

International Intelligence

Korean Airlines rejects U.S. ruling on shootdown

Korean Airlines has announced that it will appeal a U.S. court ruling that it was the crew's willful misconduct that caused KAL Flight 007 to go astray into Soviet airspace on Aug. 31, 1983. The plane was shot down by the Soviet Air Force, killing all aboard. "We do not agree with the final decision and we are planning to appeal to a higher court . . . as soon as possible," said KAL spokesman Lee Taek-young.

U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson, who presided over the case, first dismissed claims against the Soviet Union, which shot down the plane, on the grounds that Moscow enjoys sovereign immunity and U.S. courts lack jurisdiction over a foreign country.

The six-member jury in the civil damage suit reached a verdict on Aug. 2, accepting the arguments by lawyers representing the American passengers killed. Attorneys for the plaintiffs' estates argued that the crew knew the plane was off course soon after taking off from Anchorage, Alaska on the flight to Seoul, and that they proceeded anyway. Attorneys for KAL have denied that the crew was at fault and that the plane was off course. They said there was no evidence that the navigation computer on the aircraft had been programmed incorrectly by the crew before the flight, causing the plane to stray into Soviet airspace.

The finding of willful misconduct means that damages will not be limited to the \$75,000 per victim under the international treaty governing legal settlements in international air disasters.

Solidarnosc won't join Communist government

Lech Walesa, the leader of Poland's Solidarnosc trade union, called on Aug. 6 for the formation of a coalition government which would exclude the Communists and instead would ally Solidarnosc with the

United Peasant Party and the Democratic Party.

Bronislaw Geremek, the Solidarnosc parliamentary leader, said that he had rejected several ministerial posts offered by Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak. The union is reluctant to enter the government as a junior partner, because it fears it would be forced to tow the line on an economic austerity program without having any real power.

Walesa described the recent appointment of former interior minister Kiszczak as prime minister as unacceptable. "This has exacerbated the crisis of confidence and has reaffirmed society's fears that essentially nothing has changed and that hope for the future is non-existent," Walesa said.

The idea that a trap was being set for the opposition forces was spelled out in a syndicated column by U.S. authors Rowland Evans and Robert Novak on Aug. 2: "Suspicion is rising inside the Bush administration that Poland's hard-line Communists are baiting a trap to destroy Solidarity and reimpose orthodox Communist control, an event that would humiliate Mikhail Gorbachov and embarrass George Bush." The trap is the sudden rise in food prices, which "U.S. intelligence believes will trigger a cataclysmic political reaction: strikes and possibly bloody riots in major cities, probably leading to police repression and resurrection of Communist power. . . .

"Reimposition of orthodox Communist control to combat civic disorder in Poland would be devastating for Gorbachov while he is fighting his own hard-liners. For President Bush, a Communist resurgence . . . would so undermine his quiet courtship of the Soviet Union's Eastern European satellites as to virtually bankrupt the policy."

Shevardnadze praises Iran, blasts Pakistan

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, visiting Afghanistan for the first time since Soviet troops withdrew in February, praised Iran on Aug. 8 for showing a "new

realism in its attitude to the Afghan conflict." Iran, he said, "is calling for broad internal Afghan dialogue, the aim of which is to create a representative government, reflecting the whole political spectrum of Afghanistan."

But Shevardnadze angrily charged Pakistan with remaining "a direct violator of the [April 1988] Geneva peace accords." He added that the Soviet Union hopes Pakistan will join negotiations soon.

Diplomacy surrounding the Afghanistan crisis is hot and heavy. Before traveling to Kabul, Shevardnadze had met in Paris with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. He stopped over in Teheran to discuss the Afghanistan situation and other issues with Iran's new President, Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan was in Washington the week before, discussing the crisis with State Department officials. Prior to his departure for Washington, Yaqub Khan met with Afghan Interim Government President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, a moderate Islamic leader who deftly balances relations with East and West, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Mojaddedi met recently with Saudi King Fahd and also visited Teheran.

NATO chief says Soviets will have to cut military

Moscow must cut its military budget or face failure of all its social and economic reforms, said NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner Aug. 6, at a meeting of NATO reserve officers in Würzburg, West Germany.

"Perestroika is condemned to failure if this level of spending is maintained," Wörner said.

"The 3,000 new tanks that pour out of Soviet factories each year somewhat mitigate the television pictures of a few dozen old tanks leaving Hungary," he said.

The NATO chief did not say what he thought the chances were that the Kremlin leadership would reach the same conclusions that he has.

Briefly

● **SPECULATION** is rampant in the U.S.S.R. about the dangers posed by Mikhail Gorbachov, the man with the "mark of the beast" on his brow, the London *Financial Times* reported Aug. 5. Orthodox Metropolitan Pitirim reportedly begged Gorbachov "not to stand for President because church writing forecast doom and disaster if ever a man with a mark on his brow became Czar."

● **VATICAN RADIO** played up a denunciation of Syria's occupation of Lebanon issued by Catholic patriarchs and bishops in Beirut. "Lebanon is occupied almost entirely by the Syrians," they said. "It is an occupation force and the fact, very grave, constitutes a dangerous precedent. . . . Lebanon is occupied by an army that blocks the arrival of food and medicines."

● **GREAT BRITAIN** is planning to cut its 57,000 troops stationed in West Germany by 25%, according to an Aug. 7 report published in the London *Daily Express*. No official announcement has been made.

● **PERU'S CARDINAL** Alfonso Trujillo, speaking to the International Congress of Reconciliation Aug. 3-6 in Peru, denounced the Theology of Liberation for its materialist world view. "There therefore does not exist a Christian aspect in that theological current," he said.

● **A SOVIET INQUIRY** into the April 1989 loss of a nuclear submarine and its 42 crew members off the Norwegian coast, has placed the blame on "a whole series of technical imperfections in different systems of the submarine."

● **RED CHINA** will supply missiles to Syria. According to a report in the United Arab Emirates newspaper *Al-Itihad*, China and Syria signed an agreement on May 18 for the supply of Chinese M-9 surface-to-surface missiles.

Chinese student leader disgusted by Kissinger

Chinese student leader Wu'er Kaixi, during a visit to the United States, denounced Henry Kissinger's recent syndicated column on China as "dogshit," and challenged the former secretary of state to a debate. Kissinger's article, which appeared in the *Washington Post* on July 30, described Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as "my friend" and "a reformer," and warned that any U.S. criticism of the murderous Beijing regime would be a mistake.

Speaking before a Chinese audience at the University of Maryland on Aug. 3, Wu'er reported on his new understanding of Kissinger. "Kissinger's recent article in the *Washington Post* supporting Deng Xiaoping is shameful. It is dogshit. When I lived in China I had had the idea that Kissinger was a friend of China, because of his role in opening up China. I now realize that Kissinger is only a friend of the Chinese dictatorship. He is not a friend of the Chinese people. I challenge Kissinger to debate on his shameful defense of Deng Xiaoping any time."

In a related development, *EIR* has learned that Mei Shan, the son-in-law of the retired political commissar of the Red Chinese army, is employed by Kissinger Associates, Inc. of New York City. "Kissinger Associates is doing very well in China," a source said. "The Chinese government knows that Henry Kissinger has a lot of influence in the U.S."

Mexico's Cárdenas protests election fraud

Supporters of Mexican nationalist leader Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas on Aug. 1 held the biggest rally in the history of the state of Michoacán, to protest fraud in the July 2 election of the state assembly. The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), the party of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, used every dirty trick in the book to defeat

Cárdenas's Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) in 11 of 18 electoral districts.

Cárdenas, a former governor of the state, was defrauded in his bid for the presidency in the July 6, 1988 national elections which brought Salinas to power. The PRD leader is an outspoken opponent of Salinas's policy of handing over the Mexican economy to the country's creditors.

Drawing on supporters from neighboring states in addition to those from Michoacán, Cárdenas's forces rallied at least 100,000 people in Morelia, the capital of the state.

In his speech to the crowd, Cárdenas said that "for the regime, what is at stake in Michoacán is not control of the local legislature, but to brake the rise of the PRD, the political force that confounds them and can defeat them. They desire the literal disappearance of what the PRD represents." He called for the formation of an impartial election board to review the election results.

Colombian politicians are losing war against terror

Outgoing Colombian Defense Minister Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz, who recently resigned his post, charged in an article published in *El Siglo* Aug. 2, that the war against guerrilla subversion was being lost by the Army because of incompetence by the national political leadership, notably the Attorney General.

He listed some of the reasons as: "lack of definition of strategic objectives, dispersion of effort all over the territory, ambiguity of tactical objectives, fears of punishment from the Attorney General's office, infiltration by the drug mafias, and inadequate legislation in times of war."

He said that the guerrillas' psychological action against the clergy, politicians, and unions is a great defeat of the state. Military personnel are terrified because some members of the state's inspection teams, who understand nothing of military operations, "would let themselves be duped by the suspicions and strategies of the subversives, through their mouthpieces and defenders."