

International Intelligence

Will Moscow pull the plug on Fidel Castro?

Cuba's Fidel Castro is running into trouble with his Soviet patrons, according to a report by columnist Georgie Ann Geyer on Nov. 1. She quotes an exposé in the Soviet youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that Castro has a secret wife, 5 children, 32 houses, and 9,700 personal bodyguards, and notes that Soviet revelation of these previously unknown facts is a significant move to undercut him.

Since people like Castro thrive on, and require, a *mythos*, and must be shrouded in mystery, the puncturing of such a *mythos* will assist his decline—and the Soviets know this. They are also increasingly unable to provide support to Cuba's sagging economy.

Alan García says charges against him are political

In response to the accusation that he is guilty of murder in the 1986 suppression of a Lima prison uprising, former Peruvian President Alan García stated that the campaign against him is totally political. García incurred the wrath of the international banking establishment when, after his election in 1985, he placed a cap on Peru's debt-service payments and attempted to crack down on the money-laundering operations of the drug traffickers. Although he later retreated from these positions, the bankers never forgave him.

"I understand that I can be criticized for many things," García said. "I have unleashed passions because of the debt and the banks, but I can't be accused of murder for that. I firmly believe that these accusations against me are political."

A special committee has been formed in the Peruvian Congress to investigate the role of García in the prison uprising, in which tens of jailed terrorists were killed by security forces. The committee has exonerated any Army personnel from responsibility, but claims that García, premeditatedly "in-

stigated" the killing of jailed terrorists by ordering the Armed Forces in to put down the rebellion.

The former President reiterated that he could not be held responsible for what happened, since at the time of the rebellion, the Joint Command of the Armed Forces was in charge of security in the Lima-Callao region. García stated that "if the special commission has been formed, with no further study of the affair," then the House of Deputies and the Senate will almost certainly approve the committee's charges; "then they will strip me of my immunity, and put me before the Supreme Court to be tried."

Germans approve treaty on Soviet withdrawal

The German Parliament voted on Oct. 31 in favor of the German-Soviet agreement that sets the end of 1994 as the latest date for withdrawal of all Soviet troops from German territory. But there are also hints that the withdrawal could be significantly speeded up.

The agreement goes along with a DM 13.5 billion financial package from the German government:

- DM 7.8 billion for the construction of 36,000 new homes in the Soviet Union for officers and their families returning from Germany;
- DM 200 million for the training of Soviet officers and specialized Army personnel in Western economic and management skills at German companies;
- a DM 3 billion credit over five years to help the Soviets cover the costs of stationing and withdrawal of their troops from eastern Germany;
- DM 1.5 billion to cover the interest accumulating for the credit.

Gorbachov adviser Oleg Bogomolov indicated in an interview published in the German weekly *Bild am Sonntag* on Nov. 4 that Gorbachov's visit to Bonn on Nov. 9 might lay the groundwork for a more rapid troop withdrawal. "I think that there is a potential for accelerated pullout of the Soviet troops,"

he said. "This in the interest of both sides. Our Army on German territory is considerably affected by the virus of disintegration. Just because of that, it is important to defuse the situation by accelerated withdrawal of the Soviet troops. In order to do so, we have to solve technical problems like, for example, destroy or sell obsolete tanks already on German soil.

"Furthermore, we can solve the problem of lodging with aid from Bonn, which means: Accelerated construction of homes for returning Soviet soldiers will also accelerate the withdrawal of Soviet troops."

First military meeting at United Nations

The U.N. Military Staff Committee held its first substantive meeting on Oct. 28, although the outcome has been kept totally under wraps. The committee is an important part of the drive to make the U.N. a more efficient instrument of one world rule (see *EIR*, Aug. 17, 1990, "British steer Gulf crisis toward one world government").

The committee, consisting of the military chiefs of staff of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was intended to be the military command over U.N. Security Council troops. It has operated on a purely *pro forma* basis throughout the Cold War period, but now the Soviets, in line with their Gulf policy that military action should only be undertaken by the U.N., have been demanding that the committee be revived to deal with the Mideast situation. If there is to be military action against Iraq, Moscow does not want to be left out of the deal.

The meeting was scheduled to take place at the New York residence of the French ambassador to the U.N. Those attending were Lt. Gen. Michael Carns, director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon; Maj. Gen. Edwin Beckett, British defense attaché in Washington; Vice Adm. Alain Caotanea, director of the French Joint Military Committee; Maj. Gen. Du Kuanyi of the People's Republic of China mission to the U.N.; and Col. Gen. Bronislav Omelichev, first depu-

ty chief of the Soviet General Staff, who flew to New York from Moscow to attend the meeting.

Ukrainian churches unite for freedom struggle

On Sunday, Oct. 28, in the western Ukraine center of Lvov, the first ever ecumenical church service of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church was celebrated by the long-exiled Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Mstislav, and the leading clergy of the Ukrainian Catholics. The service was held to celebrate the rebirth of the Ukrainian nation and of its two national churches, both of which had suffered outlawing, forced incorporation into the Russian Orthodox Church, and slaughter of their clergy and believers under Stalin.

The ecumenical service marked the high point of the triumphal tour of Ukraine by Patriarch Mstislav, which had begun with him celebrating mass in Kiev's St. Sophia Cathedral on Oct. 21. The Patriarch, 93 years old and in exile since the war, was carried in triumph to the cathedral on the shoulders of marchers in a crowd numbering close to 100,000.

One week later, the Russian Orthodox Church tried a comeback, when Moscow Patriarch Aleksii came to Kiev. A huge crowd turned out in protest, and prevented him from entering the cathedral's main entrance. Only after police used force to clear a narrow path, was he able to enter the cathedral through a back door.

South Africa lifts emergency rule in Natal

South African President F.W. De Klerk has lifted emergency rule in Natal province, the stronghold of KwaZulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha movement. Some 4,000 people have been killed in this region in fighting between Inkatha and the African National Congress (ANC) in recent years.

The easing of restrictions as of Oct. 18 follows similar action in South Africa's three other provinces in June. In so doing, the government has met one of the major conditions set by the ANC to open up broader negotiations with the white minority government. In 1988, the U.S. Congress had demanded the end of emergency rule as a condition for lifting economic sanctions.

De Klerk stated, "There is only one route to peace and reconciliation in our country, and that is through peaceful negotiations. . . . The door is now fully open and I am appealing to all leaders and all South Africans to accept the challenge of this open door."

Both Chief Buthelezi and the ANC welcomed the lifting of emergency rule as a move which will improve the climate for peace.

'Explosions' will knock out Arab regimes

The Jerusalem Arabic daily *Al Fajr* published an editorial on Oct. 29 warning that one overlooked effect of a Gulf war would be the overthrow of most of the Arab regimes which are kowtowing to the United States and Great Britain, and supporting the deployment of military forces against Iraq.

The paper reports that Egyptian military units have had to be deployed in Cairo over recent days to deal with the growing popular sentiment against the war. "What is now taking place in Cairo is only the first indication of the potential explosions in all the Arab capitals that have pawned themselves, their will, their dignity, and the causes of their nations to the new colonialist program, based on plundering the Arab oil wealth and halting Arab progress," the editorial states.

"Therefore, the explosion of the Arab nations will necessarily be more powerful, deeper, and more comprehensive than the explosion of the Gulf war itself, should its colonialist planners see fit that war breaks out. In that event, not one Arab regime will be safe, even if it be supported by the arsenals of the United States and its allies."

Briefly

● **PRINCE PHILIP** blamed "Catholic theology" for exacerbating the population problem in cities like Mexico City. His Gnostic Highness was speaking on Oct. 29 on a BBC commentary, explaining his campaign to bring "preservationist" ideas into the major world faiths.

● **DEPOSED EAST GERMAN** dictator Erich Honecker has given his first interview since being thrown out of power, to Robert Maxwell's journal *The European*. It says that Honecker is "unrepentant," and confident that communism has only suffered a temporary setback, but will return triumphant. He suggests that he was stabbed in the back by Mikhail Gorbachov.

● **YASUHIRO NAKASONE**, the former Japanese prime minister, met on Nov. 4 with Saddam Hussein and said the Iraqi leader "demonstrated serious encouragement" to end the Gulf crisis. Nakasone was also scheduled to meet PLO chairman Yasser Arafat during his visit to Baghdad with a 68-member delegation, including members of his ruling LDP. Nakasone said it was time Japan stopped "watching from the sidelines" in the Gulf crisis.

● **GREAT BRITAIN** is considering extending the 150-mile fishing protection zone around the Malvinas Islands to 200 miles, according to a report in the Argentine newspaper *Clarín*. The report has created an uproar in Argentina.

● **'DEMOCRACY,'** Panamanian-style: The U.S. puppet government of President Guillermo Endara has ordered the arrest of journalist Dagoberto Franco, a columnist for the Panamanian daily *El Siglo*, on charges of slandering the President. He wrote an article implying that Endara was involved in criminal activity. Other journalists are being detained for "questioning" by authorities.