

International Intelligence

Non-nuclear cruise missile in the works

The U.S. Defense Department is developing a high-explosive, non-nuclear version of the cruise missile that will be capable of hitting within inches of its target, the *New York Times* reported Sept. 14, citing Pentagon and congressional sources. The range of the missile has been doubled, the officials also stressed, saying the Navy has used one fired from a submarine to hit a target 3,000 miles away.

The implications of these developments in cruise missile technology would include: 1) replacing medium-range nuclear missiles withdrawn from Europe under an Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty; 2) use of precisely targeted cruise missiles instead of nuclear missiles in a European conflict; 3) reducing the need for aerial bombing; and 4) providing a new weapon against terrorists through the missile's ability to target single buildings.

The program will take 5 to 10 years to complete. However, in the Arabian Gulf, cruise missiles with conventional warheads have already been deployed by the United States aboard the battleship *Missouri* and the cruisers *Long Beach* and *Bunker Hill*, the *Times* asserts.

"Some officials," says the *Times*, speculate that "the first hostile use of cruise missiles would come in that region, if President Reagan ordered a strike against Iran. From the Arabian Sea, American cruise missiles could easily hit Iran as far north as Teheran."

Destabilization grows in Yugoslavia

Recent adverse developments with the Yugoslav economy have increased the threat of political destabilization of that Balkan country.

A financial scandal that led to Vice President Hamdija Pozderac's resignation, has revealed that the economy is on the verge of bankruptcy. The agro-industrial firm Agro-

komerc had issued promissory notes in local currency valued at roughly \$256 million—with no collateral—but a bank guaranteed them anyway. The institution that issued the guarantee, the Bank of Bihac, is now about to go under. Some 63 other banks are lining up to press their claims in court, some also facing bankruptcy in consequence of related losses. Agrokomerc's president is under arrest.

Vice President Pozderac, a Bosnian, resigned on Sept. 12, after his brother was linked to the Agrokomerc fraud. According to a Sept. 13 dispatch by the official Tanjug news agency, the Yugoslav Communist Party has expelled 42 members, and 28 of them are facing criminal proceedings—all over the same affair.

Compounding the destabilization of the country is terrorism in the Kosovo province by separatists of the Albanian-origin majority, being fueled by neighboring Albania and the Russian KGB. The terrorism there has led to an exodus of minority Serbs and Montenegrins. The Serbs are the majority Yugoslav population and dominate the army.

On Sept. 1, an ethnic Albanian conscript ran amok with automatic weapons in a military barracks in southern Serbia. Four non-Albanian soldiers died, and five others were wounded. The Belgrade funeral of one of the victims became the scene of a furious ethnic protest by more than 10,000 Serbs. According to government spokesmen, "some irrational behavior" occurred, referring to anti-Albanian slogans that were shouted.

The barracks killings have increased the potential for any new incident to provoke army intervention in Kosovo, an area with 55% unemployment.

Soviet provocations on northern flank

The Soviets have stepped up military provocations and "testing of wills" on NATO's northern flank. Two incidents in the air have occurred in three days, over the Baltic Sea and Barents Sea.

A Soviet jet fighter pursued a Swedish reconnaissance aircraft, coming within 60

feet of it, in international air space over the Baltic Sea, defense officials reported. The incident occurred Sept. 10.

Three days later, a Soviet SU-27 flanker fighter-bomber buzzed so close to a Norwegian patrol plane, an Orion P-3B, over the Barents Sea, that it damaged the right engine of the Norwegian craft, which had to make a forced landing.

Canada releases Sikh killers

Two Sikh terrorists were released from jail Sept. 16 in British Columbia, less than one month before Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is scheduled to make a trip to the province for a British Commonwealth meeting.

The pretext for the release of the Sikhs was that evidence against them was obtained illegally.

Reportedly, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) had lied to a court to secure wiretaps against a score of individuals suspected of involvement in a 1985 Air India crash that killed more than 400 people. Later, the wire-tap evidence was used to arrest nine Sikhs for an assassination plot against a visiting Indian government official. The two just released were among the nine involved in that plot. The remaining seven prisoners are expected to be released soon.

U.S. official caught spurring Panama riots

A U.S. embassy official was arrested while demonstrating with the "democratic opposition" in Panama the evening of Sept. 13. The U.S. embassy has already changed its story at least once in attempting an explanation.

U.S. embassy Commercial Attaché, David Miller was arrested wearing blue jeans and sneakers after the opposition had provoked police gunfire that killed one demonstrator. The local government council of the suburb in which the demonstration took

Briefly

place, accused Miller of directly taking part in the demonstration, and even inciting it.

Afterward, U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis personally went to the jail to try to spring Miller, and the embassy put out the story that Miller was on his way to the airport—in sneakers, blue jeans, and on foot! Later, Davis told a meeting of the opposition that Miller was attending the demonstration as an official observer.

Israelis support measures on AIDS

"The public is a little panicked, actually, I would say, the public is quite panicked." This is the view of a leading AIDS expert working at Israel's Al-Sam anti-drug center. Public concern that the AIDS pandemic could spread uncontrolled throughout the country's tiny 4 million population, has gone a long way toward assuring that the Health Ministry's recent introduction of screening enjoys popular support. Indeed, letters continue to pour into Israel's dailies, from readers demanding more government action to expand testing.

At present, testing is compulsory for active military personnel, prisoners, and "those suspected of carrying a contagious disease," e.g., prostitutes and intravenous drug-users. In the army, urine tests had already been introduced to identify drug users; last year 700 soldiers were sentenced for drug abuse. Now, as a result of a Supreme Court ruling denying "civil rights" arguments against testing, since any soldier may be exposed to drugs and to AIDS infection, they may be forced to submit to testing for both.

Military police to date have tested all those persons known to have taken drugs, to have been engaged in criminal activities, or to have been exposed to AIDS. In addition, all new recruits are tested. Since soldiers on active duty are asked to donate blood every six months to the national Red Cross, and all donations are tested for AIDS, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has de facto instituted regular screening.

Intravenous drug abusers, whose number is estimated to range between 12,000

and 20,000, are also being tested for AIDS. Since government authorities have registered heroin users and those in methadone programs, centralized data make it possible to identify, and test, persons considered members of this "fast-track" transmission group. The Health Ministry has a reading of results of urine tests, as centralized in the Sheba Medical Center.

AIDS-infected persons are not allowed to conduct activities which may endanger others. Thus, not only prostitutes are barred from communicating the disease, but also persons employed in food-handling, etc., if infected, are employed elsewhere.

Kremlin and State Dept. deal-making in Mideast

Reports indicate that the Middle East and Northern Africa are being "crisis managed" by the State Department and the Kremlin—in the Soviets' favor.

On Sept. 12, Radio Moscow praised the Chad-Libya ceasefire, making no attacks on Chad. Usually, Soviet reports on the Libyan aggression against Chad, and its military reversals by the Chadians with U.S. and French support, are stridently pro-Libyan. The even-handed tone of the Radio Moscow broadcast would indicate that the ceasefire reflects an East-West deal.

Soviet radio also reported that OAU President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia has announced that the OAU committee formed to attempt to settle the dispute will meet in the Zambian capital of Lusaka Sept. 24-25. Chester Crocker, the State Department's "regional matters" negotiator with the Russians over the region, was recently in Zambia.

In the same vein, the *International Herald Tribune* has reported that both Washington and Moscow intervened to prevent Libya from delivering Soviet-made sea mines to Iran. The United States sent a strong warning to Libya, saying that if any U.S. ship would be hit by such mines in the Gulf, Libya would be considered responsible. The Soviets are also said to have pressured Libya not to go through with the deal.

● **3 MILLION** Muslim workers have been "released" from their jobs in the Soviet Union, and shipped off to Siberia. Soviet officials say the "releases" were due to "redundancies" caused by "increases in productivity." On the state railways, 280,000 workers were laid off, and in the oil industry, 70,000 workers were released—most of them in the poorer Islamic Central Asian regions, suffering from, according to Soviet officials, "a surplus of manpower," due to "rapidly growing birth rates." Most signed up for jobs in designated, manpower-short development centers in Siberia and the Far East.

● **CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC** voters, unhappy with the Kohl government's economic policies, virtually boycotted two elections in the German states of Schleswig-Holstein, where turn-out for the ruling party was down 8.2%, and Bremen, down 5.4%. In the twin city-states of Bremen and Bremerhaven, the Christian Democratic vote fell from 33.3% in 1983 to a record low of 23.4% this year.

● **AMIRAM NIR**, one of four Israelis exposed for involvement in illegal U.S. weapons sales to Iran, was fired Sept. 15 by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Nir had been the prime minister's adviser on terror.

● **THE ROMANIAN** news agency announced the appointments of two deputy prime ministers and the dismissal of three others, in a move described as "strengthening the management of economic sectors and ministries." In August, the Soviet weekly *New Times* and youth paper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, had sharply attacked Romania's economic policy.

● **AIDS LEAFLETS** containing basic information about the disease are being delivered to every letterbox in Moscow, according to *Izvestia*.