

International Intelligence

British SAS gears up against Soviet spetsnaz

Britain's elite special forces are being reorganized to face the growing threat of terrorist attacks and Soviet spetsnaz (special irregular forces) deployment against its military bases, reports the June 7 *Sunday Times*.

Under the public terms of the reorganization, the Special Air Services and the Special Boat Squadron (SBS) will be placed under a new Special Forces Group Headquarters at the Chelsea barracks in London, which will be under the command of the Joint Operation Centers at the Defense Ministry.

Some 200 members of the Comachio Group, an elite unit of the Royal Marines, will be assigned to the SBS. The remainder of the Comachio Group, usually deployed to protect North Sea oil rigs, will now have the responsibility of protecting the Clyde submarine base.

According to William Massie of the *Sunday Express*, one obvious source of a Soviet spetsnaz threat to Britain is seamen employed by non-Warsaw Pact ships. "Thousands of Warsaw Pact seamen with military training, on crew ships that sail regularly in and out of British ports near key defense installations . . . [are] causing alarm in Whitehall."

Western shipowners hire Eastern European seamen through special organizations in Warsaw Pact capitals, because the seamen, who have the status of members of the defense forces in their home countries, need be paid only naval wages, i.e., £12 a week—much less than Western sailors.

The Special Branch of Scotland Yard told the newspaper they do not know how many Eastern European seamen are hired by British shipping firms.

Norway's farmers take to the streets

For the first time in 13 years, Norwegian farmers conducted mass demonstrations

against the government's farm policy in the first week in June. More than 10,000 farmers gathered in the streets of Oslo, a day after farmers in the north of the country blockaded a dozen dairies.

Negotiations between the farmers and government over the past two years have resulted in nothing but a lowering of farmers' living standards by 10% per year. The last straw came when this year's negotiations broke down at the end of May.

Norway's farmers have generally enjoyed a higher status than their counterparts in other European countries. After mass farm protests in the 1970s, which shut down national dairy production, Norwegian farmers obtained one of their top demands, a law mandating a rise in their net income to equal that of industrial workers.

Currently, farm income is far below this norm, and in the north, does not reach half the legally mandated level.

Polish official attacks Russia on Katyn massacre

For the first time since 1945, a Polish functionary has implicated the Soviet Union for the spring 1940 massacre of 4,500 unarmed Polish officers in the Katyn forest, near Smolensk in Russia.

Ludwig Krasucki, editor of *Nowe Drogi* and member of the Polish Communist Party's committee on ideology, said: "Many of us think the Russians did it." Under the Hitler-Stalin Pact which partitioned Poland, the Polish officers were captured by the Red Army, after Hitler attacked the country. Till Krasucki's statement, issued shortly before the Pope's arrival in Poland, every Polish official has, for the public record, followed the Soviet line, and blamed the atrocity on the Germans.

Mount Athos monks inspire Italian Greens

The latest issue of the Italian environmentalist monthly, *Nuova Ecologia*, contains the

singular proposal that in order to avoid use of detergents, which pollute the environment—particularly dishwashing detergents—each citizen should clean his plate every day by wiping it off with a piece of bread.

This custom is similar to a custom of the monks of Mount Athos, the famous monastic peninsula in Greece where no females are allowed—not even female animals. The monks do not use plates at all, but their food is deposited in a bowl-shaped cavity in their tables. At the end of their frugal meals, each monk wipes out the cavity with his bread.

French foreign ministry tipped off terrorist

French police and interior ministry officials have accused someone in the French foreign ministry of tipping off Iranian embassy official Wahid Gordji, allowing him to escape a June 3 raid that netted 57 Iranian-linked terrorists belonging to the Committee in Solidarity with Arab Political Prisoners, according to the newspaper *Le Parisien*.

Gordji, the son of Khomeini's personal physician while in exile in France, is identified as the number-two man in the Iranian embassy by counterintelligence sources. He escaped to Switzerland following his tip-off.

French police named Gordji as the controller of recently dismantled terror networks responsible for a Paris bombing spree last year. Fuad al Saleh and Mohammed al Mohajer have been charged with the September and October 1986 bombings. All in all, 57 Iranians were rounded up throughout France, and most have been deported. Gordji was supposed to be among them.

Le Figaro and other newspapers said Gordji most likely had a diplomatic passport, and that someone in the foreign ministry told him to leave the country "rather than create a diplomatic crisis." He comes from a prominent Iranian family, which has served as a private channel between the Iranian and French governments in financial and hostage negotiations.

Expecting retaliation for its crackdown, the government in Paris has called on its citizens to leave Iran as soon as possible.

Fanatics threaten to destabilize Israel

A coalition of "Jewish fundamentalist" parties of fanatics has given the current Israeli government until July 20 to decide in favor of 27 new settlements they are demanding on the occupied West Bank, or they will withdraw their support from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud party, collapsing the coalition government.

Leading the right-wing coalition is the Tekhya (renaissance) party of Israeli intelligence covert operations specialist Raphael "Dirty Rafi" Eytan and nuclear scientist Yuval Ne'eman. This is the same coalition known to be behind the Jewish settlers in the West Bank who went on a rampage June 7 against a Palestinian refugee camp near Bethlehem, and then fought with Israeli soldiers.

Also among the coalition is Meir Kahane's Kach party. Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League in the United States, was recently deprived of his rights in the Israeli Knesset (parliament) after refusing to swear the official oath of office. Kahane will remain a member of the Knesset, but lose almost all rights and privileges; he will neither be able to vote nor be elected to any parliamentary function. However, he continues to enjoy parliamentary immunity. Knesset chairman Shlomo Hillel declared that Kahane could come back anytime, if he took the oath.

China, Mongolia sign border treaty

China and Soviet-controlled Mongolia have just signed a border treaty, which establishes the framework for settling outstanding territorial disputes. The move is the latest in an ongoing process of Soviet-Chinese rapprochement.

No further details on the treaty have been released, but the signing came only two days after the Soviet defense ministry announced that it had "completed the partial withdrawal" of Soviet troops from Mongolia, "begun in April." An estimated 11,000 of the 75,000 Soviet troops stationed in Mongolia have been withdrawn, including several army units and one motorized rifle division.

The announcements were timed to coincide with the June 8 arrival of Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang in East Berlin. Zhao will meet with East German party boss Erich Honecker.

French leaders call for 'crusade for development'

French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, speaking at the national convention of the neo-Gaullist RPR party at Porte de Versailles on May 24, called for France to assume a leading role in reversing the economic collapse of Third World countries. "We can no longer tolerate, at the end of the 20th century, the gulf that separates the countries of the Third World from the developed countries," he said, "the waste in the countries of the North in the face of famines in the South. This is not uniquely our vocation; it is everybody's interest. France must take the leadership of a new crusade for development, as she was able to do in Africa or in Madagascar."

Premier and RPR party head Jacques Chirac stated in his speech to the same convention, "Fifteen years from now, we will not be able to look our children in the eye if today we allow two-thirds of the world's population to die of hunger."

Chirac and his cabinet ministers have been fighting for a "Marshall Plan" for Third World development, particularly the development of Africa, in coordination with the efforts of Pope John Paul II.

The RPR is launching a domestic campaign to mobilize France to become the leader of the "great market" which Europe will be, without its customs barriers, by 1992.

Briefly

● **CARDINAL** Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, has prohibited the publication in Italy of two books by Brazilian "theology of liberation" priests. The books are, *The Trinity, Society and Liberation*, and *The Church of the Poor*, by the brothers Leonardo and Clodovis Boff. They will face disciplinary charges if they go ahead with publication. Both books have been published in Brazil.

● **SPY SCANDALS** in Japan continue. A third Soviet spy has been uncovered at the Soviet embassy in Tokyo. Viktor Askyutin was forced to return to Moscow after refusing to cooperate with Japanese authorities.

● **JOACHIM GARCÍA** Ribes, the sole Spanish survivor of the Nazis' Treblinka death camp, gave sworn testimony June 8 that John Demjanjuk is *not* "Ivan the Terrible," the death-camp guard. Demjanjuk, a retired Detroit autoworker, is on trial as "Ivan" in Israel, based on Soviet-supplied evidence. García Ribes said that the original "Ivan" had a much smaller head than Demjanjuk, was older than Demjanjuk could have been in 1943, and, he believes, was killed by camp inmates.

● **P.W. BOTHA**, the South African President, on June 4 visited the black township of Sharpeville, site of a notorious massacre of blacks in 1961. This was his first visit to a major black township since he was elected President in 1984. He was accompanied by seven cabinet ministers.

● **THE MATHIAS RUST** incident was "premeditated," claimed Radio Moscow in a June 10 broadcast. West German citizen Rust, held in Moscow's Lefortovo KGB jail since late May, when he flew his light Cessna to Red Square across 600 kilometers of Soviet territory unimpeded, could face 10 years imprisonment for violating Soviet airspace, said the broadcast.