

International Intelligence

Sabotage blocks U.S. military train in Germany

Sabotage halted a U.S. military train in northern Germany on Dec. 2.

A U.S. military rail transport, traveling from Bremen to Berlin, came to a sudden halt when the train ran into iron hooks placed on the overhead high-tension wires providing power to the train. Struck by the train, the hooks tore down the power lines over a distance of several hundred meters.

There have been over 30 such incidents of sabotage against civilian trains since the spring of 1986.

The incidents have been blamed on the German "peace" or "anti-defense" movement, a Soviet-sponsored irregular warfare operation. In some cases, the direct involvement of Soviet military professionals has been mooted.

Soviet general visits Thailand

Gen. Yevgeny Ivanovsky, commander in chief of the Soviet Ground Forces, recently visited Thailand, returning the visit of Thai Commander in Chief Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyut to Moscow. This was the first visit to Bangkok by a high-ranking Soviet Army officer.

General Chavalit has taken a stand on the turmoil in neighboring Kampuchea that views it as "a civil war between two Communist factions," rather than a question of resistance to the Soviet-backed Vietnamese occupation. Chavalit has called on the Soviets to make greater efforts to resolve the Kampuchea crisis, because of the Soviet leadership of the world socialist movement.

Former Cambodian ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk, by agreeing to meet with Kampuchean Prime Minister Hun Sen in Paris Dec. 2, has implicitly accepted the position that the Kampuchean conflict is a "civil war."

Argentine workers stage anti-IMF strike

Industrialists, industrial workers, and the farm sector have expressed their hostility to the austerity policies of Argentina's President Raúl Alfonsín's government.

On Dec. 1, the Peronist General Confederation of Workers (CGT) staged a general strike, demanding that the economic policies imposed on Argentina by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) be thrown out.

At the same time, the executive board of the Argentine Agricultural Federation declared a "state of alert and mobilization" of agricultural producers, to "reject the existing economic policy." The AAF insists that "the orientation which is defined by foreign creditors and the International Monetary Fund, should be definitely thrown out," said the organization's statement.

They join the Argentine Industrialists Association in rejecting the \$4.5 billion tax increase package the IMF is demanding. And they plan to carry out "joint action with other organizations and political parties throughout the entire country."

In preparation for the Dec. 1-2 general strike, the CGT staged a series of assemblies, meetings, and public gatherings to educate workers on the nature of the anti-IMF fight. CGT leader Saul Ubaldini said the strike is labor's response to the government's refusal to alter its economic policy.

Polish voter abstention imperils perestroika

"The Polish vote risks considerably weakening the Soviet Union's number-one status," wrote French Soviet expert Alexandre Adler in the Paris daily *Libération* Dec. 1. The Polish government at the end of November had asked Polish citizens to vote for or against two economic plans advanced by the Jaruzelski government, in an exercise in

democracy much publicized in the West. But Polish voters proceeded to vote "No" on both plans—a development being widely interpreted as an embarrassment to both Jaruzelski and Gorbachov.

It may seem in the West that holding the referendum was a victory for Gorbachov's reforms, wrote Adler, but the result of the referendum is the opposite. Now, Gorbachov's adversaries, both in the U.S.S.R. and in Eastern Europe, will exploit this failure to act against the totality of the Gorbachov policy package.

Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski has been, after all, Gorbachov's "principal ally" in Eastern Europe, and Poland has been Gorbachov's "battle-horse" in his reform effort.

The results of the election, from which fully one-third of eligible voters stayed away, will affect "the correlation of forces between Gorbachovians and conservatives throughout East Europe," strengthening anti-*glasnost* tendencies in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Bulgaria. "For the East European old guard, the Polish result, like the insurrection in Budapest in 1956, will appear as God's judgment on the lack of prudence of *perestroika*."

Adler noted that one contributing factor to the low voter turnout, was that Polish Cardinal Glemp and the Polish episcopate refused to call out the population to vote.

Italy's *Corriere della Sera* referred to the vote as Gorbachov's "political Chernobyl," whose effects will spread internationally. It is especially problematic for Gorbachov, stressed the author, because the affair which saw the removal from the Politburo of Gorbachov ally Boris Yeltsin "is not yet finished."

Archbishop Francesco-Colasuonno, the Pope's personal "trouble-shooter," left Rome Dec. 1 at the head of a Vatican delegation to Poland, as Vatican Radio commented that the results of Poland's economic reform referendum were "a great demonstration of a lack of trust six years after the banning of Solidarity." One Vatican source told London's *Daily Telegraph*, "The outcome of the voting gives a whole new dimension to the Monsignor's mission."

Briefly

INF accord may not stand legal test

Could Europe mount a legal challenge to the accord on Intermediate Nuclear Forces? France's Jean-Marie Benoist, who recently signed an anti-INF advertisement that appeared in the *Washington Post*, raised this question in the Dec. 1 issue of *Le Monde*.

Benoist, president of the European Center for Strategic and International Relations (CERIS), wrote that, "In international law, this treaty remains very dubious and, consequently, assailable in the courts, since the Europeans have not been party to it, taking into account that it is a question, in the first place, of Europeans' survival and liberty."

Benoist admonished "American legislators, before ratifying this bad accord which [Defense Minister André] Giraud rightly called a 'New Munich,' [to] take to their heart the voices of authoritative Europeans and give weight to the fact that one does not disarm oneself unilaterally of vital defenses in the face of the enemy."

Under the headline, "Euromissiles: Who Benefits from This Accord?" Benoist warns that the treaty removing U.S. missiles "will place us in a unenviable situation, comparable to that which existed on the eve of the two preceding world wars." He recalled President Charles de Gaulle's unheeded warnings that the Yalta agreement would put Eastern Europe under the "yoke of Soviet domination."

He concludes, "The results of the probable denuclearization of Western Europe can already be read in West Germany, where the President of the United States, the new Roosevelt of Yalta, is in the process of becoming the hero of the Greens."

Green chief in Switzerland as 'peace' riots erupt

German Green Party leader Jutta Ditfurth arrived in Switzerland shortly before the outbreak of riots in Berne on Nov. 25-26.

She met with "representatives of the Swiss anti-war movement" and with "grassroots groups" in Zurich.

Ditfurth, who was in Moscow recently, is a strong advocate of violence and sabotage, and expressed her support for rioters who ambushed and shot to death two policemen in Frankfurt Nov. 2.

On the evening of Nov. 26, "squatters," like those of the Hafenstrasse district of Hamburg, West Germany, (see *EIR*, Nov. 27, 1987, p. 48), launched violent riots in the Swiss capital of Berne, using flares and firing potentially lethal steel pellets from slingshots at the police—a level of organized violence only seen in Germany until now.

Germany's Genscher plans NATO troop cuts

Hans-Dietrich Genscher's West German foreign ministry is working on plans for huge troop cuts in Europe, wrote the Nov. 30 issue of West Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine.

Genscher's troop cut plan consists of a first phase that, by Summer 1988, imposes a ceiling on East-West troop strength "slightly below present levels." Phase Two foresees an "approximate 25% reduction" in troop strength "on both sides," followed by both NATO and the Warsaw Pact pledging to "limit major weapons systems" like tanks and artillery, especially in front-line areas. The cuts would be "controlled by on-site inspection." "In order to lift the danger of surprise attack, tank divisions would consist primarily of reservists."

Genscher plans to present his package to the March session of West Germany's Federal Security Council, prevailing over opposition from Defense Minister Manfred Wörner, and then to get it implemented throughout the NATO alliance.

Spiegel concludes, "Even U.S. Ambassador Richard Burt is distrustful of Genscher," and was heard to ask whether the latter has drafted such a scheme "because he comes from East Germany."

● **THE EGYPTIAN** daily *Al-Ahram*'s diplomatic editor, Hedayat Abdel Nabi, has urged the United States to launch a development aid package for the Middle East based on the postwar Marshall Plan. She made the proposal in a commentary that appeared in the *Atlanta Constitution*.

● **FRANCE** is working to collect all the evidence that would facilitate an intervention" with Syria to obtain the extradition of Nazi Alois Brunner, who is currently based in Damascus, French Foreign Ministry official Didier Bariani indicated to the French National Assembly on Nov. 29.

● **GORBACHOV:** A Risk We Must Take," writes British Social Democratic leader David Owen, in *The Independent*, Nov. 28. Owen stated, "It is in British interests that we should move from a bi-polar world to a multi-polar one, where one of the poles is Western Europe. . . . We must give Mr. Gorbachov his chance, all the time conscious that he may not last." On Nov. 23, Owen had delivered the Toronto Star Lecture in Canada, laying out the same perspective.

● **SEVENTY** people are infected with AIDS in East Germany, according to the state news agency ADN. Four now have the disease, and two have died. Dr. Nils Sönnichsen of East Berlin's Charite hospital was quoted, "mandatory registration is helpful."

● **MANFRED WÖRNER**, the West German defense minister, is isolated in the Bonn government in his opposition to the INF agreement, Bonn sources report. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is backing Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a supporter of the treaty.