

International Intelligence

Panama President says negotiations possible

Panamanian President Manuel Solís Palma has stated that the next step in resolving the crisis in relations between the United States and Panama is up to the United States.

The crisis was precipitated in February 1988 when the U.S. Justice Department indicted Gen. Manuel Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, on flimsy charges of "involvement in drug-trafficking" in an effort to force him from his post and undermine the nationalist armed forces and government of Panama. Under U.S. pressure, then-President Eric Delvalle "fired" Noriega, only to be voted out of office himself by Panama's legislature, being replaced by Solís Palma. Noriega remains at his post.

In an interview on Panamanian government television, Solís Palma said his government has always been ready to hold talks with Washington, as long as the U.S. respected Panama's sovereignty.

"Any movement toward or away from the U.S. government will depend totally on the position they adopt. We would not have a problem with sitting down to dialogue, to find a road to agreement and friendship, as long as it was within the parameters of respect . . . for our condition as a free and independent state."

Russians attack London on No. Ireland policy

The Soviet Union on Nov. 11 sharply attacked what it called Britain's "massive violations" of human rights in Northern Ireland, and demanded the speedy release of "political prisoners" and "urgent measures" to restore "constitutional legality" there.

In the face of stepped-up IRA terrorism, Britain's Thatcher government has suspended some constitutional protections to suppress the terrorism.

Given that, as British intelligence sources confirm, the Soviet Union has controlled the

IRA as an instrument of irregular warfare since at least 1976, one wonders if the Soviet statement indicates that the measures taken by Thatcher are having an effect.

The Soviet statement on Northern Ireland, read out by Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov, stated that the Soviets were not intending to interfere in the internal affairs of the United Kingdom, but were prompted merely "by the hope that Britain's policy in Ulster will correspond to the high-sounding statements being voiced in London in favor of basic human rights and freedoms in other countries."

Since British troops went to Ulster nearly 20 years ago, said Gerasimov, 3,000 people had been killed, a further 30,000 had been "wounded or crippled," and about 7,000 detained under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1974. The "Soviet public," said Gerasimov, had "serious doubts" about the fairness of sentences in Northern Ireland, and the way prisoners were being treated.

PPP wins clear victory in Pakistan election

The Nov. 16 elections for the National Assembly in Pakistan, the first open party-based elections in 11 years, have resulted in a decisive victory for the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), led by Benazir Bhutto.

Miss Bhutto, the daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, won all of the three contests she entered with sweeping majorities. Voting and counting of the ballot was peaceful throughout the country. Fifty-five of the electorate exercised their franchise.

Of the 204 seats announced as of this writing (out of a total of 205), the PPP has won 92, far outdistancing its major competitor, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), the government backed coalition of Jamaat-i-Islami, Muslim League and six other parties. IDA captured only 54 seats. Independents, including the new Mohajir party, MQM, came in next with 40 seats. The Jamiat-ul-ulema-e Islami (JUI) and Awami National Party (ANP), based in the North-

west Frontier Province, won 7 and 4 seats respectively.

A smattering of little parties won two seats each here and there to make up the balance.

There were some stunning defeats, including IDA chief Ghulam Mustafi Jatui, former Prime Minister Mohamad Khan Junejo, National Assembly speaker Chattha, and more than one-third of the cabinet ministers under the late President Zia ul-Haq.

Significantly, the PPP did well in every single state except Baluchistan, where they won only one out of nine seats. Benazir has already approached President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to stake her party's claim to form the government, and contacted small parties who are likely to join a PPP-led government.

The ruling coalition must have 103 seats. There are indications that JUI and ANP will support the PPP's claim. The new government will take over in mid-December.

India on alert for locust invasion

A locust alert has been instituted in the western Indian border states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Feared is an impending invasion of African locusts originating in the Sahel region.

Officials have been put on alert and watch-towers erected in the two states to look out for the locusts.

The "Biblical-scale" swarms, described as the worst in 1,000 years, have reached the Red Sea and may either move into the subcontinent or turn south toward Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya.

U.S. desert locust task force director Bob Huesmann, in an interview with the United News of India, admitted that the locust infestation, whose magnitude stems largely from U.S. State Department banning of effective pesticides like dieldrin, and simple inaction on the part of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, could stretch from Africa to the Middle East, and as far as South Asia. In that event, it would ultimately cover 60 countries.

New book exposes Demjanjuk travesty

Most of the rules of "identification procedures" usually used in legal cases were violated in the Israeli trial of John Demjanjuk, the retired Cleveland autoworker who was convicted of being the Treblinka concentration camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," according to a new book written by Willem A. Wagenaar, Professor of Experimental Psychology at the University of Leyden, in the Netherlands.

Wagenaar, who testified on behalf of the Demjanjuk defense in Israel, documents that witnesses were put under various forms of pressure, and techniques of "suggestion" were used to encourage them to identify Demjanjuk as "Ivan." The actual "evidence" purporting to show Demjanjuk as "Ivan," is dubious, however.

Reviewing Wagenaar's book in the London *Independent* Nov. 15, writer Anthony Storr says the book "deserves to become a legal classic. . . . Anyone reading this exceptionally illuminating account of the evidence given of the identification of Ivan must realize that doubt exists. Is it worse to let a monster go free than to convict a possibly innocent man? The case of Ivan the Terrible arouses such violent desires for revenge that a decision to execute Demjanjuk seems all too probable."

Demjanjuk was convicted solely on the basis of Soviet-concocted evidence and testimony by a Treblinka survivor who contradicted his own 1945 diary writing, which said that he had helped kill Ivan at that time. Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel by the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, and tried under the tutelage of Soviet agent Armand Hammer.

Soviets have AIDS pact with some nations

The Soviets have agreements with Britain, Denmark, and the East bloc countries requiring their citizens to prove themselves

free of AIDS before they can enter the Soviet Union, *Pravda* reported Nov. 11.

Alexander I. Kondrusev, the deputy health minister, is quoted by *Pravda* as saying that one way to combat the spread of AIDS is "the exchange of certificates, which, by agreement with another country, require anyone coming to our country or leaving it to show a document that proves negative results from a test" for the virus.

Kondrusev added that existing regulations require all foreigners staying in the U.S.S.R. for more than three months to undergo a "mandatory check-up" for AIDS. By the end of this year, he added, 1,000 more AIDS laboratories will have been established throughout the Soviet Union.

Pravda also reports that "readers have demanded" stronger public health measures to protect them from AIDS, and that some of them have mentioned the West German state of Bavaria as exemplary in this respect.

Bavaria, unlike West Germany as a whole, has instituted measures of selective quarantine and prevention against the killer disease.

Naval incident strains U.S.-Japan relations

A U.S. Navy destroyer operating far from its target practice area fired a series of shells on Nov. 9 that narrowly missed a Japanese patrol boat.

The Japanese and American authorities have offered different accounts of the episode, which was the latest in a series of tense incidents between Japan and American military forces based in Tokyo.

Japan has filed a strong protest, asserting that the American ship's crew had been reckless and had violated international law by firing its guns inside Japanese territorial waters.

The incidents came within a week of two other incidents: One involved the crash of a military aircraft that killed four marines; in another, residents of Okinawa asserted that their houses were sprayed with stray bullets from an American firing range.

Briefly

● **CZECH** security forces arrested 14 members of the dissident group "Charter 77" on Nov. 10, at an international symposium that included Western participants. One day later, another demonstration of *glasnost* occurred when Marion Countess Dönhoff, the pro-Soviet publisher of the West German weekly *Die Zeit*, was brusquely refused entry into Czechoslovakia to attend the symposium.

● **THE JAPANESE** Red Army terrorist gang has called on the Japanese people to "rise up" and overthrow the 2,600-year-old monarchy after the ailing Emperor Hirohito dies. Authorities in Tokyo have confirmed receipt of a statement by the Red Army from a hide-out in the Middle East, dated Oct. 1. It called on the Japanese people to "fight using every means and tactic to crush the emperor system."

● **VOICE OF AMERICA** and official Soviet media feature the same accounts of the news, according to Soviet "dissident" Andrei Sakharov in a speech before the Kennan Institute in Washington, D.C.

● **MEIR KAHANE**, founder of the Jewish Defense League, whose Kach party was outlawed in Israel, may be planning a wave of assassinations, according to the Israeli newspaper *Yehidiot Aharonat*. The paper details a 1982 plot to kill Menachem Begin, saying that the Kahane lieutenant who ran that operation now runs Kach in Israel.

● **THE FLOODS** in Bangladesh could become "regular visitations," President Ershad told the United Nations Nov. 16. He emphasized that a broad solution must be found, saying, "A battle is meaningless if there is no success. . . . Our existence must not be what it threatens to be, an endless spell of sorrow, unmarked by seasons."