

85,000 to 25,000. There is a serious lack of spare parts that has grounded a great deal of military equipment, especially airplanes.

Arson attack targets Franco-German alliance

Two heavy arson attacks destroyed offices of the French Renault corporation in Hamburg, West Germany on Jan. 25, causing several million deutschemarks of damage. The move comes as French and German leaders have been mapping out a program for increased military and political cooperation.

The Institut Français in Hamburg found a letter in its mailbox, which stated that the two attacks had been carried out by supporters of the Direct Action terrorist gang, leading members of which are on trial in Paris. The letter referred to the developing Franco-German cooperation as "repressive" and announced more such attacks to come.

The incident corroborates warning statements one week before by German anti-terror police, that attacks on "political-economic and military institutions of the new Franco-German cooperation" are to be expected.

NATO commander wants new missiles for Europe

NATO Supreme Commander Gen. John Galvin has charged that the Soviets began bringing short-range missiles into Eastern Europe, to replace those that are supposed to be dismantled under the INF accord, immediately after the pact was signed in December 1987. In a breakfast meeting with defense correspondents in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 23, he urged that the United States deploy new short-range nuclear missiles in Europe, to compensate for the firepower that would be lost by the withdrawal of intermediate-range nuclear forces.

Galvin underlined that the Soviet moves mean that charges which Soviet Foreign

Minister Eduard Shevardnadze raised on his recent visit to Bonn, against modernization of NATO short-range missiles, are "mere propaganda."

Galvin said he supports the INF pact, and that reductions by the Warsaw Pact and NATO could save money, but said that the agreement will carry "more risk than we ought to be ready to take" unless it is offset by upgrading NATO's nuclear and conventional arsenals.

Galvin recommended development of a nuclear-tipped successor to the Lance ground-based nuclear missile, which could be launched by fighter planes, and an increase above the current ceiling of 1,000 rounds on nuclear artillery, "because that makes the whole defensive setup less vulnerable." He also recommended modernizing existing nuclear bombs. He called for modernization of conventional forces and the development of new weapons, such as the Air Force's Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System.

AIDS scare reported in the Soviet Union

There is a growing "AIDS scare" in the U.S.S.R., accompanied by propaganda painting AIDS victims as inferior undesirables, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* reported on Jan. 27.

The Soviet trade union newspaper *Trud* recently revealed that Russians are afraid to go to laboratories, barber shops, manicure parlors, cafes, and public baths. Some bars and restaurants are now deserted.

Trud and other Soviet publications report that they have received hundreds of letters on AIDS. One contained a proposal for tattooing homosexuals, drug-addicts, and prostitutes. Another proposed testing all pregnant women, and forcing abortions for those testing positive.

Corriere reports that the Soviets are planning to create 1,000 laboratories for AIDS testing (20 now exist), despite the official claim that only 265 people in the Soviet Union are infected, and only 4 people have actually been sick with the disease.

Briefly

● **BRITISH NUCLEAR** scientist Russell Smith, who worked at the Harwell nuclear research center, is reported missing. His case may be related to those of six British researchers involved in SDI-related research who died in 1987 under suspicious circumstances.

● **A NEW ROUND** of Soviet-Israeli negotiations was held in mid-January in Helsinki, Finland, chaired by Michael Novick of the Israeli foreign ministry. According to Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov, an agreement was reached for an Israeli consular delegation to visit Moscow soon to "inspect Israeli properties."

● **THE POLLARD** spy network will be the subject of a new *EIR* Special Report, scheduled for release soon. It will feature new material on the Soviet-Israeli "false flag" espionage operation originally exposed with the November 1985 arrest of Jonathan J. Pollard, and will analyze the December 1987 arrest in Israel of accused Soviet spy Shabtai Kalmanovich.

● **U.S. INTELLIGENCE** agencies are convinced that Soviet laser attacks have damaged American spy satellites deployed to monitor missile and spacecraft launchings at the Soviet space center at Tyuratam, according to a UPI wire of Jan. 24.

● **PALESTINIAN** moderate leader Hanna Siniōra, editor of the Arabic Jerusalem daily *Al Fajr*, proposed a new initiative for dealing with the crisis in Israel, in a commentary in the *Washington Post* published Jan. 28. He called for a political combination of the Palestinians, a faction of the Labour Party, and a faction of the Likud to achieve peace, with the leadership and mediation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Siniōra gave an exclusive interview to *EIR*, Aug. 8, 1986.