substantially weakened the ruling Democratic Center Union (UCD) of Prime Minister Calvo Sotelo. If the government

is further weakened, observers predict general elections well before that time, and a likely victory for the Socialists.

The latest blow to the Center Union resulted from last month's elections for the regional parliament in Galicia, one of Spain's northern states, which took a sharp twist to the right. As a result, the Center Union will almost certainly have to form a coalition with the right-wing Popular Alliance Party if it is to continue its rule in the region. If this happens, however, the Center Union's stature as a "center party," relatively free of domination of old Francoist elements, will be severely tarnished. Already the country's Social Democrats have announced that they will leave the national government coalition if the right-wing alliance takes place in Galicia.

Pellecer still a Jesuit, says order

Father Eduardo Pellecer, a former leftist guerrilla with the Guatemalan Army of the Poor (GAP) has been brainwashed to denounce the Jesuits' involvement in left-wing terrorism, and remains a Jesuit nonetheless, according to a press statement in late October by the order's regional head, César Jérez.

Pellecer appeared at a government-sponsored press conference in September to expose the Jesuits' political activity with the terrorist GAP; and collaboration with Amnesty International and Caritas.

Pellecer himself had disappeared some months earlier—broadly said by the left to have been kidnaped by the rightist death squads. However, he said, he had, in fact, joined the guerrillas. In his government statement, Pellecer stated that he wished to leave the Society of Jesus, but remain a priest.

The renegade Liberation Theologist is currently touring other Latin American countries, under sponsorship of the right-wing military government to give broader exposure to his denunciation of the "Theology of Liberation," a move which has left the order badly shaken.

César Jérez, attempting to recoup against the blow, however, told the press that "our order is not a merry-go-round," but "a serious congregation where whoever wants to get out must go through a long process similar to that which one goes through to get in."

Lutherans blasted for greenie support

Holger Börner, Governor of the West German state of Hesse and a close ally of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt issued a dramatic denunciation of the German Lutheran Church Oct. 25 for its support of the environmentalist movement.

Referring to the notorious fact that the Lutheran Church was an institutional collaborator of the Nazis during the 1920s and 1930s, Börner said that "certain churchmen" among the Lutherans are now trying to make up for their failure to oppose the Nazis by collaborating with the greenies against a democratic government.

It was the Lutheran Church which sponsored last month's so-called peace demonstration of 250,000 in Bonn. That demonstration was an attempt at destabilizing the government of Chancellor Schmidt in favor of the terrorist environmentalist wing of the Social Democracy.

A 'white' coup occurs in Peru

An upheaval in the Peruvian military which culminated in Oct. 28's cabinet shakeup shows that civilian President Fernando Belaúnde's days may be numbered. Belaúnde loyalists, who had supported him during the 1968 coup that removed him from the presidency, were ousted from the top positions in the army, navy, and air force. The most significant cabinet shift is that Gen. Luis Cisneros, former hard-line Interior Minister, made himself Commander of the

Army, the ideal position from which to achieve his ambitions to enter Pizarro's Palace as President.

As Interior Minister in 1976-77, Cisneros made Peru a living hell in which all efforts to reverse the austerity were savagely repressed.

The shakeup was provoked by the forced resignation of Interior Minister José María de la Jara, a lifetime political partner of Belaúnde and stalwart of his Acción Popular party. De la Jara had protected the civil liberties of the Maoist Sendero Luminoso terrorists who during the last year have perpetrated over 1,000 terrorist attacks, largely against power lines and unoccupied government offices. After the Maoist provocateurs escalated their guerrilla warfare to make bloody attacks on police posts in Ayacucho Department in early October, De la Jara's fate was sealed. A state of emergency was declared and the army and air force rounded up hundreds of known terrorists and sympathizers in Ayacucho.

Peru intends to maintain an image of democratic normality as part of its renegotiating its foreign debts, and to avert international attention from its mammoth cocaine exports. Thus, Belaúnde may be allowed to remain as figurehead to an increasingly repressive regime.

Germany signs nuclear pact with Egypt

A state-to-state agreement was signed Oct. 27 in Bonn for the transfer of nuclear power-generating technology to Egypt. The German Minister of Research and Technology, Andreas von Bülow, stated that the agreement shows the Schmidt government's "commitment to Egypt's economic buildup," adding that Bonn has developed a broad strategy for stabilizing Egypt through expanded economic cooperation.

Von Bülow also announced that the two German-built nuclear plants in Egypt could come on line as early as 1983, and characterized the new accord as a model for Germany's strategy toward the underdeveloped sector.

The nuclear-energy program initiated by Anwar Sadat foresees 8,000 megawatts of nuclear-generated power by the year 2000 in Egypt.

FAO pushes 'Minimum Food Programs'

East Africa, under the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), erratic distribution of imported food stocks is being replaced by food-for-work programs called "Minimum Food Programs." In Somalia, food in these programs means one bowl of corn soup possibly supplemented with some dates and edible oil in exchange for a day's manual labor.

In the isolated instances in which conditions are "improving," the American Council of Voluntary agencies for Foreign Service documents that "improvement" means long-term malnutrition rather than starvation; that is, conditions "improved" to a slower form of death.

Persistent drought during the past decade is eliminating the region's meager crop production. Areas subjected to tribal and border wars—such as northeastern Uganda and Somalia—have had their agriculture further disrupted. Among Africa's least-developed countries, per capita food production has dropped 13 percent in the past decade.

The food-for-work programs, essentially modeled on the concentration slave-labor camps of Nazi Albert Speer, were the subject of an FAO policy conference in Paris on the least-developed countries this September.

At the conference it was proposed that one-third of all aid to the LDCs be allocated for agriculture. The U.N. agency is on record endorsing "appropriate technology" agriculture, rather than the high-technology transfer required to provide necessary food production.

The other two-thirds of aid is to presumably go for further debt rollover and energy costs. Yet today all LDCs combined—most of the Third World—received only \$800 million from the world's financial institutions and aid agencies.

Briefly

● **YOSHIHIRO INAYAMA**, the head of Japan's Keidanren business federation, advocated a conciliatory trade policy toward Europe in a report to Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki. Inayama proposed both export restraint by Japan and an activist import program. The report followed a stormy 15-day tour of Europe by more than 100 top Japanese business leaders in which the Japanese were met with surprisingly harsh protectionist threats. Others of the business delegates, however, argued that Japan should not cave in to what they regard as unfounded European demands.

● **NICOLAE CEAUDESCU** of Romania issued call for the Soviet Union to withdraw its middle-range missiles from Eastern Europe. He also urged the United States not to deploy such missiles in Western Europe. In doing so, Ceausescu plays into Britain's building of a "Third Force" for Europe. Ceausescu's call immediately follows the recent NATO meeting of foreign ministers, which also called for the withdrawal of missiles from Eastern Europe.

● **BORIS PONOMAREV**, Soviet Central Committee Secretary and Deputy Secretary Vadim Zagladin held high-level strategy sessions with the French government and the Socialist Party leadership during the latter's Paris conference last month. Zagladin later announced that "the Soviet Union is ready to participate in an international disarmament conference if France should decide to organize it in Paris," and specified that François Mitterrand would preside over the conference.

● **HO CHI MINH** City Mayor Mai Chi Tho will head a delegation of Vietnam's National Assembly members to Tokyo on Nov. 1 to meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda and to have in-depth talks about a solution to the Kampuchean issue.