

International Intelligence

Japan increasing role in Middle East

Over the next five years, the Japanese government expects to allocate about \$50 billion for assistance to foreign nations, and a good chunk of this is aimed at increasing its political weight in the Middle East.

This policy was announced June 26 by Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, during a one-hour meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Uno's was the first-ever visit of a senior Japanese government official since Israel's founding. Following the meeting, Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, stated, "The Japanese foreign minister told the prime minister that . . . Japan is now taking a greater interest in regional problems and wants to be of help."

U.S. plans to reduce Philippines forces

The United States is already planning to pull military units out of the Philippines, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported on June 23. Included in the pullout will be 11 F-5 fighters and 20 hospital planes from the air base at Clark Field. The planes will be relocated at other bases in the region—possibly in Japan or Micronesia. The move will be completed by 1989, although no exact date has been announced yet.

A Clark Field spokesman said that there were not enough support facilities for the planes at Clark, and that the pullout was part of an overall plan.

The announcement was made in the midst of increasingly difficult negotiations around the bases, in which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who will visit Manila in July, has completely rejected all Philippine requests for increased rent payments for the bases.

Any proposal for a rent increase must be ready for presentation to the U.S. Congress for consideration by August, the BBC reported.

On June 26, Philippines President Cory Aquino said that the Philippines has em-

barked on a program of military self-reliance to lessen its dependence on the United States. She said the Philippines is trying to manufacture its armaments under a "self-reliance defense program," and that her government has asked the Filipino Congress for a budget of \$9.5 million to fund the project.

Relations suffer between U.S., Singapore

Brig. Gen. Lee Hsien Loong, son of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, said at the end of June that there was "long-term loss to relations and confidence" between the United States and Singapore after a recent diplomatic dispute with the United States, the *International Herald Tribune* reported June 28.

Lee said the incident, in which a U.S. diplomat was expelled for attempting to encourage and promising funds to opposition candidates, meant that Singapore will have a "certain reserve" in future dealings with Washington. First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong also said in Parliament earlier in June that it is possible that Singapore will move "into a more neutral and non-aligned posture."

Joint talks on Angola will continue in U.S.

Talks on ending the civil war in Angola were held in Cairo, Egypt on June 25-26, bringing together delegations from Cuba, Angola, South Africa, and the United States, and they are scheduled to continue in July somewhere in the United States.

A joint communiqué issued at the end of the talks stated, "The parties agreed to meet at the experts level during the week of July 11 at a venue in the United States," but gave no further details. Angola's ambassador to Cairo, Kamu De Almida, fueled rumors that little else was agreed upon during the talks, when he said, "As long as we are still talking, that's progress."

Angola reportedly agreed in principle to withdraw Cuban troops, but linked that to

South Africa's withdrawal from Namibia and free elections in that country. South Africa demanded that all Cuban troops be pulled out of Angola before it withdraws from Namibia.

Africans' problems "should be solved by Africans in Africa," South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha had declared at the June 24 opening of the negotiations. According to the *Financial Times*, Botha's statement to the Angolans was a warning that the Americans, the Russians, and the Cubans are not to be trusted.

Pentagon report wants U.S. military in Nicaragua

"The growing potential for Soviet military use of Nicaragua may require sending U.S. troops and military equipment to the region 'in a crisis situation,'" the *Washington Times* claimed on June 27, basing their observation on a new Defense Department report leaked to that newspaper.

The report indicates that Nicaragua's seven principal airports are now capable of handling all of Russia's tactical fighter-bombers and long-range bombers. Nicaragua's three major port facilities are also now reportedly large enough "to allow the largest Soviet surface combatants to dock," says the report.

In addition to an unequaled military radar system, "the Sandinistas have also acquired four communications intercept facilities from the Soviets." The report concludes, "The potential for Soviet military use of Nicaragua complicates U.S. defense planning," and warns that "in a crisis situation, the United States could be compelled to divert resources to counter such a possibility."

Shultz to Central America, Ortega to Cuba

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Washington, D.C. June 29 on a tour of Central America that included Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica before his return July 1. Nicaragua is not on Shultz's

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mania's 2-million-strong Hungarian minority agenda.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has announced plans to travel to Cuba "in the coming days," as he and other Sandinista leaders expressed fears that the United States is preparing to step up pressure on their government. "President Reagan is still determined to defeat the Sandinista revolution before he leaves the White House," Ortega told a group of visiting Americans June 24.

With the United States openly backing the coup in Haiti, despite the fact that this undercuts any possible justification for the continued U.S. refusal to recognize the government of Panama, it can be assumed that Shultz could only be going to Central America as part of some drastic action planned by the administration.

Britain and Iran may resume full ties

Following the return of a Church of England-sponsored delegation to Iran during the second week of June, Great Britain and Iran may now be close to reopening full diplomatic relations.

Immediately upon the delegation's return, Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe met with leading Tory parliamentarians, ostensibly to discuss the result of the negotiations. However, the real issue, press sources report, was the conditions for reestablishing relations.

One British businessman, Roger Cooper, who has been in jail in Iran for two years on charges of spying, has written a 16-page open letter to the government, urging moderation and the reestablishment of ties with Teheran.

Conflict grows between Romania and Hungary

The most intense "nationalities conflict" inside the East bloc is now under way between Hungary and Romania. Romanian leader Nicolai Ceausescu plans to demolish 8,000 villages, including all villages of Romania's

2-million-strong Hungarian minority in Transylvania, and of the German minority. The Hungarians in both Romania and Hungary have reacted violently.

On June 27, an "illegal" demonstration was held in Budapest, Hungary to denounce Ceausescu. A crowd of 100-150,000 from all sections of the population carried Hungarian flags, and huge banners reading, "Hitler, Stalin, Ceausescu," "Adolf Ceausescu," etc.

There was no police interference; on the contrary, city police directed traffic around the demonstration site so as not to disrupt a torchlight march on the Romanian Embassy. The marchers shouted slogans from the 1848 Hungarian Revolution and sang the old Hungarian national anthem and the "Szekler Hymn," the now-banned anthem of Hungarians in Transylvania.

Addressing the Romanian Central Committee three days later, Ceausescu called the Hungarian demonstrators "adventurist, nationalist, anti-Romanian, and anti-socialist, organized with the agreement and under the aegis of the official party and state bodies in Hungary."

Quiet diplomacy between North and South Korea

Pak Chol-un, a senior secretary to South Korean President Roh Tae Woo, secretly visited Pyongyang in mid-April, a Japanese weekly reported June 14. In a reciprocal step, North Korea sent a deputy director-level official of the Workers' Party to Seoul in early May, it said.

The government in Seoul promptly denied the report. But if the exchange of visits indeed occurred, which is highly likely, they are a continuation of secret contacts between the two Koreas in recent months, said the *Sekai Shubo* (*Weekly Global News*) published by the Jiji press.

South Korea has publicly urged North Korea to attend a general meeting of the International Olympic Committee slated to be held in Seoul during the Olympics, and to give up its attempt to disrupt the games, it said. In a gesture of goodwill, South Korea has also expressed its willingness to provide the North with economic aid.

● **NARCOTICS** addicts in Spain are sticking their used syringes pointing upward in the sand, on the beaches near Almeria, to cause terror, reported Italy's *Corriere della Sera* on June 26. All beaches in Mallorca have notices warning people to watch out for the syringes.

● **GEORGE SHULTZ** has rejected a proposal by Senate leaders Robert Byrd and Robert Dole to appoint an ambassador-at-large on Afghanistan to "send a needed signal" to the resistance, the Soviets, and other regional states that the U.S. intends to remain involved in Afghan affairs, the *Washington Post* reported June 24. Shultz will name a special assistant to the U.S. ambassador in Pakistan instead.

● **PLO CHIEF** Yasser Arafat said he wants to meet with U.S. officials soon to discuss the PLO's latest peace initiative, said an official PLO statement distributed at the Algiers summit. The statement calls for an international peace conference, and says the PLO accepts all U.N. resolutions, specifically those which guarantee Israel's right to exist. A U.S. spokesman described the statement as a "constructive one" with "positive points."

● **PAKISTANI** President Zia ul-Haq's dismissal of Prime Minister Khan Junejo, the Soviet weekly *New Times* opined on June 24, was due to the fact that Zia "had repeatedly stated that Islamabad would sign no agreements with the 'unlawful government in Kabul,'" Afghanistan, which Junejo did.

● **ISRAELI** officials are convinced that the United States has not been telling them the truth about agreements reached at the Moscow summit, reports the June 17 *Jerusalem Post*. Various unnamed Israelis are quoted, warning that American-Soviet agreements on the Middle East have "gone much farther" than what has been said publicly and are "full of dangers" for Israel.