

Fujio was chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council from December 1983-July 1986, making him one of the four top officials in the party. He is a strong defense advocate, who was fired as Nakasone's education minister in 1986 when Fujio angered both North and South Korea by attempting to justify Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910.

Call for population law in India

"The news item 'Kissinger Sees Powerful India' is a timely and realistic portrayal of our destiny," one Prem Chand of New Delhi wrote to the editor of the *Hindustan Times*. The letter was published on April 8.

Kissinger had given an interview to the newspaper, in which he predicted a "global role" for India in the future.

Letter writer Chand lists all the wonders of India: "In just a single generation since we attained independence, we have laid a powerful base for industrialization, built 2,000 dams to make us self-sufficient in food, and are moving ahead in nuclear and space technology."

But then comes the rub! "But, our unchecked burgeoning population remains our Achilles heel. Unless our politicians evolve a consensus not to use this issue for politicking, our unchecked population growth will eat away all forests, all wildlife . . . and then gobble our democratic institutions, setting at naught all our achievements. Persuasion alone has failed on this front.

"We must now enact a law making registration of marriages compulsory, and production of more than three children a penal offense."

Soviet hospitals called AIDS hotbeds

Patients reportedly still risk contracting the AIDS virus during stays in unsanitary hospitals in the Soviet Union, despite precautions taken after the deadly virus infected more than 50 children in a hospital in the

southern Russian town of Elista several months ago.

AIDS expert Vadim Pokrovsky told the daily *Selskaya Zhizn* April 18 that many had not learned from that experience, where medical staff used the same AIDS-tainted syringe to inject a whole ward of children. "Even in frightened Elista, after three months of an official battle against AIDS, the sanitary epidemic station has already recorded cases of one syringe being used for several patients." He warned, "Irresponsibility is so much part of our system that the drama of Elista could repeat itself in any other place."

Pokrovsky said that "There is an epidemic of fear" about AIDS throughout the Soviet Union. "Hundreds of thousands of terrified people come to us saying they have diagnosed themselves as suffering from AIDS."

Peru buys helicopters from Soviet Union

Socialist Prime Minister Armando Villanueva has announced that Peru has purchased Soviet helicopters to fight guerrillas there. He told reporters April 15 that Peru was awaiting delivery of the gunships, with aging Soviet-built helicopters being used as a trade-in.

Reuters sources said Mi-8 helicopters would be traded in for 18 Mi-17s, and that Peru was also negotiating helicopter purchases from West Germany.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's ending of cocaine eradication in Peru in mid-April was provoked by Villanueva, according to top sources inside the ruling APRA party. Villanueva cited the inability to protect eradication workers from narco-terrorist attacks as a motive. But it was his April 11 speech which was the final straw for the DEA. In that speech, he cynically blamed his failure to send promised relief to the besieged Uchiza garrison on the DEA's refusal to provide helicopters (see *EIR*, April 21, 1989, p. 50).

Villanueva then announced the Soviet helicopter purchase, as though lack of functioning helicopters had caused his betrayal of the Uchiza defenders.

Briefly

● **A RED-GREEN** delegation from West Berlin was received by President Bush at the White House on April 19. The red-carpet treatment accorded members of Berlin's new coalition government, representing the Green Party and the Social Democrats, is taken as a slap in the face to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats, who are increasingly being treated by Washington as "on the way out" at the federal level.

● **THE GREEK** Supreme Court will rule in May on whether to extradite Mohammed Rashid to the United States. Rashid is accused of bombing a Pan Am flight in 1982.

● **THE TRILATERAL** Commission's April 9 executive committee meeting in Paris had an agenda which read in part: "Should we limit ourselves to intra-Trilateral discussion or should there be ongoing contacts with the Soviets or various Europeans. . . . What sort of session would be best for the April 1990 meeting in Washington? Is there a Soviet or East European speaker who would be appropriate for that meeting?"

● **THE U.S. STATE** Department held a three-day "International Ecological Conference," with Soviet officials attending, only ten days into the Bush administration, beginning Jan. 30, 1989. On Jan. 31, the Soviet Union's TASS news agency reported an "international ecology conference" in Moscow, with participants from Eastern Europe, Western Europe, the U.S.S.R., and Canada. Oddly, there was no mention of any participation from the United States.

● **BOMBS** went off in downtown Santiago, Chile the evening of April 17, just prior to a 24-hour labor stoppage. Banks and the telephone utility were the targets.