

International Intelligence

French, Germans form joint councils

France and Germany celebrated the 25th anniversary of the 1963 de Gaulle/Adenauer treaty on Jan. 22, by formally announcing the establishment of a mutual Council on Defense, a Council on Economic-Financial Affairs, and a Cultural Cooperation Agreement.

French Premier Jacques Chirac, in a statement issued a day earlier, made clear that loss of trust in the United States was the principal French motive in tightening relations with West Germany. Said Chirac, the councils are necessary "in view of the new conditions set by the INF treaty, and by the events of the October monetary perturbances."

Not everyone is pleased by the new cooperative bodies. The Council on Economic-Financial Affairs is viewed with suspicion by the German central bank, or Bundesbank, whose governor, Karl-Otto Pöhl, said that he would support the council only if the autonomy of his own institution were not affected.

Pöhl also denied Chirac's charges of two weeks earlier that the German bank had failed to support the French currency, while it had supported the dollar at France's expense.

The Council on Defense, to consist of the heads of the French and German governments and their military chiefs of staff, will convene at least four times a year. Officials pointed out that the defense and economic councils' consultations will inevitably overlap to a certain extent, because their agendas include funding of mutual defense projects, including "military projects in space."

Soviets sponsor 'new thinking' conference

The Soviet Union hosted a conference of members of the "International Fund for the Survival and Development of Humanity" in mid-January. The conference was sponsored by billionaire Soviet agent Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum. According to a front-page item the Soviet military

daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (*Red Star*), the Fund's members, all leading international cultural, scientific, and political figures, met with Mikhail Gorbachov on Jan. 15.

Those included in the Gorbachov meeting, listed by *Krasnaya Zvezda*, were Hammer; D.S. Likhachev, chairman of the Soviet Culture Fund; A.D. Sakharov, Mrs. S. Eisenhower, J. Goldenberg (Brazil), R. Biernerstedt (Switzerland), J. Stone (U.S.A.), D. MacTaggard (Canada), B. Sendov (Bulgaria), F. Mayor (Spain), Metropolitan Pitirim (U.S.S.R.), R. Sagdeev (U.S.S.R.), C. Stiller (E. Germany), M. Gutierrez (Italy), M. Sela (Israel), F. von Hippel (U.S.A.), K.P. Dürr (W. Germany), K. Richter (W. Germany), U. Green (U.S.A.), and laser scientist E.P. Velikhov (U.S.S.R.).

The subject of discussion: implementation of "new thinking" in world politics and science.

On the same day of the *Krasnaya Zvezda* report, Jan. 16, *Pravda* carried a photo of the gathering, plus a photo of Gorbachov receiving Hammer in private. Hammer was quoted welcoming the INF treaty as the "right step in the right direction." He also said that he hopes the U.S.S.R. would demonstrate its "good will" in regard to Afghanistan. Central Committee Secretary Anatoly Dobrynin attended the private session.

Soviets gleeful that U.S. jets leave Spain

The Soviet party newspaper *Pravda* could not conceal its jubilation over the recent withdrawal of U.S. F-16 fighter bombers from Spain. "Fighters Lose Their Residence Permit," the Soviet paper headlined on its front page.

The article boosted Adolfo Suárez, the Soviets' choice for next premier of Spain. It also tried to manufacture a new issue: "Some politicians" want the "obscure points" concerning whether the United States would be able to use Spanish bases in times of crisis "cleared up," and want a definition of what a "crisis" is.

The U.S. jets were withdrawn from their base at Torrejón after negotiations between

the State Department and the Spanish government of Socialist Felipe González.

On Jan. 22, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was received by the Spanish king. He also was to meet with González, and with the foreign ministry secretary who organized the withdrawal of the 72 American F-16s. On Jan. 22, a Soviet foreign ministry spokesman told the press that the withdrawal was "good news for Spain, an important step in detente."

NATO big loser in Swedish-Russian deal

Well-placed European military observers have told *EIR* that the just-concluded Swedish-Soviet settlement of a 27-year-old disputed water boundary in the Baltic Sea is a major blow to NATO. According to these sources, the agreement will prevent any pre-war NATO deployments in the Baltic. The way the agreement is defined will make it impossible for NATO submarines to move farther east than the Danish island of Bornholm.

"This is a significant step in the direction of the *mare clausum* [closed sea] goal the Russians have sought in the Baltic for 80 years," said one source. "The Russians will now use their foothold in the former international 'white zone' to establish military presence and control."

He continued: "The argument that Sweden retains 75% of Baltic waters, to 25% for Russia is meaningless, since Russia treats Swedish territorial waters as its own anyway."

Israel has technology to develop Middle East

Israel's military high technology could be the key to the economic development of the entire Middle East region. So says a feature article in the Jan. 21 *Financial Times* of London.

It focuses on what Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called Israel's "third stage of Zionism . . . the conquest of science," after the "conquest of work and the conquest

Briefly

● **AFGHANISTAN'S** rebel leader, Younis Khaled, head of the alliance of Mujahedeen fighters, told the London *Observer*, "In announcing they intend to leave Afghanistan, the Soviets' intention is to fool world opinion. It is not a significant offer."

● **IRAN** is seeking to make some political capital out of labor troubles in West Germany. In a meeting with 800 striking Muslim Turkish workers at the Krupp steel plant in Rheinhausen, Iranian Industry Minister Mehdi Navab-Motlagh was told by the chairman of the plant's factory council that the workers had lost all confidence in the Bonn government and are placing their "last hopes on Iran." The Iranian government owns 25% of Krupp stock. The Rheinhausen complex has more than 6,000 workers.

● **SOVIET DEFENSE** Minister Dmitri T. Yazov, in a rare TV appearance, sharply criticized the Soviet press for undermining public respect for the Red Army.

● **SWEDISH** authorities have again arrested Viktor Gunnarson in what preliminary reports indicate is a formality linked to the investigation of the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme. Gunnarson, whom Soviet propaganda falsely tied to Lyndon LaRouche, was fully cleared of all charges last year. He has been arrested, say reports, because of special prosecutors' interest in interrogating him again before he emigrates from Sweden to Australia.

● **RADIO MOSCOW** reported Jan. 20 that a Soviet government spokesman has officially denied "reports that a visit by the Pope" in 1988 "is being considered." The spokesman called "equally unfounded" assertions in the Italian media and Associated Press that Mikhail Gorbachov will "visit the Vatican while in Italy." In any case, he added, "No date has been set for such an Italian visit."

of the land," to be achieved by "the unres-trained development of high technology."

Most of Israel's high technology has been used for only military purposes, although the "sophistication of some commercial projects matches the quality of European and Japanese industries."

The article continues: "A change in the perception of Israel in the region, from the confrontational mood to open-door policies, would decrease its dependence on the West. A synergy could be created with its Arab neighbors, generating a significant regional market which would contribute to the growth of all parties. Then, instead of serving military requirements, high technology will address and solve real development."

The article clearly reflects one Israeli faction's approach to solving the crisis that Israel is now experiencing due to troubles in the occupied territories.

Angolan rebel victories reported

Dr. Jonas Savimbi's UNITA guerrillas have inflicted serious defeats on the Cuban army and government troops in Angola, the Portuguese weekly *O Diabo* reported on Jan. 19.

This series of military defeats has led the Angolan government, which enjoys Soviet aid and advisers as well as the support of tens of thousands of Cuban troops, to purge both the defense minister and his deputy. A bevy of military commanders and political commissars have also been sacked, says the Portuguese report.

Savimbi's guerrillas are pro-Western. In a visit to the United States in 1986, Savimbi met with President Reagan and received pledges of continued U.S. support. South Africa has also supported UNITA at times. Savimbi is now preparing a European tour.

The "first-ever rout of a Cuban unit" came at Cuembo, off the Benguela railroad in the South of the country, said the Portuguese report.

"This is a turning point in the war," a veteran UNITA commander told *O Diabo*.

UNITA is now preparing a military offensive against Cuban logistical bases in the

north, until now considered less vulnerable to the freedom fighters' attacks than the southern part of the country, large sections of which UNITA controls.

Soviets hail shift by German conservatives

The Soviet foreign-language weekly *New Times* had only praise for "conservatives" in West Germany in its mid-January issue, arguing that they have historically shown themselves to be at least as likely, if not more likely, to seek an accommodation with the Russians than Germany's socialists. The praise came by way of a commentary on the recent visit of West German Christian Social Union leader Franz Josef Strauss. Strauss dropped his traditional "hawkish" posture, in favor of unabashed pro-Soviet enthusiasm.

The article was written by Lev Bezymensky, *New Times* editor, who in the past has had the unkindest things to say about a certain American "conservative," Lyndon LaRouche.

"There's a school of thought that conservative Western politicians are quicker than the 'leftist' politicians to find a common language with the communists," he wrote. "Allusions are made to the historic Rapallo Treaty of 1922 when the Catholic Center Party of Germany acted in its national interests, while the Social Democrats buried themselves in the trenches of anti-Sovietism."

Bezymensky reveals that he held lengthy meetings with Strauss associates in Munich prior to Strauss's Moscow visit, and that in those discussions, the Strauss aides brought up the Rapallo analogy to show what could be accomplished between Moscow and Germany's conservatives: "I often heard this argument in Munich, along with the question why Strauss was not invited to Moscow. They said Strauss was the man to come to terms with, I was told."

Moscow, he said, will accept capitulation from anybody: "The key . . . is a politician's ability to decode the signs of the times. . . . Moscow is hospitable to those who wish to talk in earnest."