

International Intelligence

The KGB's new image: fighting ecological crime

The KGB is taking on an "aggressive" new role as green police, according to the *Los Angeles Times* of March 14. The program will be run by KGB Gen.-Maj. Aleksandr N. Karbainov, head of the "community liaison office," who says, "The word 'security' has a very broad meaning. We don't just fight espionage, terrorism, drug dealing and organized crime. We also fight ecological crime."

According to the *Times*, "The KGB's growing role as a pollution fighter seems to be part of a general reorientation of the organization, which was known for decades . . . for torturing and imprisoning dissidents and for killing millions at the bidding of dictator Josef Stalin. . . . To improve its image, the KGB . . . chooses a 'Miss KGB' and, with its new public relations office, spotlights current activities."

On the front of "ecological crime," in the Bashkiria Autonomous Republic, "equipment at most oil-producing enterprises is used well beyond its normal life, regardless of the dangers to the environment, the KGB told TASS," wrote the *Times*.

Soviets rescue Honecker from trial in Germany

The Kremlin helped Erich Honecker, the former dictator of East Germany, to escape trial in Germany, flying him by military plane from the Soviet Army hospital in Beelitz, where he has been kept as a fugitive from German law for the past months, to Moscow on March 13.

The action, in violation of German sovereignty, has created a political scandal.

Honecker was to be charged for his role in ordering the shoot-to-kill practice that killed 190 East Germans at the Berlin Wall and other sections of the barbed-wire border between the two Germanys, between 1961 and 1989. The Soviet authorities said the transfer to Moscow had been decided for

"medical and humanitarian reasons."

The move did not proceed without some foreknowledge on the part of the government in Bonn. Government spokesman Friedrich Vogel admitted on German television that Bonn knew in advance that the transfer would take place, but came to the conclusion it was too late to act. Vogel said that there was nothing Bonn could do than verbally insist that Moscow extradite Honecker.

German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared, upon his arrival in Moscow on March 17, that the affair must not lead to a crisis in German-Soviet relations. He ruled out economic sanctions or other measures to try to force Honecker's extradition.

Genscher met with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and was scheduled to meet with President Mikhail Gorbachov and former foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Thailand anti-drug chief challenges U.S.

Thailand's top anti-narcotics official, Chavalit Yodmanee, responded on March 13 to the U.S. State Department's annual International Narcotics Strategy Report to Congress, containing the U.S. administration's critical assessment of the Thai government's role in narcotics suppression.

If you have any evidence, give it to us, he said.

The State Department report expressed concern over what it describes as the "network of relationships" developed for security purposes between Thai military and government officials and narcotics-trafficking ethnic groups from Burma, which it said creates an environment for narcotics-related corruption. The report said the United States had expressed its concern to the previous Thai government, which was ousted in a military coup on Feb. 23.

The *Bangkok Post* on March 14 quoted Chavalit: "As for allegations that Thai military and government officials were involved in narcotics trafficking," he said he would

ask the United States to provide evidence to back legal action against Thai politicians and officials believed to be involved in drug trafficking. "Our country stands to be damaged if there is no evidence to support this."

Zero security for Colombia's judges

The Colombian Supreme Court has sent an open letter to President César Gaviria, protesting that the country's judges are defenseless, "while ex-guerrillas and ex-criminals enjoy the protection of the state to excess." The letter protests recent changes in body-guard protection for judges, and denounces Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo Angel for his "total abandonment of security" for the judiciary.

The anti-drug, opposition daily *El Espectador* editorialized on March 12 that failure to protect the judges is the least of the government's crimes. The editors point to the "aberrant situation in the halls of the Justice Ministry of bending penal legislation to the interests of criminals. . . . This has not been explained by the justice minister, whose strange behavior seems to derive not from a defense of the institutions, but from his step-by-step surrender to the illegitimate interests of legal plunderers."

Ethnic tensions heat up in Czechoslovakia

Tens of thousands of demonstrators chanting, "Independence!" and "Down with Prague!" marched through the Slovakian capital of Bratislava on March 11, halting traffic for several hours. Marchers booed whenever the names of Czechoslovak federal officials were mentioned. According to the London *Guardian*, "the rally was in support of the campaign for the formation of a separate Slovak state which was launched with a declaration of sovereignty last week by a number of disparate nationalist groups."

EIR's intelligence sources in Vienna are

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looking at Czechoslovakia as a potential flashpoint for a crisis, if the economic collapse is not reversed. Because of the "free market" policies of Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, the country is entering a period of grave difficulties, in which ethnic antagonisms are being expressed. At least five groups are making claims for independence, including Bohemians, Slovaks, Moravians, ethnic Hungarians (primarily in Slovakia), and Silesians.

President Vaclav Havel's spokesman Michael Zantovsky has charged that Slovak aspirations were being manipulated by a coalition of communists, separatists, and admirers of the wartime Nazi-sponsored state of Slovakia. "It seems to me that a new coalition is shaping up in Slovakia," he said. "Its opinion on political development and economic reform in Slovakia is quite different [from the federal view]. It revives the idea of National Socialism."

Is Cuba next target for 'new world order'?

Stella Calloni wrote in Mexico's *El Día* of March 15 that the next "great offensive" of the United States against the Third World, after Iraq, "seems to be located in the decision to get a consensus in the United Nations Human Rights Commission to designate a special rapporteur to check out the human rights situation in Cuba."

Calloni also reported that the U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Luigi Einaudi, said in early March that the "human rights situation in Cuba is scandalous." On March 5, Pentagon staffer Nancy Dorn predicted that Fidel Castro would continue to be rabidly anti-U.S. as long as economic and political problems in Cuba continued, and warned that he might respond to the internal crisis with "an aggressive destabilization policy against democratic governments."

Calloni quoted Bernard Aronson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, that Washington should help to "democratize the island."

The Cuban government responded

through an editorial in the official organ *Granma*, which noted that Bush had personally called up Argentine President Carlos Menem to persuade him "to break Latin American unity for a plate of beans." Bush was apparently successful.

Calloni concluded, "Washington ordered the invasion of Panama on Dec. 20, 1989, to 'democratize' that country, an invasion prolonged by the continued and strengthened military occupation that persists. . . . In fact, in the vocabulary of the new world order, 'democratization' is linked to the possibility of a 'military intervention' to impose it."

Pope: Church hails progress in science

Pope John Paul II, speaking at the University of Camerino in Italy on March 19, urged his audience "not to listen to the prophets of doom who are ready to see catastrophes behind every corner," because the Christian conception of science and progress gives every basis for optimism about the future. The daily *Avvenire*, reporting on his speech March 20, called it a preview of his forthcoming third social encyclical, on the 100th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum novarum*.

The conquest of space, said the Pope, is the crowning "of a technical progress which is unprecedented up to now and is open to boundless perspectives." In the same way, "nuclear energy, at first used for purposes of death, is advancing, even though amid risks which are anything but hypothetical, toward the goal of a production capable of satisfying growing needs."

"The Church," the Pope continued, "feels that it is living through one of the most innovative phases of history, in which the very concept of culture has expanded. For this reason, its social doctrine must commit itself forcefully to original initiatives." The Church's line must always be "affirming the primacy of man in the light of God, thus enlightening culture to overcome the fear that man often has of his own scientific conquests as potential instruments of destruction."

● **THE CHRISTIAN** presence in Lebanon "is not only weakened, but is about to disappear," wrote the Assembly of Mothers Superior of Lebanon to Pope John Paul II. "The implementation of the Taif agreements under Syrian protection has brought an attack on education, on freedom of thought, of belief, of expression. . . . We saw two buses—one belonging to a school taught by nuns—being burned, while the driver was compelled to remain seated in the driver's seat."

● **THE QUEBEC** Equality Party has passed a resolution calling for partition of the province, should Quebec separate from Canada. The plan would create an "English corridor" linking the English-speaking eastern maritime provinces to western Canada. This would cut Quebec's connections to the U.S. border.

● **MOSCOW'S** former foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, was received by Pope John Paul II for a private audience at the Vatican on March 15. The former Soviet diplomat spent some days in Italy, probing, among other things, political interest in his new project for an Institute of European Affairs.

● **IZVESTIA**, the Soviet government newspaper, has closed its bureau in Pyongyang, North Korea, because of North Korean complaints about its frequent articles criticizing North Korean rigidity in the age of perestroika.

● **THE POPE** said on March 11 that in the Italian region of Tuscany, "secularism and consumerism have weighed heavily on the culture; in the big cities people perceive the influence of occult power groups, while the practice of esoteric rites spreads; religious indifference grows and often becomes practical atheism." The speech is interpreted in the Italian press as an attack on Freemasonry.