

International Intelligence

East German election campaign heats up

Mass rallies in East Germany are turning more and more into campaign events promoting one party or another for the March 18 elections. These previously somewhat amorphous events and demonstrations are now generally shaped around a prominent guest speaker from West Germany, as in these cases:

- Chancellor Helmut Kohl addressed a rally in Erfurt on Feb. 20 of the anti-socialist Alliance for Germany.

- Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a leader of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), addressed a rally of about 70,000 in Halle on Feb. 17, mostly supporters of the liberal parties.

- Otto Graf Lambsdorff, chairman of the FDP, addressed a rally of liberal supporters in Frankfurt/Oder on Feb. 18.

- Bonn Finance Minister Theodor Waigel addressed a party congress of the conservative DSU in Leipzig on Feb. 18, and arranged several speaking engagements for the rest of the campaign:

Also foreign guests are to be featured in the "hot phase" of the East German election campaign, like Neil Kinnock of Britain's Labour Party and former French resident Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who will both address campaign events.

Rand sees a 'Dark Age' in Latin America

"Most of Latin America seems headed toward the failure of democracy and a plunge into a new Dark Age," David Ronfeldt, a geopolitician at the Rand Corp., a California think tank, wrote recently. "Its hallmarks will be . . . violence and chaos under a new generation of dictators."

Ronfeldt is a protégé of the State Department's Luigi Einaudi, now U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States. When Einaudi was at Rand 15 years ago, it was concocting scenarios for setting the

South American nations at war with each other in a "Second War of the Pacific."

Now Ronfeldt argues, in an analysis published by Florida International University's Latin American Center, "With the United States and the U.S.S.R. out of the picture, ideology would decline while racism, regionalism and religion would increase as motives for violence. Hence, not only would terrorism against individuals increase but also the massacre of groups and communities would become a more viable and desirable option for some extremists. Large-scale migrations and refugee flows would ensue."

Ronfeldt's argument is spurious, since the Bush administration has escalated intervention in Panama and elsewhere, with Soviet acceptance. What little economic aid or concern for the region's economic holocaust used to exist is now evaporating. So, the pessimistic expectations of Rand may be close to the mark, or, at least give an inkling of what they plan to help occur.

Reuters reports that Peter Hakim, director of the pro-drug-legalization Inter-American Dialogue and others say those countries which allow their creditors to call the shots "will do well." But, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, and El Salvador should be written off.

Russian vets deepen ties with Orthodox Church

Soviet veterans of the Afghanistan war, known as "Afgantsi," are strengthening their political ties with the Russian Orthodox Church. Radio Moscow on Feb. 15 reported that special religious services are being conducted in Moscow and other cities to commemorate those soldiers who died in the war. A leader of the Afghan War Veterans Councils said: "Restoration of such traditions is indispensable for society. We are reviving our old Russian Army traditions, because it is impossible to live without roots. Traditions help us to live and grow stronger."

He praised the Orthodox Church as "one of the three stabilizing forces in Soviet soci-

ety today," together with the Communist Party and the Army.

The Orthodox Church had begun to play a big role in working with the Afgantsi in the months leading up to last year's 1,000th anniversary commemorations of the Christianization of Russia.

Israel's Arens: No need to fear German unity

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said on Feb. 17 that German reunification is inevitable and could happen within months, and that Israel should not oppose it, Reuters reports. "In my opinion there is no place for us to take a stand on this subject," Arens told Israeli television one day after returning from talks with West German leaders. "The unification is going to become a reality, maybe within a few months.

"If that united Germany is a democratic Germany . . . fully conscious of the responsibilities that it has toward the Jewish people, a country that will contribute to strengthening democracy throughout the world, then I don't think that there's a danger to be concerned about," he said.

The statement was in sharp contrast to remarks by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last November, that the prospect of a united Germany was a grave concern for the Jewish people.

Arens said the government had yet to take a position on the reunification of Germany, but that Israel trusted West Germany's democratic institutions. "If there were to be a breakdown of democratic institutions in West Germany, that in itself would represent the danger. We don't foresee that," he said.

He said the visit, at Israel's request, was not connected with a recently disclosed exchange of letters between Shamir and Kohl, setting out their differences on German unity. Israel held exploratory talks earlier this month about establishing diplomatic relations with East Germany and welcomed a statement by Prime Minister Hans Modrow accepting the idea that his country bore a share of responsibility for the Nazi persecu-

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tion of the Jews—a notion East Germany has previously denied.

Romanian protesters occupy government HQ

A thousand protesters occupied the headquarters of Romania's provisional government on Feb. 18 and seized Vice President Gelu Voican. Voican was led away by demonstrators, but there was no sign of any intended violence against him, Reuters reported. Troops accompanied Voican and the protesters.

A reporter who was inside the headquarters of the ruling National Salvation Front saw Voican being jostled by demonstrators chanting for his resignation. The occupation of the building, watched calmly by about 200 armed troops standing guard, followed a demonstration by about 3,000 people demanding the resignation of President Ion Iliescu.

With tensions running high, hundreds of demonstrators broke down the main entrance to the headquarters and poured inside, occupying government offices. State television condemned the action, describing the demonstrators as "turbulent elements who have gone beyond any standard of democratic and civilized life."

Italian jurist denounces U.S. arrest of Noriega

The former president of Italy's Supreme Court, Mario Berri, denounced the U.S. prosecution of Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega as an "atrocious" violation of international law, in an article published by the Milan Catholic daily *Avvenire* on Feb. 9.

"It is certain that in the acts of war carried out," hundreds of persons and perpetrated acts of violence of a different type against unarmed people, using the brute strength of the occupying army. . . . It follows that, even in the event that Noriega is guilty . . . the injured

state has made acts of war of significant gravity against another state, guilty only of having Noriega as its chief.

"The legitimizing of the arrest and prosecution of Noriega is based on atrocious crimes. It follows that the trial is illegitimate, since it is based on a series of crimes that the injured state itself has committed, with cold calculation. As a jurist and a Catholic, I declare that such a trial horrifies me, even with all the respect I feel toward the lives destroyed by the ignominious drug trade."

Prince Charles's ecology schemes don't wash

On the eve of British Prince Charles's arrival in the United States on Feb. 16, British farmers overwhelmingly rejected his proposal for phasing out "chemical farming" placing this with "organic farming." Feb. 13-14 meeting of the National Farmers Union, speaker after speaker lambasted organic farming, saying it would only be affordable by the "well-heeled few," warning that phasing out chemicals in farming would dangerously lower the food supply in Britain.

Farmer Peter Needham of Cheshire stated: "Chemicals are absolutely crucial if we are going to feed the people of this country. Hungry people are not very green." farmer said that yields of beets, potatoes, and cereals would go down 25% in one year, and 45% over a two-year period, should use of chemicals in farming be phased out. Other speakers warned of food shortages, should there be a significant shift to organic farming.

The Prince Charles lobby in such gnostic-anthroposophist groups as the British Organic Farmers and Organic Growers Association and the Soil Association railed against the NFU's rejection of organic farming, calling the NFU's attitude "myopic" and "the typical reaction of conventional farmers who are frightened of change." of these groups are closely connected to the London branch of the satanist Lucis Trust.

● **NIKOLAI RYZHKOV**, the Soviet prime minister, said on Feb. 18 that the 21st century belongs to the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Ryzhkov told reporters that Europe had long dominated Moscow's foreign policy, but the focus was now shifting to Asia. Ryzhkov spoke at the end of a tour that took him to Thailand, Australia, and Singapore.

● **CHINESE DEMOCRACY** movement leader Wuer Kaixi on Feb. 20 urged the U.N. to keep his country's human rights record under scrutiny. His speech was interrupted by the P.R.C. government delegation as he addressed the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Switzerland.

● **LATVIA'S** Supreme Soviet, after heated debate, on Feb. 15, adopted by a 177-to-48 vote a declaration denouncing a parliamentary resolution that brought the republic into the Soviet Union in 1940, saying it could not serve as the basis for its future. "It is necessary to do all to restore the state independence of Latvia and transform it into a free, independent Latvian state," tion said.

● **CYRUS VANCE**, the former U.S. secretary of State, is mediating contacts between Israel and Syria, according to the *Independent* newspaper of London. "There were feelers for a month or two. There are signs of change in the Syrian approach," one source said.

● **RELATIVES** of Panamanians who died in the U.S. invasion dispute U.S. claims of the number of war dead. The head of the Association of Family Members of the Panamanian Defense Forces Who Fell Dec. 20, 1989 said in a news conference, "until now it has not been known how many really died. We calculate that between civilians and military, there were more than 1,000."