

International Intelligence

Soviet marshals pick another basket case

Reports on the physical performance of Konstantin Chernenko at the funeral of Yuri Andropov in Moscow confirm that the Soviet military has once again chosen a man who quite literally will not lift a finger to interfere with the marshals' plans to push the world toward a global showdown.

During the 45-minute burial ceremony on Red Square on Feb. 14, Chernenko repeatedly had to accept physical support from Foreign Minister Gromyko and Defense Minister Ustinov.

Chernenko repeatedly stuttered and lost his place in the manuscript during his 8-minute speech, which was also interrupted by coughing and gasping. Sources cited by the West German daily *Die Welt* report that Chernenko is currently suffering from pulmonary emphysema.

As could be clearly seen by an international television audience viewing the funeral, Chernenko was unable to hold his hand to his head in a salute for more than a few seconds at a time.

After that Feb. 14 performance, articles on the "72-year old jogger with an iron constitution" have tended to disappear from the Western press. It is recalled, belatedly, that Chernenko disappeared from the Moscow political scene on two occasions in 1983 for a total of three months. Official explanation: "a cold."

Pugwash at work on the northern flank

The Pugwash disarmament movement, through which the Soviet Union has shaped the last 30 years of Western military doctrine, will concentrate its forces during the spring and summer on NATO's weak "Northern Flank," with two conferences now scheduled for Scandinavia in the coming months.

The organization for so-called U.S.-Soviet dialogue on strategic matters has sched-

uled, according to Pugwash executive director and Soviet appeaser Martin Kaplan, a March 16-20 conference on "Conventional Forces in Europe" in Copenhagen, an early-June conference on "Nuclear Forces and the Nuclear Freeze" in Geneva, and a July gathering near the mining town of Kiruna in Swedish Lapland.

The latter conference, said Kaplan, is being held on the personal invitation of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who wanted it held in the far north "because this whole area is a center of military activity." The area in question—northern Norway, Sweden, Finland—is the region of greatest Soviet superiority over NATO in all Europe, largely owing to the huge Soviet military complex at Murmansk.

A spokesman for Pugwash's Danish branch said that one of the intentions of the Copenhagen conference in March will also be to downplay what he termed "totally nonsensical" ideas which have recently emerged regarding the possibility of a Soviet surprise attack on the Danish peninsula and the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein.

Palme has remained in office despite revelations that the creator and policy director of his commission on disarmament, Norwegian foreign ministry official Arne Treholt, was a colonel in the Soviet KGB.

Gromyko rebuffs Japanese overture

The Soviets are continuing their campaign of pressure against Japan: Spokesmen for the Soviet embassy in Tokyo have announced that the Soviet Union will strengthen its military capability in the Far East if the United States deploys the Tomahawk cruise missiles in its Pacific fleet as discussed for July.

The point was underscored when Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko turned down Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe's invitation to visit Japan following talks between the two at Andropov's long-awaited funeral.

The two countries agreed, however, to meet in Moscow on March 12 to resume working-level talks on their territorial dispute. Gromyko told Abe there was no change in Moscow's position on the territorial question, and called the Nakasone cabinet's attitude toward the Soviet Union "unfriendly."

Turkey says no to nuclear-free zones

The Turkish representatives at the mid-February five-nation conference in Athens called to discuss the creation of a "nuclear-free zone" in the Balkans, threw a most undiplomatic monkey wrench into the appeasement plans of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. Turkish delegation head Mustafa Aksin denounced all talk of removing nuclear weapons from the Balkans as "an exercise in futility. . . . As a member of NATO, Turkey does not feel that these zones contribute to international security. They are a Soviet idea."

Aksin said his country would be willing to discuss economic, technical, scientific, and educational issues, but would like the nuclear issue to be "dropped altogether in future discussions."

Italians feel heat on Libyan connection

An EIR conference in Rome Feb. 15 held to release our dossier, "The Nazi-Soviet Alliance Behind International Terrorism," posed to the Italian government the question of its close relations with Qaddafi's Libya. The murder of the top U.S. anti-terrorist official in the Mediterranean region, Leamon Hunt, in Rome the preceding day, had made the issue urgent for the audience, which included Italy's foremost expert on Islam, the chief of the Rome police investigative office, two retired generals, representatives of three Third World embassies, and members of the press.

After EIR's Leonardo Servadio and Pao-

lo Vitali had briefed the assembly on Henry Kissinger's role in creating the superheated Middle East catastrophe, and the terrorist networks described in the *EIR* dossier, General Bonifazi, former head of the Italian Bersaglieri (special attack troops), intervened to expose how Italy's Agusta firm provides the Libyan government with training planes and military trainers, fueling terrorism in Italy.

A news conference on the same subject in Paris drew over 50, including representatives of the intelligence and diplomatic community, and young supporters of former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Journalists from three major newspapers attended. Three hours of presentations led to an intense discussion which examined the basis for the alliance between the seemingly disparate cultures of Soviet Russia and fundamentalist Islam.

Secessionists murder Indian diplomat

The kidnapping and murder of an Indian diplomat in Birmingham, England by a group calling itself the "Kashmir Liberation Army" was only the tip of the proverbial iceberg of anti-Indian operations focusing on the strategic Kashmir area.

The KLA terrorists who kidnapped Ravindra Mhatre on Feb. 3 demanded a million-dollar ransom and the release of their leader, Maqbool Butt. Butt, a Kashmiri secessionist agitator, was being held in an Indian prison, convicted of killing an Indian government official.

The Indian government rejected the blackmail. On Feb. 9, following Indian President Zail Singh's rejection of a plea for mercy, an Indian judge ordered Butt's execution.

Sources confirm that the KLA has made common cause with the so-called Khalistan secessionists in the neighboring state of Punjab, who seek the "liberation" of the Sikh population from the Indian nation. "Khalistan" is headquartered in London around its leader Jagjit Singh Chauhan, who maintains

links with the Swiss Nazi financier François Genoud.

The Kashmir government, under the administration of Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, has also brutally repressed members of Indira Gandhi's Congress Party who have opposed the secessionists.

In a recent interview with the London *Financial Times*, Congress Party General Secretary Rajiv Gandhi mooted the ouster of Farooq and imposition of "president's rule" in the troubled state, a good indication that New Delhi is considering drastic measures. Reports of armed training camps for Sikh extremists inside Jammu and Kashmir near the Punjab border, have confirmed New Delhi's concerns.

Apart from threatening the integrity of the nation, provocations around the Kashmir issue inevitably exacerbate the tense and difficult relations with Pakistan, which still occupies the part of Kashmir it invaded after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

Soviets behind new Sudan civil war?

Separatist violence in southern Sudan is threatening to engulf the country in a civil war. On Feb. 14, three hundred people were killed when guerillas fired on and sank a riverboat on the White Nile.

It was the worst incident in a series of attacks by separatists who, in the words of the Feb. 14 *London Guardian*, "could reunite the South in concerted opposition." The guerillas, grouped under the name "Anyanya II," aim at a replay of Sudan's 17-year civil war, which ended in 1972.

This has raised the spectre of a coup against the Nimeiri government, as well as regional chaos threatening Egypt.

President Nimeiri has charged that Libya is conspiring to partition Sudan.

Recent terrorist incidents target the government-sponsored development projects, such as the Chevron oil drilling and the Jonglei Canal project. Both operations have been suspended after French construction workers at the sites were killed or kidnapped.

Briefly

● **FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS** announced Feb. 14 that he is making a "two-day visit to Damascus upon personal invitation by the Syrian President Assad." Rumors circulated that Strauss was trying to "mediate between Syria, Israel and the U.S.A." But a working group which is collaborating with Britain's Lord Caradon, Henry Kissinger, and the head of the Soviet Institute of Orientology, Evgeni Primakov, is based in Strauss's own governmental office in Munich, and pushes the idea that "the Europeans, the parties in that region and the Soviet Union as a concerned, neighboring party know better what to do in the Mideast than the Americans."

● **TASS** compared French President Mitterrand to "warmonger" Ronald Reagan after Mitterrand's Feb. 8 speech in The Hague, Netherlands calling for Europe to join in building a space-based defense system against nuclear attack. The Soviet news agency *Novosti* added that "the allegations according to which orbital military stations and laser-fighting capabilities are aimed at purely defensive goals can only convince naive persons."

● **JEROME LEJEUNE**, the "pro-life" eugenicist, was selected to be the Pope's "personal representative" at the funeral of Yuri Andropov, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Vatican confirmed Feb. 14. A spokesman for the Academy said Lejeune would meet with Soviet academicians.

● **GEYDAR ALIYEV** met with his Chinese counterpart, Deputy Premier Wan Li, at the Andropov funeral. Although the outcome of the talks has been reported only as "substantive progress," the meeting was the highest level U.S.S.R.-China session since 1969.