

International Intelligence

Showdown over collapse in Iran?

Top-level British intelligence sources report that they expect a rapid disintegration in Iran which could touch off a U.S.-Soviet confrontation in the Persian Gulf in the near future. "It's a throwback to 1910 and to the World War I situations in which the big powers were drawn in," said one London specialist.

This source ridiculed reports that Iran has achieved stability, declaring that the Khomeini regime "is sowing the seeds of its own destruction," which could come "as early as April or May."

Moscow is reported by some analysts to have concentrated up to 24 divisions of its troops along its border with Iran. And Moscow is said to have extensive covert networks within the tribal and ethnic minorities there which could be activated in a crisis. There are also reports of Soviet troop concentrations along the Turkish border, and Turkey may have built up its forces on that eastern frontier. The Turkish movements are probably not aimed at countering Moscow, which would be impossible, but at ensuring Turkish security in the event of a blowup in Iran.

Amnesty International pressures Mexico

Amnesty International (AI) and Mexican leftists have stepped up a "human-rights" campaign against the Mexican government, drawing on a report on "torture and repression" in Mexico recently presented to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights by AI.

The AI report charges that there are 570 *deaparecidos* in Mexico, and charged that "torture, assassination threats, and repression" are being mounted against the left. In particular, AI is using the problem Mexico faces with the flow of Guatemalan refugees; if the López Portillo government allows them to stay in

Mexico, it risks subversion by the guerrillas and terrorists among them, and if it sends them back to Guatemala, it faces further AI attack.

A delegation from the U.N. Commission on Human Rights arrived in Mexico in the third week in January to carry out a "study" of the refugee problem. *Uno Mas Uno* charged Jan. 19 that Mexico is both deporting hundreds of Guatemalans, who will be persecuted by the army there, and forcing other refugees into Mexican concentration camps without food or water.

Turks reject British conflict scenarios

The government of Gen. Kenan Evren is sending out signals that Turkey does not wish to play along with a revived centuries-old Anglo-Venetian scenario for polarizing the eastern Mediterranean and pitting Turkey against the U.S.S.R.

As an expression of this commitment, Turkey has signed a \$600 million trade deal with its Soviet neighbor, ignoring calls by the U.S. State Department to curtail economic ties with Moscow. The agreement represents a 30 percent increase over last year's Turkish-Soviet trade figure. Istanbul, explained Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen, "has a special interest in its economic ties with the Soviet Union."

Efforts to destabilize (if not topple) the Evren regime and make it more malleable for operations against Moscow are being primed by the Cyprus conflict with Greece, which has intensified since the election of Greek Socialist Andreas Papandreou, a British asset. Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish community in Cyprus, another British asset, has been threatening to launch "a pre-emptive military operation" against the Greek segment of the island.

According to one Greek Cypriot press source, Israeli intelligence may have deliberately leaked reports of a "Greek troop build-up" in Cyprus to the Turks to heat things up. The British La-

bour Party is meanwhile egging on militant Greek Cypriots. Its leader, Michael Foot, is the brother of one of the architects of the Cyprus problem, former Governor of Cyprus Lord Caradon.

Brazil nationalizes D.K. Ludwig empire

Rogue billionaire Daniel K. Ludwig will soon agree on the transfer of his 4 million acre paper pulp empire on the Amazon to a group of Brazilian businessmen. The deal was reached after a long period of conflict between Ludwig and the Brazilian authorities. Ludwig threatened to close down his tree plantations and mill unless the Brazilian government gave him generous concessions, which the Brazilians refused. They understood Ludwig, who has been linked to the Miami-Bahamas gambling and dope mob, to be a threat to national security.

In the transaction soon to be completed, control over the property will pass to a group of two dozen Brazilian businessmen, headed by Ludwig's long-term local front man, Augusto Azevedo Antunes. This private sector consortium will come up with \$60 million, while the government's Banco do Brasil will provide \$180 million.

Who gains and who loses? Brazil comes out ahead in getting rid of the unsavory Ludwig. Other foreign investors will now be able to join in \$30 billion dollar plans to extract the nearby fabulous Carajás mineral deposits without having Ludwig's many scandals hanging over their heads.

Chief presidential advisor for civilian affairs Leitão de Abreu claims that Ludwig will not be reimbursed by Brazil for the up to \$500 million of his own he claims to have invested in the troubled forestry project. These losses are likely to turn up as credits on the U.S. income tax of one of the world's richest men.

The profitable aspects of the operation have already been stripped by Ludwig or will now be sold separately. A kaolin (chalk) mine is going to Antunes

for \$40 million and bauxite deposits to Alcoa for much more.

While salvaging what he can from his tropical experiment, the 85-year old magnate is hardly retiring. His penchant has turned to snapping up the savings banks hobbled by high interest rates in one western U.S. state after another. He has hit in Arizona, California, Colorado, and most recently he landed the United Savings Association of Texas, having \$1.8 billion in assets for a mere \$47 million of his ready cash.

India plans economic revival

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in a nationwide televised broadcast on the completion of two years in office, outlined a 20-point program for the economic development of India. The program features the government's plan for improving "the working of public sector enterprises by increasing efficiency, capacity utilization and the generation of internal resources."

To add impetus to the proposed program, Mrs. Gandhi reshuffled her cabinet, naming the pro-industry Commerce Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee as the new Finance Minister. The reshuffle also gave the cabinet a wider regional representation.

Pressing for a new economic order to prevent worldwide economic depression, Mrs. Gandhi early this month invited 34 developing nations from Africa, Asia, and Latin America to participate in a conference in New Delhi next month. Mrs. Gandhi's invitation has met with an overwhelming response. Last week, in an interview with Novosti Press Agency, Mrs. Gandhi spoke out against the concept of a limited nuclear war and said, "In India we wish for peace because it is indispensable for the realization of our dreams of development."

While the Indian Premier is planning to steer the nation to economic stability, a fractious and disruptive opposition has called for a general strike of industrial workers to shut down essential services.

However, because of India's much-improved economic condition the call failed to generate much support.

IMF destabilizes its own puppets in Bolivia

One does not risk much in predicting yet another coup in Bolivia. The IMF, with apparent backing from the Reagan administration, is so intent on forcing Bolivia to adopt the entire gory "Chilean model" that it will probably get the government of General Celso Torrelio overthrown shortly after he bites the bullet.

Everyone in La Paz has been preparing for the devaluation and dismantling of industry mandated by the IMF and Bank of America as conditions for yet another 90-day postponement of debt service due from the \$2 billion-per-year cocaine exporter whose public cupboard is bare. Since people expect prices to shoot up by 30 to 50 percent overnight, store shelves have been emptied. Importers are struggling to get dollars to pay bills before the peso becomes worthless. Workers and miners are preparing mass strikes against the measures, with the support of local industrialists who understand that the elimination of protective tariffs will wipe them out.

And, in classical Bolivian style, Col. Faustino Rico Toro, commander of the military academy and accomplished cocaine paste trafficker, announced at a military ceremony attended by the incumbent dictator-president that he would take power the instant his commander carries out the planned untempered economic shock.

Torrelio was trundled in a few months ago as part of a deal with the Reagan administration to closet the more blatant "Cocaine Coup" generals in return for U.S. recognition and a rollover from the international banks.

He is endeavoring to provide a cover for the IMF, et al. by revealing a 10-year \$500 million plan to coax peasants into replacing a million acres of coca bushes with crops less embarrassing to official Washington.

Briefly

● **EGYPTIAN COPTIC** extremists are being mobilized by the same intelligence services that carried out the assassination of Egyptian President Sadat, to spread sectarian violence and destabilize the regime of Hosni Mubarak, says a well-placed French intelligence source. Mubarak has pledged not to release the deposed Coptic Pope Chenuda from house arrest for fear of renewed sectarian unrest erupting in Egypt.

● **ISRAEL** is now prepared for Muslim Brotherhood leader Salam Attar to replace the collapsing Assad regime in Syria, say Lebanese sources.

● **SOTIRIS RIGANAKOS**, a Greek socialist convicted in Sweden of heroin dealing, statutory rape, and other crimes, has had his eight-year sentence reduced to only two years, meaning that he will be out on parole in a couple of months. The Stockholm Court of Appeals decision has caused a scandal reverberating against Riganakos's powerful connections, including former Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

● **BULGARIAN** Prime Minister Grisha Filipov announced Jan. 13 that Bulgaria will introduce a "New Economic Mechanism," the term used in decentralized Hungary, and will increase the role of "market forces" while cutting back on government subsidies which fail to meet efficiency and quality standards.

● **PEKING REVIEW**, an official Chinese publication, admits that "the economic results are today not only below the level of the economically advanced countries, but also below those achieved in China in the past." The theoretical journal *Red Flag*, reflecting the factional discord that situation has aggravated, reports that some Chinese leaders had even plotted to oust Deng. The Dengists are gearing up for a purge of their opponents.