

International Intelligence

Jane's says Soviets are 10 years ahead in space

The Soviet Union has taken an "almost frightening" 10-year lead over the U.S. in its space program, *Jane's Space Flight Directory* reported in its latest issue June 17.

The Soviets are so far ahead of the Americans, "that they are almost out of sight," said editor Reginald Turnill. Soviet cosmonauts have logged more than 4,000 days in space, compared with the American astronauts' 1,587.

Experience is largely based on short flights, giving no more than three days at a time of uninterrupted materials-processing and crystal-growth experiments." The advanced Salyut space station Mir is already in place, but "for all NASA's brilliant interplanetary successes, the U.S. space station is receding into the mid-1990s" and NASA is "now 10 years behind the Soviets in the practical utilization of what President Nixon so long ago dubbed 'this new ocean.'"

Turnill called the superpower dispute over the Strategic Defense Initiative a "phony controversy," since the Soviets, too, have a well-advanced space weapons program.

Goethe Institute charged with spreading decadence

West Germany's Goethe Institute, a government-funded cultural center with branches all over the world, is spreading degenerate trash instead of classical culture, and abandoning the heritage of the German classics to East German propagandists. So charged Franz-Josef Strauss, the chairman of the Christian Social Union party and governor of Bavaria, in a speech to a meeting of Institute officials in Munich on June 12.

The Institute is linked politically to the Free Democratic Party of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a Strauss opponent. It promotes the activities of such groups as the anthroposophs, the Greens, and the films of degenerates like the late homosexual drug-addict Rainer Fassbinder.

The Goethe Institute's policy, Strauss

said, "has turned our country's cultural work abroad into a free playground for the international culture 'chiqueria.'"

Strauss said that East Germany's image abroad "will, in the long run, have a more lasting success than the dim 'Twilight of the Gods' variety presented by the Federal Republic of Germany."

The institute, Strauss said, has shown favor toward that "considerable part of the writing profession in Germany which has, for two decades, undermined this state, ruled by democratic law, slandered its responsible personalities, and evil-mindedly presented a distorted image of this state's institutions." Many of these writers and publishers, he said, were living in a "political-utopian neutralism."

Strauss's charges provoked enraged responses from the Free Democrats and Social Democrats. Former education undersecretary Mrs. Hildegard Hamm-Bruecher (FDP) accused Strauss of directing his attacks against Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The Social Democrats have insisted on a parliamentary debate on "the Strauss case."

Thailand slaps on rules to limit Libyan 'aid'

After a mid-June visit by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to Thailand, the Thai government has asked Libya to channel any further money it sends to the nation's Muslims only through the Thai government. Deputy Foreign Minister Arun Phanuphong told a Libyan delegation led by Ahmad Muhammad al-Sharif that the government "knows Thai Muslims the best and would be able to allocate the aid properly."

Although al-Sharif denied that Libya sent aid to armed Muslim separatist groups in the south, Thai intelligence sources say that the Libyans have provided both funds and training for Muslim separatists.

Al-Sharif, however, insisted that Libya's only involvement with Thailand's Muslim minority was via small sums of money for schools and orphanages.

Arafat: PLO accepts all U.N. resolutions

"We accept all U.N. resolutions," said Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat, in an interview with Maxim Ghilan in the June issue of the Paris-based monthly *Israel and Palestine*. Interviewed in Tunis, Arafat underscored that "we have stated that we accept international legality, by which I mean the implementation of all the United Nations resolutions. And the Israelis must remember that Israel is the only state that has been created according to these U.N. resolutions."

Asked about his present policies on peace in the Middle East, Arafat answered that the PLO has since 1969 proposed three solutions. The first was the creation of a "democratic state in which we would all live together, Jews, Christians, and Muslims. . . . This was rejected. So we said: OK, back to international legitimacy and implementation of all U.N. resolutions. . . .

"In 1977, [we] stated that we were ready to set up our own national state in any part of our land from which Israel would withdraw or which would be liberated. This has been rejected.

"Last year, we offered the third proposal, through the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, and this was also rejected."

Ambassadors in Sweden escape killers

U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Gregory Newell escaped an apparent assassination attempt during a dinner party the evening of June 17, when his bodyguards fired at two armed men found lurking outside. "We are assuming that the men were attempting an assassination of the U.S. ambassador," Stockholm police commissioner Sven Lilja said.

Among the other guests was Mexico's ambassador, Andrés Rosenthal. Newell and Rosenthal were being entertained with about 20 other guests at Lagnö Island, east of

Stockholm, at the home of a millionaire Swedish industrialist, Bo Johnson.

Two bodyguards of ambassador Newell stumbled across the gunmen while making a routine inspection of the grounds. The two men, according to the police chief, were armed with an assault rifle and a double-barreled hunting rifle. The bodyguards fired three quick shots. The two men turned and fled on a motorcycle parked nearby. Police mounted a manhunt with boats, helicopters and dogs but without success.

Sweden has been the focus of Soviet military harassment, including submarine incursions and activity by spetsnaz special commando forces. The assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme was part of this Soviet-sponsored campaign of intimidation, as *EIR* has shown.

Ramsey Clark in Libya illegally

Former U.S. attorney-general Ramsey Clark met with Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi at the latter's home in Tripoli June 17, Libyan television reported. The report quoted Clark condemning the U.S. raids on Tripoli and Benghazi as "violating American and international law."

Clark said he wished that all Americans could see the damage that the attack caused. Clark told reporters he was on a private visit to Libya for legal matters, involving firms he was representing. His clients were not named.

President Reagan's ban on Americans traveling to Libya remains in effect. U.S. government spokesmen commented that Clark's passport had not been marked for travel to Libya.

China says it won't aid Filipino communists

China has pledged to give no "substantial" support to the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, Vice-President Salvador Laurel told a news conference on June 17.

"I have been assured by Deng Xiaoping and Premier Zhao Ziyang that the Chinese CP has stopped all contacts with the CP in the Philippines."

He added, however, that the Chinese leaders had indicated that their party would continue sending "fraternal greetings" to the Philippine Communists, whose New People's Army has been fighting the government in Manila for many years, with increasing success.

Laurel, the first senior Philippine official to visit Peking since the Marcos government was overthrown, said truce talks with the New People's Army had just begun, but he declined to go into detail. Laurel also announced a new package of trade and economic agreements with Peking. He said that the assurances given to him demonstrate "once and for all" that China will "not in any way cause trouble" for the Aquino government. "I'm satisfied with it," said Laurel.

French police head off anti-nuclear riots

More than 10,000 people demonstrated in Cattenom, France June 15 against a new French nuclear power plant, the largest in the world. The demonstrations were kept peaceful by the pre-emptive action of French police.

In May, in Wackersdorf, Bavaria, hundreds of West German police were injured in a demonstration spearheaded by paramilitary *chaoten*, punkster youths controlled by the Green Party and German Communist Party.

The demonstrators in France came from West Germany, Luxembourg, and Belgium, as well as France. Some 1,000 riot police set up roadblocks in a three-mile radius of the plant and made spot checks on cars. The police also blocked border crossings between Luxembourg and France with barbed wire; traffic jams of several miles built up at remaining frontier posts. Police said no disturbances were reported at the rally and there were no arrests.

The first of Cattenom's four 1,300 megawatt reactors is due to come on line in the autumn.

● **OVER 100 POLICE** in West Germany have resigned in disgust over the government's soft attitude toward rioters at the June 7 demonstration against the Brokdorf nuclear reprocessing plant, the police union reports. Police are demanding that rioters be given stiff sentences, and are directing many of their attacks at the liberal Free Democratic Party, which they blame for the government's "continuing indecisiveness."

● **HABIB BOURGUIBA**, President of Tunisia, declared to a June 14 closed session of the ruling Destour party's central committee, "However many years I live, I will devote them to fight against this evil phenomenon of Islamic fundamentalism."

● **BUENOS AIRES**, Argentina was covered with posters June 15 demanding to know, "Will we pay the illegitimate foreign debt with sovereignty?" and displaying photos of leaders of the 1976 coup with Henry Kissinger, denounced as "ideologically responsible." The poster showed Kissinger shaking President Alfonsín's hand, stating that he has advised the President since 1984.

● **SENIOR U.S.** and Soviet officials are scheduled to meet in Stockholm at the end of June to discuss the Middle East, under an agreement worked out at the Geneva summit, diplomatic sources told Reuters. Both Soviet and U.S. embassy officials in Sweden declined to comment.

● **GRAMM-RUDMAN** was cited as the reason why the U.S. is cutting aid to Indonesia, at the meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia, June 18. U.S. aid to Indonesia, will drop 14% during the next aid year, from \$100 million to \$86 million. The 12-nation group that decides on official aid to Indonesia was meeting at The Hague.