

# International Intelligence

## **Czechoslovakia's Havel hits 'smallness' of mind**

What history in Central Europe has been suffering from most, is the fear of small souls, declared Vaclav Havel in his opening address to the Salzburg Festival in Austria on July 26. Havel's speech, covered by the media mostly in distorted form, elaborated on specific features of people's minds in Central Europe, as observed by Havel over the years:

- Once in revolutionary mobilization, Central Europeans work hard for freedom, but once they've gained it, they turn depressed and grow afraid of the giant tasks that are to be carried out;

- There is a strong tendency among people in Central Europe to "miniaturize history," to hide in ethnic or other exclusive corners to build up an identity of their own;

- There is also a related tendency to rewrite history in such a way that it is based on lies and new lies; to state the truth is rarely comfortable;

- Lying creates fears of being detected; the fears are small ones initially, but turn into real problems later. Most problems of past European history were caused by the fears of the small souls that people had and still have today, even after the democratic revolutions.

Because of these factors, politics in Central Europe is often like the labors of Sisyphus, and Havel confessed to having experienced the problem himself when he took office after the Czechoslovak revolution at end of last year. All of a sudden, he and his advisers realized that "this is the end of poetry, prose begins now. . . . We were thrown into the cold water and were forced to swim."

## **Continuing demise of the Soviet Communist Party**

Twenty-eight Ukrainian members of parliament, including the republic's vice president, have quit the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), marking the next major leap

in Ukraine's drive to achieve in practice its proclaimed sovereignty, and eventually its full independence. The walkout was led by Vice President Valery Gryniiov.

During the one-week interim after Ukraine's former President, Vladimir Ivashko, was kicked upstairs to become deputy chairman of the CPSU, and before the July 23 election of Ivashko's successor, Leonid Kravchuk, Gryniiov had functioned as Ukraine's interim President. In that capacity he had attended the July 20 Moscow combined meeting of the U.S.S.R. Presidential and Federation Councils, held to work out the "new Union Treaty."

Most of those leaving are joining the Ukrainian Democratic Party, one of the political party arms of the Rukh independence movement. The walkout thus represents a step toward Rukh's gaining a parliamentary majority, and toward the formation of a multi-party government in Ukraine, and the elevation of a figure like Gryniiov to the post of President.

In related news, leaders of the striking Ukrainian mine workers met on July 26 with Prime Minister Vitali Masol and other cabinet members, but ejected Communist Party boss Stanislav Gurenko from the meeting. As one miners' delegate expressed it: "The CP should have no say in these matters."

## **Will Britain get rid of the monarchy?**

"There are faint signs of a revival of republicanism" in Britain, wrote *Financial Times* of London commentator Michael Prowse on July 30, in a feature that calls for the British to "leave the nursery," and to stop treating the royal family "like gods" and giving "archaic titles" to the country's elites. According to Prowse, numerous articles have recently appeared that agree with his point of view.

"Having lost an empire, Britain revels in the pomp and ceremony associated with the Windsors," complains Prowse, who stresses that in the next decade, British taxpayers will fork over nearly £80 million "to support the household and official activities of the richest woman in the world."

Prowse argues against those who say that the Queen is just a ceremonial figure, noting that she "does have real powers." Most important, she "stands at the apex of a divisive class system which still greatly impairs economic efficiency and social cohesion. Britain is not burdened just with a royal family. It also labors under the weight of dukes, marquesses, earls, barons and other medieval relics, many of whom still retain vast holdings of land and other assets. Archaic titles and other privileges are the hallmark of an immature society, of a people that cannot grow up and face the challenges of a meritocratic world. It is time the U.K. left the nursery."

Prowse concludes: "Britain would be a healthier and less hypocritical country if it took democratic principles seriously. No family should be treated like gods. There should be no titles. The head of state should be elected and serve a fixed term. He or she should also pay taxes like any normal citizen. Let the Windsors compete for the post alongside the Browns and the Smiths of this world."

## **East German communist woos left swamp in West**

Gregor Gysi, head of the East German communist party (PDS), toured West Germany at the end of July to organize an alliance of left organizations that will run in the upcoming all-German elections.

The founding group of this alliance, which will run under the name Left List/PDS, met for a two-day conference in Cologne, West Germany. Gysi, who totally dominated the event, was greeted by the 300-400 participants—former or current members of the left-wing Social Democracy, trade unions, Communist Party, Greens, Maoist organizations, ecological groups, various East German left formations, plus assorted unorganized socialists and Marxists—with frenetic applause.

Gysi appealed to this gaggle not to miss the unique chance to form a single united left coalition, and participants signed up by the hundreds to be contacted for local and regional "Left List/PDS initiatives," to be

organized in the near future.

According to Gysi, this left alliance has the historical task of counterposing itself to the coming "right-wing Germany," which is going to be one of the worst exploiters of the Third world. "When Kohl says Europe, he means a German Europe, which will rise as a superpower and even dominate Japan," said Gysi. "The attempts by the other parties to manipulate the election laws to the disfavor of the PDS confirm the fears of our European neighbors in the face of German reunification."

Not even attempting to deny the reality of "40 years of Stalinism," he argued, that "the reality of 40 years of imperialism" saw even more severe crimes.

## ***Waldheim was member of anti-Nazi resistance***

Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was not only *not* a Hitler collaborator, but was a member of the Austrian resistance, states Oswald Lewinter, editor-in-chief of the West German Jewish magazine *Semit*, in an interview with Reuters news agency which is reported on in the *Jerusalem Post* July 22, under the headline, "Waldheim fought against Nazis, German-Jewish magazine reports."

The report is a powerful blow to the spurious charges against Waldheim circulated by the Anti-Defamation League and the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, on the basis of Soviet-supplied disinformation.

According to Lewinter: "I have tracked it down and got something different from what [World Jewish Congress head Edgar] Bronfman and others have been telling the world."

Lewinter states that his information came from a highly decorated member of the French Resistance, who gave him a sworn statement before an assessor of court in Vienna last March. This informant, referred to by Lewinter as "Herr X," was an Austrian who deserted from the German Army and fought in the French Resistance.

Herr X attended the same school as Waldheim, and swore that Waldheim's

name appeared on a list of members of the Austrian Freedom Movement that he had seen. After the war, Herr X worked for the French government, and was Waldheim's main interrogator when Waldheim was assigned to France as a diplomat in 1948 and his credentials were accepted.

## ***Trinidad crisis tests joint armed intervention***

The attempted coup by a fringe Black Muslim group in Trinidad and Tobago, which began on July 27 by taking top government officials hostage, had the effect of testing the multilateral military intervention mechanisms of the Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS).

Jamaica and other Caribbean nations sent troops into Trinidad to help put down the rebellion. American troops were also deployed, although Washington denied it. The RSS maintains close coordination with the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, and the U.S. and Venezuela deployed warships into the Gulf of Paria.

The crisis broke when the rebel group, led by former policeman Imam Yasin Abu Bakr, seized Parliament, the national TV and radio station, and took hostage Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, several members of his cabinet, and opposition members of Parliament.

Abu Bakr's uprising coincided with a summit meeting of the heads of state of the Caribbean Community in Jamaica, whose prime minister, Michael Manley, has long advocated a multinational force to police the hemisphere. Although Manley was unable to host the meeting due to illness, his colleagues quickly assembled the multinational force in nearby Barbados, supposedly to await a request for assistance from the government of Trinidad. But the Jamaicans (and probably others) started to go in on July 30, without a request being made public.

Sharing Manley's call for a multilateral intervention force is Venezuela's President Carlos Andrés Pérez, who has been calling for the creation of a strategic oil reserve for the hemisphere, in which oil-producing Trinidad would play a role.

● **EXECUTIONS** of prisoners in China are being carried out at the rate of 2-3 per week in each and every major city and province. Prisoners are being tried at "mass rallies," after which they are immediately led away and shot.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** sent an apostolic letter to the clergy of Ibero-America, on the occasion of the Fifth Centenary of the Evangelization of America in 1992. Asking priests not to get involved in politics, and to reject Marxist ideas, the Pontiff said that, in the past, a mistaken interpretation of the Church's "preference for the poor" had led many priests and nuns to become too political, even violent.

● **THE SOVIET** state prosecutor has "instituted criminal proceedings" against former KGB Gen. Oleg Kalugin for having betrayed "state secrets" to the press, *Izvestia* reports. General Kalugin has attacked the KGB's methods, as well as its close ties to the Communist Party. He was spy Harold "Kim" Philby's "babysitter" for many years.

● **ISRAELI** Science Minister Yuval Neeman stated on July 27 that Israel has chemical weapons and would use them in the event of an attack on Israel. The head of Israel's Mapam Party, Eliezer Granit, counter-charged that Neeman was "in the same category as Saddam Hussein and Qaddafi."

● **SHAHPOUR BAKHTIAR**, the exiled former prime minister of Iran, spoke out on French television against the Mitterrand government's decision to release five Iranian terrorists who were being held in French jails, in return for the freeing of hostages. "I think that the West may have the illusion that by making concessions to the moderate clergy, they will benefit. This is an illusion," he said.