

International Intelligence

Italy's president hit for terrorism charges

Charges by Italy's Socialist president, Alessandro Pertini, that the Soviet Union is responsible for world terrorism have unleashed an uproar in Europe. Italian observers are struck by two facts: the similarity of Pertini's statements to those of incoming American Secretary of State Alexander Haig in his Jan. 28 press conference and the irony that Pertini's own Italian Socialist Party has repeatedly been implicated in Italian terrorism.

Spokesmen for the West German security agency BKA dubbed Pertini's accusation against the U.S.S.R. "intuitive remarks which have the apparent advantage of not having to be proved," adding that Soviet support for Italian Red Brigades terrorists had not been demonstrated.

Italy's ambassador to Moscow was called in to receive a vehement protest against such charges coming from the president of the Italian Republic, while Italian journalists commented that Pertini had taken Italo-Soviet relations to their lowest point in the post-war period.

Japan to seek review of nuclear agreement

Japan will ask the Reagan administration to review the September 1977 agreement it made with Carter which "fetters" Japan's nuclear development, reported the Jan. 27 business daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*.

The agreement, which expires on May 31, limits nuclear fuel reprocessing by Japan, and was imposed due to Carter's alleged nonproliferation concerns. Japan neither has nuclear weapons, nor—given its people's post-Hiroshima "nuclear weapons allergy"—any current intention to produce them. However, the restrictions have hindered its atomic energy development.

A Japanese delegation is expected to arrive in Washington in March to discuss

the issue. State Department sources here cautioned *EIR* that the Reagan administration was still in the process of formation and had no policy on this issue as yet.

Nonetheless, Reagan's repeated statements during the campaign attacking Carter's implementation of the non-proliferation treaty and private statements by his advisers have given Japan reason to believe he will relax the restrictions.

In a related development, Japan's Hitachi Company announced plans to develop nuclear plants for export, particularly to Third World markets. Plants will range from 200,000 to 300,000 megawatts. Earlier intentions to develop an export capacity in this field had been shelved by some Japanese firms after they saw Carter administration pressure on other exporters, especially West Germany.

Saudis ask Reagan to break with Camp David

Saudi Arabian King Khalid concluded the summit of the 35-nation Islamic Conference Jan. 27 with a strong call to the Reagan administration to adopt an "even-handed" policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. Khalid echoed the dominant theme of the summit: that the new administration ought to break with the provocative Camp David policy and bring the Palestinians into the Arab-Israeli peace effort.

Khalid's appeal, which was virtually blacked out of the American news media, put a premium on future U.S.-Saudi relations should Reagan take a more rational course on Mideast policy. Khalid offered a new era in U.S.-Arab cooperation, an offer certain to involve abundant U.S. export openings in the developing Arab sector.

In this context, the Islamic Conference adopted a plan for a \$3 billion development fund for the Muslim world, of which \$1 billion will be contributed by the Saudis.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein also extended an olive branch to Washington Jan. 27 by declaring that Iraq is ready to accept a truce with Iran if Iran shows openness to Iraq's terms for such a truce.

Iranian situation veers toward anarchy

Following the release of the 52 American hostages, the factional struggle for control of Iran's Islamic Republic has intensified. Earlier this week, President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr accused his Islamic Republican Party opponents of two assassination attempts against him. The same day Premier Mohammed Ali Rajai, of the IRP, accused Bani-Sadr of deploying gangs to attack IRP offices in Meshed in northeastern Iran.

Warring factions waged a pitched battle in front of the home of Ayatollah Khomeini two days after the hostages were released, which left 11 dead. Sources report that Iran may soon be consumed in a bloody civil war. Recently the mullahs put a bill before the Iranian parliament to arm the Islamic Guard—the militia of the mullahs—with heavy artillery. This is seen as anticipating a war between the mullahs and Bani-Sadr, who wields power through factions of the Iranian military.

Vatican disturbs South American peace

The Argentine government is preparing public opinion for its expected early-February rejection of Pope John Paul II's recent proposed solution for its long-standing territorial conflict with Chile over the Beagle Islands.

These tiny islands lie in the Atlantic just south of the Straits of Magellan and were awarded to Chile a year back in a thoroughly ambiguous arbitration deci-

sion by the Queen of England. After going to the brink of war, the neighbors submitted the question to papal mediation.

The Vatican's suggested solution, however, breaks down the principled basis on which peace has persisted on the two countries' 2,900-mile border since 1902, the principle that Pacific Ocean watershed belongs only to Chile and the Atlantic only to Argentina.

The Pope's Dec. 12 proposal, as leaked by the Argentines, is for Chile to get not only the contested islands (which Argentina could accept), but also a six-mile swath of Atlantic Ocean to their east, with another six miles of demilitarized zone beyond that.

For Argentine nationalists, Chilean presence in the South Atlantic is intolerable, since both countries claim 200-mile sea limits and Chilean Atlantic claims could cut off Argentina's claims on the Antarctic.

Anti-drug organization formed in Mexico

One hundred and thirty representatives of parents', teachers', law-enforcement, medical and political groups met Jan. 17 in Guadalajara to found an anti-drug coalition. Located north of Mexico City, Guadalajara is a major center of marijuana and opium traffic.

The new group intends to join forces with fraternal anti-drug coalitions in the United States, Colombia, France, Italy, Sweden, West Germany, and other European countries. In particular, spokesmen said they will work to revive the highly successful mid-1970s cooperation between the U.S. and Mexico, which used paraquat to eradicate opium poppies and marijuana plants before the Carter administration dismantled the program.

The coalition launched a magazine, *Guerra a las Drogas (War On Drugs)*, edited by Carlos Mendez Trujillo, whose first issue has been ordered in bulk by leaders of several of Mexico's major trade unions. Following the conference,

the PRI governing party, which had been slow to officially respond to the coalition's organizing effort, asked to meet with the group to discuss joint antidrug campaigns.

Soviet radical faction maneuvers against Europe

Moscow's international department for foreign communist party affairs, headed by Boris Ponomarev, has stepped up its directives to European Communist Parties to toe a militant line, except for cooperation with social democrats on joint agitation for disarmament.

In a message to the Italian Communist Party (PCI) on its sixtieth anniversary, the Soviet Communist Party stressed the tradition of rejecting "reformist agreements and opportunistic adaptation," a slap at the alliance sought by PCI leader Enrico Berlinguer with pro-industry factions in the Christian Democracy, known as the "historical compromise."

A backup article in *Pravda* praised a regional coalition government combining the PCI and the Italian Socialist Party—although the Socialists are increasingly exposed as backers of terrorism—as an example of an appropriate "united front" for Communists.

Pravda also promoted this outlook in a Jan. 23 review of a book edited by V. Zagladin, Ponomarev's deputy, which portrayed the Communist International (where Ponomarev got his start) as a wellspring of superior political cadre.

The Prague-based *Problems of Peace and Socialism*, the multilingual international journal edited from Moscow's International Department, currently carries an article by French Communist Party writer Pierre Hentges arguing that "united action of the left at the base level" is vital to the fight for détente and disarmament." François Mitterand, the Socialist Party candidate sometimes attacked by Moscow as a "right-wing social democrat," should be "subjected to pressure from the base" to make him more leftist, the article concludes.

Briefly

● **HELMUT SCHMIDT'S** government was in serious trouble as of Jan. 30, after a group of left-wing Social Democrats, using the pro-Baader Meinhof magazine *Konkret* as their outlet, accused him of betraying the party. The potential has sharpened for a party split orchestrated by chairman Willy Brandt, who also heads the Socialist International.

● **THE TEL AVIV** Center for Strategic and International Studies ran a computer simulation of the Iran hostage affair four months before it actually took place. According to a Tel Aviv spokesman, the July 1979 simulation was nearly identical to what actually happened in November, including the form of U.S. response to the event. The Tel Aviv Center is the Israeli affiliate of the London International Institute of Strategic Studies.

● **MUAMMAR QADDAFI** plans destabilization operations into Sudan in the next few weeks, according to the Jan. 25 London *Observer*. Sharif al-Hindi, a political opponent of Sudan President Nimeiry, said in London that he expected an internal uprising in Sudan supported from the outside within the next few weeks. The *Observer* reported that a real threat could come from Sharif, financed by Qaddafi.

● **A FUSION ENERGY** Foundation forum in Mainz, West Germany on Jan. 23 drew 250 to hear a presentation on the results of the Voyager mission to Saturn. Eighty more had to be turned away at the door. The main speaker was the editor of *Fusion* magazine's German-language edition, Jonathan Tennenbaum.

● **MARGARET THATCHER** has replaced the Ayatollah Khomeini in the list of the three most hated figures in Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London, according to the *Washington Post*.