

# International Intelligence

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## EUROPE

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### *French weekly questions death of Giscard aide*

The plane crash which claimed the life of French president Giscard d'Estaing's top Africa aide, Rene de Journiac, earlier this month was no accident, claims the weekly *Le Matin de Paris*. *Le Matin* reports that there is no evidence of mechanical failure to account for the crash of Journiac's plane during a mission in Africa. The magazine concludes that French authorities suspect "a dirty trick by Libyans."

Independently, the Libyans are unable to run such an operation. Late last month, a high ranking French government official expressed concern for the anti-French campaign which the Libyan government was running, noting that in Paris it is believed that the Libyans are working closely with the British. London has been a long time rival of France in Africa.

Earlier this month, Libya's President Muamar Qadafi proclaimed war on France in Africa, just after France offered military aid to Libya's neighbor Tunisia.

According to *Le Matin*, Journiac's mission involved sensitive French national security measures concerning the supply of crucial raw materials to France from allied African states, including uranium from Chad and Niger and oil from West African countries.

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### *Italian party factions come to blows*

The Italian Christian Democratic Party congress now winding to an end in Rome has been a particularly lively affair this time around. The party clearly is divided into two contending factions grouped around former Premier Giulio Andreotti on the one side and Senate

President Amintore Fanfani and his cohort Arnaldo Forlani on the other, each vying for control over the majority. The prize will be a new government under the aegis of one or the other faction.

The contending sides even came to blows over their ideas. For example, when a delegate on the podium allied to the Fanfani wing tried to disrupt the speech of Andreotti's ally, Granelli, a Granelli ally told him to "shut up and pay attention." The disruptor responded by punching the other in the nose, only to be answered by a powerful uppercut that sent him in turn flying out of his chair. The room broke into complete chaos, while the fight on the podium went on for another ten minutes.

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## ASIA

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### *Gandhi dissolves state legislatures*

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi moved this week to dissolve the state assemblies of nine Indian states which are presently controlled by the opposition parties. The move is expected to bring a duplication of the massive Congress victory in the January national parliamentary elections, giving the Congress a consolidated hold on political machinery on both state and central government levels. There are presently seven out of 22 states under Congress governments—the nine include all the major northern states of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, the western states of Gujurat and Maharashtra and the key southern state of Tamil Nadu.

The opposition has predictably screamed "dictator" over the move, but as Home Minister Zail Singh pointed out the precedent for such a post-election dissolution of state governments was set by the opposition parties themselves when they swept the Congress out of power in 1977 and subsequently called state elections to oust Congress governments. The move is also impor-

tant as it will precede elections for one third of the upper house of parliament whose members are selected by indirect vote of the state legislators.

The key vote will be in Uttar Pradesh, the stronghold of Mrs. Gandhi's predecessor as Prime Minister, Charan Singh.

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## SOVIET UNION

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### *Gromyko says U.S. seeks military domination*

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in a Feb. 18 speech accused the U.S. of trying to "break the existing rough parity in military might" between East and West. "We shall not allow this to happen," he said. "The failure of plans to transform Afghanistan into a United States military bridgehead was received oversensitively overseas . . . Some politicians in the U.S. capital were unable to put their overwrought nerves in order . . . They discuss Iranian oil the way they discuss what is to be done in one's kitchen garden." Concerning U.S. claims that the Soviet Union wants to get to Persian Gulf oil and the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, Gromyko said the U.S. "takes its own plans and aspirations and attributes them to the Soviet Union."

"I don't know where they found this arc of crisis and whether it exists at all geographically, but one thing is clear—this is all the fruit of a sick fantasy." Gromyko attacked Washington's China card policy as a threat to world peace, and also criticized hypocritical U.S. efforts to pose as the true friend of Islam.

The Soviet Union is ready for disarmament talks in Europe, said Gromyko, provided that NATO "rescinds or cancels the December decision to base new medium-range missiles in Western Europe. The convocation of a conference on military detente and dis-

armament in Europe would meet the interests of reducing military confrontation on our continent."

Gromyko is optimistic: "Detente is too deeply rooted in international relations and has too many supporters for one country to be able to decide its fate unilaterally. Despite the trials it is going through, despite the present attempts of the American administration to ring its death knell, detente is alive and breathing."

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### *The Soviet press analyzes the 'Carter Doctrine'*

Outright opposition on the part of continental Europe to a bellicose stand against the Soviet Union is a fact that may not have penetrated policy-making circles around the Carter administration, but it has in the Soviet Union. A number of commentaries in the Soviet press in fact have described the "Carter Doctrine" as aimed primarily at America's European allies and the developing sector.

In *Pravda* this week, commentator V. Ovchinnikov reported that more and more people in the West are beginning to believe that Washington is out to subdue its own allies. "Washington thinks that it is easier to keep its junior partners on a short leash in an atmosphere of confrontation between East and West." Referring to NATO's decision to deploy the Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe, Ovchinnikov said, "For example, the American first-strike nuclear missile potential was dictated to the West European countries, in particular, in order to increase their military-political dependence on the U.S.A., to condemn them to the lot of hostages over whose fate Washington would preside."

Writing in the daily *Izvestia* on Feb. 18, Africa specialist Anatoli Gromyko, son of the Soviet Foreign Minister, analyzed the "conflict strategy" of Washington and London to strengthen their hold over the Third World's raw mate-

rial supplies. Their strategy of "stirring up tensions not only in Europe, but also in the Near and Middle East and in Africa" is to prevent the developing sector from moving toward a new international economic order. That policy is doomed to failure since it would "weaken the security of the Soviet Union, her friends and allies" and "change the balance of forces."

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## CANADA

### *Trudeau sweeps federal elections*

The Canadian Liberal Party, led by Pierre Elliot Trudeau has won a decisive victory over incumbent Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark. The Clark conservatives, in office with a minority government for only nine months, won only 103 seats against the Liberal Party's 132 candidates.

Although the immediate pretext for the election was a mid-December no-confidence vote against the Clark government's energy and taxation policies, the only significant policy differences between the two parties in the recent period lie in the area of foreign policy. Clark maintained a staunch anti-Soviet policy throughout his term in office, threatened to cut off Canadian aid to least developed nations and caused an international uproar by promising to move the Canadian embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Trudeau, on the other hand, is traditionally identified with a more friendly profile toward Africa and the ASEAN nations, is "liberal" on the Israel question and is consistently "soft" in regard to the Soviets, in keeping with his background in British Intelligence East bloc and Soviet penetration operations.

The Trudeau victory in Canada conspicuously coincides with the factional weakening of British circles associated with arch-Tory Keith Joseph and may give a preview of shifts in Britain.

## Briefly

● **TWO KOREAS** are talking again at preliminary discussions which are to lead to an unprecedented meeting of the two Prime Ministers. South Korean sources are wary of the "peace offensive" which has been launched by the unstable dictatorship of Kim Il Sung in the north. Those sources trace the offer to the visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown to China, backers of the Pyongyang regime. The Carter administration is known to favor North-South rapprochement as part of their 'China Card' policy.

● **SOVIET OVERTURES** to China appeared this past week in *Izvestia*, which declared Soviet willingness to sign a nonaggression pact with Peking. The Feb. 14 article noted that China should not complain about Soviet aid to Afghanistan—we did the same for you in the 1950s. The article predicts "efforts to build a wall of hostility...will not bring the desired results."

● **SAUDI ARABIA's** King Khalid was hospitalized this week for a recurrence of a chronic heart ailment, serious enough that French Prime Minister Raymond Barre cancelled his Feb. 23 visit. French Prime Minister Raymond Chirac to the French role in restarting the Euro-Arab economic dialogue and finding new approaches to resolving the Arab-Israeli con-

● **ELEVEN TERRORISTS** of a group calling itself the Front Line Popular Initiative were arrested last week by Athens police. Plans were found for the assassination of the ambassadors of the U.S., Israel and Turkey to Greece, the sabotage of U.S. military bases there, and the bombing of the U.S., German, Turkish, Israeli and Cyprus embassies. The terrorists claimed to have been trained in the Middle East—probably Iran.