

# International Intelligence

## **Savimbi blasts State Dept.'s Crocker**

The head of Angola's pro-Western UNITA guerrilla force, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, has lashed out at the U.S. State Department's African point man, Chester Crocker, for stabbing America's allies in the back. Savimbi, speaking at a press conference at his headquarters in southern Angola Sept. 3, said the Angolan government was using U.S.-mediated peace talks on Angola as an opportunity to destroy UNITA with the aid of Cuban troop reinforcements. Savimbi charged that Crocker knew this would happen. "Is he trying to dig graves for his friends?"

At the same time, Savimbi accused Crocker of having sabotaged an attempt by certain African countries to bring the Angolan government into talks with UNITA. The talks arranged by Crocker involved Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, with the Soviets as observers.

South African Defense Minister Magnus Malan has echoed Savimbi's charges that the Cubans have actually reinforced their positions over the last three months while talks on their withdrawal from Angola have been going on. He said the Cubans had sent another 10,000 men to Angola, as well as 24 combat planes, tanks, and other equipment. As a result of the talks, South Africa has already withdrawn its forces from southern Angola, endangering UNITA's positions.

Savimbi said that Angolan government troops had already launched a new offensive against his forces, and that there were now 60,000 Cuban troops in Angola with more on the way. France's *Le Figaro* commented that this could mean not only an offensive against UNITA, but also an attack on Namibia, the disputed South African protectorate.

UNITA was distancing itself from the peace talks, he said, because they had put the rebels at a military disadvantage. "We don't understand what the aims of the negotiations are—to find peace, or to increase the possibility of continued war?"

Savimbi said that UNITA would not surrender territory along Angola's southeastern

border with Namibia to ceasefire observers.

The UNITA leader added that he had been asked to meet Crocker Sept. 3, but said, to laughter from his troops, that he would be staying at his headquarters to watch soccer instead.

## **Benedictines leaving Lefebvre's sinking ship**

The Benedictine Order is separating itself from France's schismatic former Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, and moving back toward Rome. Lefebvre, who never accepted any part of the Vatican II reforms in the Catholic Church, was finally excommunicated this year after independently ordaining a number of bishops against the orders of the Vatican.

The "dissident" Benedictine monastery of Barroux, in southern France, one of the mainstays of the Lefebvre movement, has now completed talks with Rome's envoy, Cardinal Augustin Mayer. An agreement has been signed and made public which lifts all sanctions pronounced against the 70 Benedictine monks of the community, in exchange for their return to the Vatican fold.

The Barroux monastery, which has a branch in Brazil, and its prior Dom Gerard Calvet, has played a quiet political role in France. Ultra-right French demagogue Jean-Marie Le Pen, whose National Front gained a sensational 11% in last year's parliamentary elections, is a frequent visitor to its grounds.

## **State Dept. admits Laotian drug-running**

The U.S. State Department has finally accused the Communist government of Laos of involvement in drug trafficking. Laotian involvement in the dope trade was exposed by *EIR* way back in 1978.

"It may be a matter of government policy," State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley acknowledged to reporters Aug. 30. She was quick to add, however, that State had no plans to call for sanctions against Laos, citing the State Department's interest in obtaining Laos's continued cooperation

on U.S. GIs missing in action during the Indochina wars of the 1960s.

She also quickly added that Laos was "moving in the right direction" and that the U.S. government was encouraged by the Laotian government's moves to prosecute 48 people involved in the narcotics trade, including a Politburo member.

## **Chinese hand in Burmese troubles?**

The People's Republic of China has been expressing discreet approval of Burmese protesters' demands through its press coverage of the unrest, *Agence France Presse* news wire noted Sept. 2, raising the question of whether there is a Chinese hand in the political upheaval that has toppled the 26-year-old government of Gen. Ne Win.

*Beijing Review* quoted observers as saying that "only when the new leaders properly deal with the problems and effectively carry out the economic reform policy and promote democracy in the country, will Burma be able to extricate itself from the current difficulties."

Beijing's apparent support for the cause of multiple parties in a neighboring country may be due to a desire to weaken Rangoon's relationship with Moscow, observers cited by AFP noted.

## **Soviet lead in space 'unchallengeable'**

The Soviets are developing an "unchallengeable lead in space," because of the 1986 U.S. shuttle disaster and subsequent U.S. reluctance to stand behind its space program, *Jane's Spaceflight Directory* editor Reginald Turnill wrote in the introduction to the latest edition of the book.

In the "three bleak years through which the shuttle has been grounded, much has been going on" on the Soviet side, he notes, adding, "The Western world has almost forgotten the cosmonauts passing above them with cameras and over-curious eyes 16 times every 24 hours."

Turnill points out that, in 1987, the So-

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viets launched 95 space missions compared to 7 by the United States. Since 1957, the Soviets have made 1,985 space launches, compared to 752 for the United States.

The Soviets' Mir space station project is also moving ahead of any such U. S. project, and the start of Soviet manned shuttle flights is "imminent," says Turnill. He predicts that the Soviet Mir-2 space factory, "a potential launch pad to Mars," may be ready by the early 1990s. He believes that, given current trends, the Soviets will be the first to reach Mars, a trip which Turnhill claims is the Soviets' ultimate goal.

The Mir project "should be enough to confirm the Soviets' unchallengeable lead in space. . . . Western eyes and ears remain firmly shut against knowledge of the remarkable Soviet achievements with Mir during 1987-88."

Meanwhile, "Space Surrender" was the title of a commentary by William Buckley in the Sept. 6 *Washington Post*. He stressed that even if the Soviets dismantle the Krasnoyarsk radar facility which the United States is threatening to label a "material breach" of the ABM treaty, the Soviets still have serious capabilities that make mincemeat out of the treaty.

Buckley goes on to write about "the astonishing disintegration of our space program under the Reagan administration," pointing to the fact that the Soviets have a launch capability 10 times larger than the West's for placing many satellites in space. He says the politicians are to blame, but also the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Nobody is in a better position to tell us than the JCS how deteriorated our strategic position is," Buckley says. "And yet they might as well be three blind mice in respect of the utter, suicidal folly of the ABM Treaty's being kept alive in 1988."

### **Belgian officer arrested as spy**

A senior Belgian Air Force officer, Col. Guy Binet, was arrested Sept. 5 on charges of selling military secrets to an unnamed Communist country.

Calling this a "major spy scandal," London's *Daily Telegraph* Sept. 6 reported,

"Belgian defense officials said Col. Binet had been involved in the purchase of aircraft for the Belgian forces since 1987, and was well informed about the technical aspects of the American-made F-16 jet fighter, NATO helicopters, and electronic countermeasures. He had been under surveillance for a year by the army's security services before his arrest last Friday."

According to the *Telegraph* account from Brussels, Belgian police are saying that Colonel Binet had sold Belgian and NATO information in return for "considerable" sums of money.

The Belgian Defense Ministry issued a statement claiming that high-technology photographs and other material "manifestly meant for espionage and destined for the East," were found in a special briefcase at an undisclosed location.

Defense Minister Daniel Coeme said only that documents were found linking him to the secret services of other countries.

### **U.S. offers more aid to Philippines**

The United States has offered to double its aid commitment to the Philippines, raising it to \$360 million yearly, to assure the future of its two strategic bases on the islands, Subic Bay and Clark Air Base. President Corazon Aquino, however, is insisting that the aid be at least tripled, while Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus is pushing for a much higher figure, according to a Sept. 5 *Washington Post* report.

Aquino told Secretary of State George Shultz in July that an acceptable figure would be \$540 million in security assistance per year, which would triple the current level.

Foreign Minister Manglapus appealed to Shultz separately to find "creative" ways to boost the U. S. compensation to about \$1 billion yearly.

Meanwhile, a new survey of the Filipino people says that 41% want the U. S. bases to remain on the islands, but that the bases agreement must be revised to increase U. S. compensation. The Asian Research Organization survey showed that only 8% want the bases dismantled.

● **ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is demanding the dismissal of Foreign Ministry director general Maj. Avraham Tamir for saying that Israel "had to get used to the idea that the Palestinians are represented by the PLO, and no other organization will be able to replace it," while he was in Washington in the first week of September.

● **TOP SOVIET** military commanders will stage maneuvers in the Ukraine, Moldavia, and the Black Sea, during the second half of September.

● **AEROFLOT'S** ticket agency manager in Sydney, Australia, has been accused of being a spy. Opposition Liberals charge that Vladimir Podshipkov reports to a military intelligence officer at the Soviet embassy in Canberra. They object to the Labour government's negotiations over port access for Soviet fishing vessels and landing rights for the Soviet airline to enable fishing crew changeovers.

● **THE WORLD** Council of Churches is planning "peace and reconciliation" initiatives throughout Asia, involving Sri Lanka, Indochina, the Koreas, and Burma. A senior council official said Sept. 6 that a "peace dialogue" among "church leaders" representing Indochina and the ASEAN countries will take place in Indonesia in late September.

● **THE ITALIAN** Air Force lost two aircraft in unexplained accidents in the week following the Aug. 28 disaster involving three Italian jets at Ramstein Air Force Base in West Germany. An Agusta-Bell military helicopter crashed in the Adriatic while returning from the Persian Gulf, and military plane crashed during takeoff from the Rimini military base.