

International Intelligence

Freedom movement builds in Soviet Georgia

More than 250,000 people demonstrated in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi on May 4 for Georgia to leave the U.S.S.R. and become independent. *Nedelya*, the Sunday supplement of the Soviet government daily *Izvestia*, ran an article on the theme of "nationalism on the rise" in Georgia, stressing the "rapid politicization on the ground" that has occurred there since the April 9, 1989 massacre of demonstrators by Soviet troops in Tbilisi.

Nedelya commented on how the massacre had backfired politically: "That tragedy has rallied the nation into a drive for independence." *Nedelya* then warns that a Georgian crisis is imminent, with the pro-independence National Democrats, the largest of the anti-communist parties, having "called for a civil defiance campaign to make Georgia ungovernable" until independence is attained.

Nedelya, in an effort to incite inter-ethnic conflicts in the region, played up a group named the National Front in Georgia, calling for Georgia to proclaim Orthodoxy as its state religion; the existence of a new "Royalist Party"; and statements from Georgia's Muslim minorities that they will "take no orders from Tbilisi."

Taiwan's cabinet quits in policy dispute

Prime Minister Lee Huan of the Republic of China on Taiwan and his entire cabinet resigned on May 10, after President Lee Teng refused to re-name Lee Huan prime minister and named instead General Hua, who was the defense minister and former Chief of the General Staff. A new cabinet will be named when President Lee, who was re-elected in March, is inaugurated at the end of May.

The political situation in Taiwan is very unstable right now. Groups of students are demonstrating at Chiang Kai-shek Airport,

protesting General Hua's appointment, and also demanding the immediate removal of the "mainland deputies" (those elected in the last all-China election 40 years ago). The students are demanding that a group of 13 deputies, led by Gen. Teng Chieh, be immediately forced to retire from the government. General Teng's faction, which attempted to oppose President Lee, has fallen out with the government.

Taiwan is facing economic upheaval as well. Inflation is hitting 12%; the stock market fell from 12,000 points to 8,000 points in three weeks; the real estate market is collapsing. Banks are no longer even giving mortgages, and rents are so high that ordinary people pay one-third of their income for rent. Violent rains ruined many of the fruit and vegetable crops, and prices are very high. Many Taiwan investors are now moving shop to the mainland, and building light industry shops in Fukien province, but are finding labor, though very cheap, about one-third as productive as Taiwanese labor.

Philippine guerrillas threaten more terrorism

The Philippine communist guerrilla force, in a statement released a day after the murder of two U.S. airmen, threatened more attacks unless the United States closed its military bases in the country. "Go home immediately or suffer the agony of attrition," the New People's Army (NPA) General Command said, in the statement sent to news agencies in Manila. "The NPA pledges that all its officers and men will carry out their mission, to the last man if necessary, of expelling U.S. imperialism out of the country," it said.

It warned those it described as "national traitors," headed by President Corazon Aquino, that they would be tried and punished for having "sold your nation to U.S. imperialism."

Meanwhile, on May 14 exploratory talks began on the future of the U.S. bases. U.S. negotiator Richard Armitage said at the opening of the talks in the closely guarded central bank building in Manila that the bas-

es were important for ensuring peace and stability in Asia, but "if you ask us to leave, leave we shall, as expeditiously as possible and with our pride intact."

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus charged the United States with not living up to its agreement on the bases, noting the shortfall of \$222.58 million, out of the \$481 million that Washington agreed to pay this year in return for use of the facilities.

Soviet defense minister: Military threat remains

Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov was quoted by Reuters on May 9, warning that despite the achievements of Mikhail Gorbachov in foreign policy, the military threat to the Soviet Union remains, and the Soviet military command will draw its conclusions from that.

"Under the influence of deep transformation in the Soviet Union, there have been considerable positive changes in international affairs," he said. "Dialogue is taking the place of confrontation."

But, "at the same time, the military threat remains. In these conditions the Soviet Union maintains its military preparedness at the necessary and sufficient level and is carrying out a radical transformation of its defense capacity, all of which constitutes military reform."

Soviet television showed columns of T-34 tanks, the mainstay of the Soviet forces for the assault on Nazi Germany, rolling through Red Square, followed by vintage howitzers and Katyusha rocket launchers. The new generation of Soviet hardware was also shown, including T-80 tanks.

Christian Democrat looks to new NATO structure

A united Germany will be member of a NATO that has changed its structure in Central Europe, declared Alfred Dregger, head of the Christian Democratic group in the

Briefly

West German parliament, in a radio interview on May 15.

He said that NATO's "forward defense" strategy should be replaced by a new concept: no combat units near the former East German border, with the bigger units of the West replaced by highly mobile strike forces modeled on the multinational special strike force of NATO that is already assigned to the southern and northern flanks.

NATO's ground-based nuclear deterrent would be pulled out, and air-launched systems would take their place. The question of how much of the new air-strike capabilities would be based on German territory will be discussed by NATO, as will the option to have all non-German units stationed outside today's West German territory. NATO would keep no troops on the territory of today's East Germany, but there would be a territorial army under German command outside NATO military.

A changed NATO concept that takes account of "justified Soviet security interests" along these lines, Dregger said, should remove remaining Soviet objections to a merger of the two Germanys into one West-ern-oriented state.

Fascist group gains ground in Romania

A fascist organization in Romania that is backed by important communist operatives is rapidly gaining ground in that crisis-ridden country. According to informed sources in Western Europe, the group, called Vatra Romanesca, now has an estimated 1 million members. The group is mobilizing against the Hungarian ethnic minority.

Early in May, the regional groupings of Vatra formed a national organization and a new political party, the Party of the National Associations of Romania.

A military source stresses that Vatra is largely controlled by elements of the former Securitate security forces of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. "The Securitate went to the wagon of patriotism," he said. "They are not fools. When they sensed Ceausescu was on the way out, they regrouped, in order to

hide. They did not disappear, but only hid. It's the chameleon principle."

Sources say that Vatra is a mixture of former Securitate agents, remnants of the old fascist Iron Guard, elements of the present communistic National Salvation Front, and various radical movements. It existed in seed-crystal form during the Ceausescu era, under the name Cultural Interest Unions. One source described it as "fascist, believing in blood and soil, and using old Roman Empire symbols."

The Vatra group is a fascist mass-based movement that is an outgrowth of the old communist structure, and an instrument of the communist elites.

Soviet students support China's protest movement

Soviet students, in solidarity with the Chinese democracy movement, burned works by Lenin outside Moscow University on May 13, Reuters reports. Several hundred students called a 24-hour hunger strike in commemoration of last year's massacre of Chinese demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Many Soviet students camped out overnight, despite temperatures close to the freezing point.

Soviet television said the hunger strikers were supported by students in about 50 other cities. "We want prompt democratic reforms in the country, we demand a radical solution to students' problems," A. Kiryushin, one of the protest's organizers, told the news agency TASS. The students, some wearing white headbands as a sign of mourning and carrying banners both in Russian and Chinese, gathered to commemorate those killed by troops in last year's pro-democracy protests in Beijing.

However, witnesses said some students also used the gathering to criticize the Soviet system, drawing parallels between the lack of democracy in China and the Soviet Union. A group of masked students also set fire to books by Lenin. "Down with totalitarianism" read one banner. "For your freedom and our freedom" read the headband worn by one student.

● **WAS SAKHAROV** killed? asked the Italian Catholic weekly *Il Sabato*, in an article by Russian dissident Irina Alberti. "The fact that Sakharov disappeared was a great relief for the Soviet leadership," she wrote. "Maybe one day we'll learn to what extent it was really a heart attack that killed him." Andrei Sakharov represented those "voices of truth" which prevented Gorbachov's "take-over of the public opinion" in the West.

● **NUSRAT BHUTTO**, the mother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, met with Chinese Communist Party security chief Qiao Shi during an unannounced visit to Beijing early in May. Wan Li, head of the Chinese National People's Congress, arrived in Lahore, Pakistan on May 2 for a goodwill tour. Wan asked Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to be the chief guest at the Asian games in September.

● **DANISH** Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen has proposed the establishment of a European Security Council as a supplement to a restructured NATO and Warsaw Pact. In an interview with the Copenhagen newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* on May 14, he said that such an organization could help deal with ethnic and nationalist conflicts in Europe, and might even have a peace-keeping force to do so.

● **ETHNIC GERMAN** refugees are streaming from Romania to East Germany, with 18,000 having arrived there recently and another 15,000 on their way. The refugees report escalating pogroms against them and other ethnic minorities by Romanian fascists.

● **BORIS YELTSIN**, the maverick who is campaigning for the presidency of the Russian Federation, attacked Gorbachov's policy toward the Baltic states as "seriously misconceived." The Lithuanians "will starve rather than give in," he said.