

International Intelligence

Weinberger presses an IMF defense policy

Top Air Force officials leaked the reports published in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* July 16 that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger favors air basing for the MX missile system. According to one official, if the administration adopts the Weinberger plan, Congress will reject the entire MX program. This outcome would cohere with the IMF call to limit U.S. defense spending for reasons of fiscal austerity.

The Air Force contends that Soviet nuclear attacks could prevent the planes from taking off; their communications would be disrupted; they could stay aloft for only a few hours; and they would be inaccurate launchers.

While the MX second-strike missile is itself an incompetent alternative to ABM development, the Weinberger policy is even less competent. Weinberger has focused on installing Pershing and Cruise missiles in Western Europe, weapons that would be obliterated instantaneously in the event of a Soviet first strike, but which could hit Soviet targets equally fast should they be launched first. This U.S. emphasis boils down to a commitment to a first-strike policy, not in-depth deterrence or war-fighting.

Military analyst seeks technology buildup

Adalbert Weinstein, military columnist for the West German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, published a July 15 commentary arguing that the current Euromissile debate has been overblown, because the coming decade will see a complete revolution in the technology of war.

Entitled "The Big War Will Not Be," the article echoes the approach of British circles linked to Foreign Secretary Lord

Carrington, citing space-based, computer-guided laser weapons systems as the military hardware of the future, with the capacity to destroy missiles even before they leave the ground.

Weinstein criticizes the United States for leaving this shift out of consideration in the Atlantic Alliance debate, and for failing to recognize that its tactical nuclear war doctrine is meaningless given the fact that the only war the Soviet Union is prepared to fight is total war, with a determination to win.

Ghanaian tribal wars ensure future famine

Northern Ghana, like northern Nigeria, is being torn apart by tribal wars, with the latest incident resulting in the massacre of over 500 people in one village alone, over 300 in another, and which sent 20,000 refugees fleeing into neighboring villages. The village of Wulensi, where the incident occurred, is now deserted, and the stench of death lingers weeks later.

The government has declared the region a disaster area, and is trying to assemble a relief team to dispense aid and medical treatment. Food in the area is critically low, and the remaining tribes are refusing to work their fields or travel in the area without army protection, disrupting the planting of casava, the staple root crop, which opens the possibility of famine next year.

Ghana's economy has been bankrupted due to high interest rates and the fall in cocoa prices internationally. At independence in 1957, Ghana had the highest per capita income in black Africa and the best-educated population. Today, roads and railways are unusable, industry is running at 20 percent capacity, many closing for lack of funds to run them.

No births or deaths have been recorded since March because there is no paper to print on; educated people are leaving

the country in droves.

The government is being particularly squeezed while negotiating an IMF loan of \$1 billion. The IMF demands a massive devaluation of the currency which President Limann is resisting. The last devaluation in 1971 was followed by a military coup.

Mitterrand gives Libya license in Africa

The French government announced July 15 that it will resume arms shipments to the government of Col. Muammar Qaddafi, lifting the embargo imposed by former President Giscard, and that Libyan troops will be trained in France. Included in the French shipment will be helicopters, 30 Mirage F-1 war planes, and about 10 fast patrol boats.

Qaddafi has vowed military moves against nations opposed to his "Greater Libya" scheme.

The French in turn will receive oil exploration rights in Libya. One Washington source commented that the deal is linked to a French troop withdrawal from Africa—which would bring chaos to countries like the Central African Republic and Niger, where French troops provide support and stability to the governments.

British try to recolonize Iraq

The British have set their sights on restoring their influence in Iraq following the June 7 Israeli bombing of Baghdad. Because Iraqi-Soviet relations are bad, and because Iraq blames the United States for the Israeli raid, London is trying to move into the vacuum. The number-two man in the British Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd, arrived in Bagh-

dad July 14 to participate in the July 17 Iraqi National Day celebrations. The British press described his presence as a major step forward in British-Iraqi relations.

According to Iranian sources, the British may be planning to offer Iraq nuclear technology, or even give them a bomb capability, to tighten their influence in Iraq.

Other Iranian sources report that London will try to trade its influence in Iraq to gain power in Iraq.

By promising the latter it can end the Gulf war, the British will gain points inside the Iraqi elite, eventually precipitating a military takeover in Iraq that will allow an Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory.

Polish economy overshadows congress

As the long-awaited Polish United Workers Party congress opened in Warsaw July 14, the most dramatic news story in the Polish capital was the impending rise of food prices by up to 220 percent. The collapse of the Polish economy loomed as the most pressing problem for the leadership of party First Secretary Stanislaw Kania and Prime Minister Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, even as they walked a political tight rope between the Solidarity unions and liberal reformers on one side and, on the other, the Soviet Union.

A much smaller price hike in July 1980 touched off the strikes that brought down the Edward Gierek regime and led to creation of Solidarity. One year of Solidarity's strikes and Kania's political balancing act, of 23 percent wage increases next to 15 percent drop in industrial production, has brought Poland to the point where Kania, in his speech to open the congress, said that it might be necessary for a national emergency to be declared.

European fusion effort urged to expand

Europe should remain in the front line of nuclear fusion energy research, recommends a report released this month to Euratom, the European Community's joint nuclear agency.

The fusion report, assembled by scientific and industrial representatives, proposes that the joint European fusion program receive a 30 percent funding increase over the next five years; proceed with the JET tokamak (magnetic confinement installation), which should reach breakeven in the mid-80s; and expand cooperation with the U.S. fusion program, especially the fusion mirror effort.

The committee also supported upgrading the work on West German stellarator machines.

Relations stronger between Spain and Mexico

Spanish Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo arrived in Mexico July 15 for talks with President José López Portillo in order to reinforce state-to-state economic deals, especially oil-for-technology arrangements. The visit thus represents a counterblow against the economic warfare launched by Exxon and other oil multinationals, which have tried to undercut Mexico's commitment to industrial development.

In statements delivered en route to Mexico City, Calvo Sotelo declared that Spain will maintain its current contracts to import Mexican oil, and will attempt to shift them to a government-to-government basis as Spain's new state oil company, Nacional de Hidrocarburos, gets off the ground. He also stressed Mexico's importance for Spanish industrial investment.

Briefly

● **EIR FOUNDER** Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., issued an emergency bulletin July 16 entitled "Security Nightmare at Ottawa," stressing the assassination danger to all participants in the July 20-21 Ottawa economic summit conference. In what he called "a last-minute appeal to reason," LaRouche warned that "no one should assume that recent improvements in security arrangements in Canada have ended the threat," because, if the friends of the Trilateral Commission fail at Ottawa, they will try again elsewhere, since their strategic policy requires imposing financial collapse and global dictatorship. LaRouche calls for the outright destruction of these forces "by bankrupting them" through a gold-backed credit system fostering technological growth.

● **PAUL VOLCKER**, at hearings held July 16 by the congressional Joint Economic Committee, not only upheld his interest-rate policy in the face of international opposition, but stated that the IMF and World Bank must take a stronger roll in the international economic system. JEC chairman Henry Reuss (D-Wisc.) confirmed that his own views are those of the Bank for International Settlements. Reuss has held secret meetings to discuss intensified austerity measures imposed through reform of the U.S. Constitution.

● **MENDEZ ARCEO**, the "Red" Archbishop of Cuernavaca, presided over a high-level seminar held in Mexico City the second week in July which brought together Jesuit priests and communists to plan a new wave of "Christian-Marxist" terrorism. Mexican Communist Party General Secretary Martínez Verdugo defended the fascist Cristero revolt of the 1920s in Mexico, and pledged that in the future his party would support similar uprisings.