

International Intelligence

Afghan guerrillas reject Soviet talks

The Afghan resistance has turned down recent Soviet offers to hold direct negotiations on the future of Afghanistan, according to rebel and diplomatic sources.

During October, the sources said, the Soviets have made attempts through several channels to start direct talks with the Peshawar-based, seven-party rebel alliance, which represents some, but not all of the Afghan guerrilla groups.

At the end of September or early October, the sources said, the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad made a personal request to Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistan's Acting President, to facilitate meetings with the guerrilla alliance.

On Sept. 15, two Soviet journalists met with members of the fundamentalist Jamati-Islami and with Ahmed Gailani, head of the moderate National Islamic Front of Afghanistan.

Another approach was made later in December from the Middle East. "The Soviet Union is using as an intermediary Marouf Dalawabi, a former Syrian prime minister who has become an adviser to the Saudi royal family," said a guerrilla source.

Two Germans kept hostage in Afghanistan

Two West Germans are being kept hostage in an Afghan prison, expecting trial on charges of "infiltration, espionage, and collaboration with bandits." The two Germans, Lea Hackstedt and Benno Splieth, work for the Cap Anamur German Medical Emergency organization, and entered the north of Afghanistan through Pakistan. Their assignment was to supply medical aid to the people there, who are living under a total medical embargo by the Afghan regime and the Soviets.

The Germans were arrested in September and have been imprisoned in Kabul ever

since. Their case has been utilized by Soviet propagandists to attack "agents from abroad who are instigating rebellion in the country." The two are awaiting "ruthless trial."

The chairman of the Cap Anamur group, Rupert Neudeck, has charged the Bonn government with "not putting enough pressure on Moscow and Kabul for an end to these trumped-up charges and the release of the two."

He said, "Apparently, because of the chancellor's coming Moscow trip," the government has kept a very low profile on the case, in order not to embarrass the Soviets.

West German foreign ministry officials termed Neudeck's statements "not helpful at all."

NATO report paves way for missile modernization

NATO defense ministers were expected to approve a report which reaffirms that short-range nuclear weapons (SNFs) are vital to Western Europe's defense at a meeting of NATO's Nuclear Planning Group scheduled for Oct. 24 and 25 in the Dutch resort town of Scheveningen.

The adoption of the report may pave the way to beginning modernization of such weapons systems. The United States and Britain are pushing for a quick agreement to develop and deploy a new missile to replace the Lance, and a tactical air-to-surface missile capable of penetrating Warsaw Pact air defenses.

West Germany is reportedly less willing to modernize, and is urging negotiations with the Warsaw Pact to reduce such systems.

With the removal of U.S. intermediate-range Pershing and cruise missiles through the U.S.-Soviet INF treaty, a situation has been created in which NATO must resort to SNFs, whose range is such that they are only deployable after a Soviet invasion of Western Europe has begun. West Germany is wary of modernizing weapons that would, in short, be used to destroy a Soviet-occupied Germany.

U.S. to stage largest Pacific maneuvers ever

The U.S. Armed Forces Pacific Command has made the decision to stage huge combined maneuvers involving all countries in the Pacific zone allied to the United States, including Japan, in September-October 1989.

The news was reported Oct. 17 in *Sankei Shimbun*, a newspaper close to Japanese military circles, under the headline, "Biggest Maneuvers in Pacific History."

The maneuvers will cover the entire Pacific zone that encompasses the Aleutian Islands, the Sea of Okhotsk, the Sea of Japan, and the South China Sea.

The Japanese newspaper said that the showed only a rudimentary knowledge of driving techniques, and U.S. Pacific Command intends to implement a "U.S. Pacific Defense Strategy," and determine the role of each of the allied Pacific nations in this defense strategy.

The commander of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans will direct the maneuvers, for the first time during peacetime.

Soviets attack rise in Japan's defense outlay

Igor Sokolov of the Soviet Union's IMEMO foreign policy think tank told the 53rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Beijing that the rise of Japanese defense spending is creating tensions and accelerating the arms race. Sokolov was speaking at a press conference Oct. 24.

Others at the press conference also attacked the rise in Japanese defense spending. Martin Kaplan of Britain, secretary general of the Pugwash conferences, said that Japan spent about \$30-40 billion a year on defense, as compared to \$5-15 billion by the People's Republic of China.

Kaplan said that once Japan starts increasing its military expenditures, there is

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no telling where it will stop. Although Japan has neither aircraft carriers nor strike force bombers, it might find excuses to acquire them, he alleged.

Joseph Rotblat of the United States said that other nations should reduce their arms to Japan's current level, not vice versa.

The four-day conference opened Oct. 17, co-sponsored by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament. About 50 "experts" from 12 countries, 20 of them Chinese, attended. The *China Daily* Oct. 19 told its readers that the Pugwash conferences began with the 1955 Bertrand Russell-Albert Einstein manifesto against nuclear arms.

The Pugwash movement has been a leading back-channel for arrangement of "power-sharing" deals between the super-powers ever since.

Soviets spy on Sweden using civilian trucks

The Warsaw Pact countries are using civilian trucks to spy on Swedish military installations and store equipment for secret Soviet *spetsnaz* sabotage units, a report commissioned by Swedish Supreme Commander Bengt Gustafsson has charged.

The report warns that East bloc vehicles are gathering information which threatens Swedish security. "Gathering mass information can be done very discreetly without breaking Swedish law," it stated.

The report cites 10 instances between 1981 and 1988 in which Eastern European trucks made long detours, sometimes of up to 1,000 miles, or suspicious stops near sensitive military areas when crossing Sweden. Some of the drivers of these trucks had been seen photographing airfields and pointedly following military convoys or exercises.

"This has obviously just been the tip of the iceberg," a Swedish Defense Staff spokesman is quoted by the *Daily Telegraph* of London Oct. 24. The spokesman added that a proportion of what appeared to be "civilian vehicles" were in all probability carrying highly sensitive radar and photographic equipment.

Apart from espionage, the suspicious East bloc trucks coming into Sweden could also have been used to transport weapons to be stored in Sweden for sabotage groups and to smuggle such groups into Sweden prior to a war. Further, the vehicles could be used for meetings with agents in Sweden, and for mapping out telecommunications centers, weapons industries, and roads suitable for an attacking force.

Moscow to host Korean opposition leader

South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae-jung, a property of the U.S. State Department, has been invited to visit the Soviet Union. It is the first such invitation ever to a South Korean political leader.

According to Reuters, Georgi Arbatov, head of Moscow's U.S.A.-Canada Institute and a member of the Supreme Soviet, sent a letter to Kim offering to secure him a Soviet visa should he accept the invitation.

Said a spokesman for Kim, "No concrete decision has been made yet, but Mr. Kim will consult various people inside and outside the party about his possible visit."

Meanwhile, although a State Department asset, Kim, always the demagogue, demanded on Oct. 26 that the Roh Tae-woo government undertake a "complete review" of relations with the United States to help curb Washington's "tremendous influence" over Seoul. "We face the task of reestablishing our relations with the U.S. on a new basis of independence, equality, and reciprocity," Kim said in a speech to the opposition-controlled Parliament.

In the destabilization of Korea, Kim has been scripted by the State Department and World Council of Churches to play "Cory Aquino" to President Roh's "Ferdinand Marcos." But the President succeeded in defusing political unrest and defeating Kim in presidential elections earlier this year.

Kim's party favors a withdrawal of American troops from the Korean peninsula and reunification with communist North Korea.

● **KOREAN STUDENTS** chanting anti-American slogans hurled 10 firebombs at the USO building housing a recreational club for American servicemen. They demanded a U.S. apology for a brawl one week earlier between 40 U.S. servicemen and nearly 200 Koreans in Itaewon. No injuries were reported in the fire-bombing.

● **SOVIET** Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovsky said at the United Nations on Oct. 24 that a Security Council agreement has been reached on an international conference on the Middle East.

● **ARGENTINA'S** Gen. Leopoldo Galtieri told a court in Buenos Aires that he is proud that he led the invasion of the British-occupied Malvinas Islands, and said that he has been tried and jailed not for losing the war, but for daring to invade at all.

● **WESTERN** diplomats in Kabul are denying Soviet charges that two Americans were killed during a government offensive against Afghan guerrilla positions in Gardez in mid-October.

● **AUSTRALIAN** police on Oct. 22 announced the biggest heroin seizure in that country's history, 43.5 kilograms of high-grade Thai heroin destined for Australia in Hong Kong. A total of 21 people were arrested, including an alleged member of the 14K Triad Hong Kong mafia, which has a strong presence in Australia.

● **A CRUCIAL** by-election in the state of Johore, Malaysia has been won by the ruling UMNO party. Two months earlier, the government candidate lost a by-election in the same state. The victory strengthens the leadership of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the eve of a party congress.