

International Intelligence

Catholic liberals in offensive against Pope

Liberal opponents of Pope John Paul II want to set up "parallel structures" within the Catholic Church, to counter attempts by the Pope and West Germany's Cardinal Ratzinger to use the forthcoming bishops' synod in November 1985, to reverse the reforms of the Vatican II Council, the *Economist* reports.

Ten Brazilian bishops are attacking the Pope for his attempts to rein in Franciscan liberation-theologist Leonardo Boff; the liberal West German Catholic magazine *Herder Korrespondenz* has denounced the Pope for "Roman centralism"; and four British theologians, writing for the Dominican magazine *New Blackfriars*, have attacked Ratzinger for "infantilism," for "identifying communion with the bishop of Rome with an unquestioning acceptance of every word that comes from the Vatican."

Liberal critics of the Pope will "sit things out until the Pope dies, hoping he will be replaced by a more liberal one," the *Economist* writes.

'Unparalleled' epidemic of AIDS is looming

"There is a danger of an epidemic of unparalleled proportions" of the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), a British epidemiologist was quoted as saying on Radio Israel on July 30. The latest reports from the Atlanta, Georgia Center for Disease Control, on the international patterns in the spread of the disease, bear out this forecast.

The CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* shows that during the first three months of 1985, 175 new cases of AIDS were reported in Europe, bringing the total there to 940; the U.S. total is 12,067 cases. The number of European cases has doubled every six months from 1981 to 1983,

and after that doubled every year.

The disease is commonest in Denmark, with 8.0 cases reported for every million people; Switzerland came next with 7.9 cases; and then France with 5.6. In the United States, there are 40.9 cases per million people. Of the European patients, 124 originally came from Africa, mostly from Zaire or the Congo.

Orthodox Patriarch honored by Soviet state

Patriarch Pimen of the Russian Orthodox Church/Moscow Patriarchate received the Order of the Red Labor Banner on July 22, in honor of his 75th birthday and services to the Soviet state.

The Moscow Patriarchate continues to build for the 1988 celebration of 1,000 years of Orthodoxy in Russia. The cornerstone of a grandiose new church headquarters and residence for Pimen was laid at the reconsecrated Danilov Monastery in early June; construction is slated for completion by the 1,000-year jubilee.

Also in June, the Moscow Patriarchate deployed its representatives internationally. Archbishop Varfolomei of Tashkent and Central Asia led a group of clergy on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Metropolitan Nikodim of Lvov and Ternopol visited Argentina, where he expressed full support for "the Soviet state's activity to maintain and consolidate peace on earth and avert the danger of the outbreak of new wars."

Swedish diplomat warns of Soviet surprise attack

Ambassador Curt Lidgard, who heads the Swedish delegation at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, said that Western Europe is threatened by a surprise attack from the Soviet Union, according to a July 25 report by the Soviet news agency TASS, broadcast on July 26 by Swedish national

radio news. TASS charged that Ambassador Lidgard's statements, made in a speech in Malmö in southern Sweden, were harmful and irresponsible.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lennart Bodström publicly reprimanded Ambassador Lidgard, saying that a Swedish government spokesman should not have used Lidgard's words and that Lidgard did not speak on behalf of the government.

Ambassador Lidgard denied the accuracy of press reports on his speech, explaining that he had just sought to describe the threatening picture prevailing in West European countries, and that he does not believe that either side is preparing an attack. The daily *Sydsvenska Dagbladet*, however, which TASS used as the source for its report, maintains that the ambassador's speech was correctly reproduced.

Italian communists press government to reject SDI

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) has put forward a Parliamentary Question to the government of Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, demanding to know the government's official position on the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative—"the Star Wars program of the United States."

The PCI is further demanding to know details of the discussions held in Washington recently, by a government delegation.

Meanwhile, PCI Secretary-General Alessandro Natta praised the Social Democratic parties of West Germany and Sweden and the Labour Party of Great Britain, for their work against the SDI, during a recent Central Committee meeting of the Communist Party. The work of these groups, and of "religious organizations" and French President François Mitterrand, "will strengthen us in our commitment and our will," he said, "to multiply our efforts to create a movement in Italy and on an international basis, with the aim of avoid a new and horrible arms race, and of forcing the Italian government to take a strong position to discourage such an arms race."

Briefly

● **YASSER ARAFAT**, the PLO chairman, charged that a "New Yalta" deal is out to destroy the Palestinians. "I must tell our Arab nation that unless we can reach at least a minimum agreement and minimum Arab solidarity, we will have no place in the 'new Yalta,'" Arafat said, in an interview with the Cairo newspaper *Al Ahram* July 25.

● **'IF YOU HAPPEN To Be Norway, Start Worrying,'** is the headline of an *Economist* magazine story on the recent Soviet naval maneuvers in the North Atlantic. "This year's operation . . . has two messages for NATO's planners: that Russia's northern fleet, based in Murmansk, is prepared to move farther south than ever before in an effort to frustrate NATO plans to reinforce Norway in time of war or threatened war; and that, if push ever did come to shove, the Russians probably plan a sea-borne landing in Norway themselves."

● **IN MUNICH**, West Germany, 63 people attended a press conference given by *EIR* intelligence experts on Aug. 1, on the recently released *Special Report*, "Global Showdown: The Russian Imperial War-Plan for 1988." Among those who attended were Bundeswehr officers, retired military officials, Bayerische Fernsehen, Bayerische Rundfunk, Katholische Nachrichten Agentur, American Consulate-Voice of America, Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe, representatives of various religious institutions and "captive nations" groups.

● **ISRAEL'S KNESSET** on July 31 banned any party from the electoral process that incites to racism or endangers state security. This is seen as a ban on Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party. It will not affect Rabbi Kahane's current seat in the 120-member parliament, but his party could be struck from the list in the 1988 elections.

Gaullist deputies back SDI over 'vague' Eureka

Two deputies of France's Gaullist RPR party, François Fillon and Michel Noir, on Aug. 1 announced their full support for the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), over French President François Mitterrand's Eureka program for laser development. The Eureka plan is being promoted by Europeans who oppose participation in the American effort.

Fillon and Noir, who are members of the RPR's Defense and Industry Commissions, respectively, issued their endorsement of the SDI in an op-ed in the Paris daily *Le Monde*:

"The SDI . . . puts the European countries before a twofold challenge: a strategic and an industrial one. . . . Undeniably, the SDI called for a French and a European response. Unfortunately, Eureka didn't take the right path. . . . The power of the SDI concept remains in the fact that it mobilizes energies around one simple idea, but one which is revolutionary and about which everybody feels concerned. On the contrary, the official declarations about Eureka are still vague, and not very favorable to a mobilization."

Terror wave hits Western Europe—again

The most intensive pattern of terrorist activity since the June 14 hijacking of a TWA jetliner in Athens is hitting Europe:

● On July 29, terrorists believed to be from the Basque separatist group ETA assassinated a high-level Spanish defense ministry official, Rear Admiral Fausto Escrigas. As general director for defense policy, Escrigas was a key adviser to the Spanish Joint Chiefs of Staff.

● The Irish Republican Army (IRA) set off a bomb in Belfast, Northern Ireland on July 29, injuring one person. Police said a van, believed packed with about 500 pounds of explosives, blew up.

● Police launched a man-hunt July 29 to find the gunmen who assassinated the head of the anti-mafia police unit in Palermo, Sicily, and Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro fled to Palermo for an emergency meeting with authorities. Capt. Giuseppe Montana died July 28 after two masked men fired four shots into his face at close range.

The attack occurred four days after Montana's squad seized Tommaso Cannella of Prizzi, a fugitive mafia boss, and seven of his associates, in a raid on a villa stocked with weapons. The arrests were the latest of a series of successes for Montana's unit, empowered to track suspected mafia figures and investigate links between organized crime and the police.

Indian prime minister wants answers from FBI

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has reiterated his government's unhappiness with U.S. law enforcement authorities, in particular the FBI. In spite of assurances that all information bearing on Sikh separatist assassination plots against Indian leaders would be shared, Gandhi told a Bombay weekly at the end of July, "We nevertheless feel that there is something that they could tell us which they are not telling us, about the training camps, about the information they have, and so on."

Frank Camper, owner of the paramilitary training camp in the United States attended by the Sikh terrorists, had been asked to provide instruction in industrial sabotage as well as assassination to the Sikh separatists as early as November 1984, but it was not until the Indian embassy and Attorney-General Edwin Meese intervened, days before Rajiv Gandhi's visit to the United States, that the FBI was forced to move against the terrorist gang.

In a parliamentary debate on the matter July 29, Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Kurshed Slam Khan said that the United States should fight terrorism either by closing the commando schools or amending the law to prohibit such training.