

International Intelligence

Pentagon: Soviets pose hemispheric threat

The Pentagon believes that the Soviet Union now "poses a serious threat to American security" in the Western Hemisphere.

"The Soviets and their allies are now in a position to threaten the Panama Canal, and to interdict our Caribbean Gulf ports and South Atlantic sea lines of communications," stated Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci in his final annual report to Congress Jan. 21. "In the event of war, this would seriously impair our ability to obtain vital natural resources."

This evaluation of Ibero-America departs dramatically from the previous year's report, which not only failed to mention a "Soviet threat" to the Panama Canal, but made no mention of Panama. However, the Pentagon report seems also to confuse the sovereign government of Panama, with the Soviet threat.

Aside from that "first threat," the report presents four others: 1) "the illicit cultivation, production, and trafficking of narcotics . . . pose a serious threat to several countries. . ."; 2) "the re-emergence of major leftist insurgent groups in Colombia, Peru, and Chile, and the continuing insurgencies in El Salvador and Guatemala. The possible linkage of the Colombian and Peruvian insurgent groups with the drug trade makes them doubly threatening"; 3) "the political crisis in Panama, currently in the midst of the Noriega/Solis regime's anti-U.S. campaign"; and 4) "economic problems threaten the stability of a number of states and may eventually give rise to military takeovers. Drug money has become a serious corrupting factor and may come to be seen in some countries as an acceptable source of government revenue."

Trading scandal targets President Mitterrand

France's "Pechiney Affair" seems to be aimed at toppling President François Mitterrand himself. There is clearly some such

larger purpose in the scandal, in which high-level government functionaries have been charged with profiting handsomely from an advance tip that France's aluminum giant, Pechiney, would buy out the American Can subdivision of Triangle Industries.

According to informed Paris stock brokerage insiders, the "friends of Raymond Barre," a Trilateral Commission member and former presidential candidate, "are actively stirring the pot" of the Pechiney Affair, which has already caused the resignation of one senior Mitterrand official, Alain Boubil.

The Paris daily *Le Monde* reported Jan. 24 that it had confirmed earlier allegations that Mitterrand received a confidential report detailing the role of his long-time friend, Patrice Pelat, in the December Pechiney-Triangle takeover via secret Swiss accounts, despite a public denial by the presidency. The authors of the latest *Le Monde* accusations were the same two journalists who launched the Trilateral Commission's "Greenpeace" attack on the French security services in 1985.

Meanwhile, the lead editorial in the Jan. 20 *Wall Street Journal-Europe*, "La loi américaine," begins, "When George Bush is sworn in as President today, his new administration may have an early opportunity to topple the Socialist government in France. Not with the CIA, of course, but with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. An SEC investigation into trading in the shares of Triangle Industries, Inc. shortly before the big U.S. packaging manufacturer was acquired by the French state, has already entangled two close cronies of President Mitterrand and this has escalated rapidly into a major Gallic affair."

Wall Street Journal fears LaRouche in Mexico

David Aswan, editorial writer for the *Wall Street Journal*, blamed Lyndon LaRouche-linked publications for making it impossible for U.S. circles to work with and for the Party of National Action (PAN). Thanks to the exposé *The PAN: Moscow's Terrorists in Mexico*, Aswan complained, trying to "help" the PAN only gives it "the kiss of

death." The book was put out by Franklin House in English, and the Mexican Labor Party in Spanish.

"There is still an alliance between the left wing of [Mexico's ruling party] the PRI and the LaRouchites," Asman said Jan. 25 at a Heritage Foundation conference in Washington, D.C.

Commonwealth head calls for ecological fascism

Sir Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal, secretary-general of the British Commonwealth, called for a new world order based on environmentalism, and the replacement of national sovereignty by "global governance," in a speech Jan. 23 at Britain's Cambridge University. An abridged version of the speech was published a day later in the *Times* of London, under the title, "A Global Green Agenda."

Ramphal is a member of the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development, headed by the Socialist prime minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland. His speech inaugurated a series of lectures at Cambridge on the subject of the Brundtland Commission's 1987 "Our Common Future."

In his speech, Ramphal coined a new malthusian jargon, attacking the perspective of "no growth," and asserting, "The Brundtland Commission made a significant break with earlier analysis—such as the report of the Club of Rome in the early 1970s." Rather than "limits to growth," the Brundtland Commission supports "a new era of growth," but based on "qualitatively different" parameters than past eras of growth. "It must be growth that contributes to sustainable development. . . . To achieve sustainable development globally will require a long-term perspective."

According to Sir Sonny: "Underlying the Brundtland Commission's message of a 'common future' was the premise that we must think of our planet not only as a world of many states, but also as the state of our one world; that we must be ready to nurture tomorrow's concepts of global governance, not have them stifled at birth by yesterday's

notions of national sovereignty; that human survival may not be secured save by the reach of enforceable law across environmentally invisible frontiers."

Rampal blames rapid population growth rates for contributing to "many of the world's acute environmental problems." But, "environmental issues are today firmly on national and international agendas. Politicians from Mikhail Gorbachov to Mrs. Thatcher, and financiers from the presidents of the World Bank to environmentally 'clean' unit trust managers, advertise their 'green' credentials."

Diplomatic maneuvering around Kampuchea

A flurry of diplomatic activity is now under way to achieve a settlement to the conflict in Kampuchea. Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived in Beijing Jan. 24 to meet with Chinese leaders, and may also meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze when he arrives in the Chinese capital Feb. 2. Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Sawetasila will arrive in Beijing Feb. 9.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem made a side-trip to Bangkok before returning home from his talks with the Chinese. China and Vietnam agreed to refrain from attacking one another across the border. The two sides also agreed to pull troops back from the border area. According to Liem, the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations focused on normalization of the two countries bilateral relations and on ending their on-again off-again war.

Liem arrived in Thailand from China Jan. 20, on the same flight as Chinese Defense Minister Qin Jiwei, who has also held talks with Thai armed forces chief Chaowalit Yongchaiyuth on Kampuchea.

In talks between Liem and Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi, the Thai leader is quoted as saying that the Vietnamese-controlled Kampuchean leader, Hun Sen, must now soften his position to persuade Kampuchean resistance leaders to attend the second round of the Jakarta Informal Meeting. Hun Sen has now been invited to Thailand by Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

Meanwhile, Thai Supreme Command spokesman Lt. Gen. Naruadol Dejpradiyuth Jan. 24 questioned Vietnam's claim that it withdrew 50,000 troops from Kampuchea in 1988. He said that the Thai military believe that only 15,000 to 18,000 were pulled out during the year. Thailand, does believe, however, that the number of Vietnamese forces in neighboring Laos has decreased significantly, from about 20,000 to 1,500-1,800.

But, Naruadol noted, the Vietnamese are stepping up their campaign to recapture territory from the resistance guerrillas. He denied a report that Vietnam agreed to pull back its troops 30 km from the Thai-Kampuchean border. "The Vietnamese troops are now deployed along the entire border," he said.

'Marxists, millionaires' sell out Hong Kong

A "cosy alliance of Marxists and millionaires" sold Hong Kong "down the river" when Chinese Communist Party officials met Hong Kong Chinese tycoons and professionals in Canton in mid-January, the *Sunday Telegraph* reported on Jan. 22.

The proposals for the Hong Kong Basic Law to take effect after 1997, when sovereignty reverts from Great Britain to China, approved by the meeting, will only allow a referendum after 2011, and even then, only to decide whether a chief executive and legislature in Hong Kong should be directly elected.

Moreover, conditions demanded by the Chinese are so complicated that it is unlikely any referendum will ever take place, the *Telegraph* wrote. Of the 23 members of the committee from Hong Kong, most already have other passports, which will enable them to leave Hong Kong by 1997. Seven, including billionaire Sir Y.K. Pao, have British passports. But some 5.5 million others, including many people of Indian and other national origin, have only Hong Kong identity cards, and cannot leave without Beijing's approval. Some 25,000 Vietnamese refugees are also now in Hong Kong.

Briefly

● **GEN. JOHN GALVIN**, Supreme Commander of NATO, told the Jan. 22 *Bild am Sonntag* that fewer American soldiers will be required in the future than the 40,000 that are currently deployed to Germany each year for NATO exercises. Senior officers at his headquarters in Brussels are working on a scheme that would make do with fewer troops.

● **YASUHIRO NAKASONE**, the former Japanese prime minister, in Moscow Jan. 19, said that the Soviets' promised troop reductions in East Asia were limited to the withdrawal of 200,000 troops from Mongolia. Citing Gorbachov as his source, Nakasone warned that Moscow has no immediate intention of reducing forces in the Far East and its coastal areas.

● **VENEZUELAN** President-elect Carlos Andrés Pérez has invited both Fidel Castro and Daniel Ortega to his inauguration, and may appoint a leftist and suspected East bloc agent, José Vicente Rangel, to be his attorney general.

● **HONDURAN GENERAL** Gustavo Alvarez Martínez was assassinated at his home Jan. 26. He headed the Honduran Army until 1984, and was deeply involved in U.S. Contra operations in Nicaragua.

● **AIDS** may have infected up to 50,000 heroin addicts in Bangkok, specialists say. Tests among intravenous drug users in the Thai capital in September 1988 revealed more than 40% to be carriers of HIV. A World Health Organization official said he was "astonished" by the figures.

● **TAJKISTAN**, a Central Asian Republic of the U.S.S.R., was hit by an earthquake Jan. 23. Initial Radio Moscow reports put the death toll at 1,415, then lowered estimates to about 1,000, without explanation.