

International Intelligence

Italy favorable to new U.S. air base

During his April 1 visit to Rome, Secretary of State George Shultz was told by Italian leaders that NATO studies were "favorable" to establishing Italy as the new home of the 72 U.S. jet fighter planes ordered out of Spain at the end of 1987. Shultz spoke of his Mideast "peace plan," as well as the air bases, in his meetings with President Francesco Cossiga, Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, and Defense Minister Valerio Zanone.

An announcement after Zanone's meeting with Shultz, said NATO studies "are proceeding in a very satisfactory manner and have furnished favorable indications."

Shultz also met privately with Pope John Paul II April 2, and attended Easter Sunday Mass at St. Peter's before departing for his five-day, five-nation Mideast tour.

Israel supplying China with advanced warheads

Israel has signed a secret deal to supply advanced missile warheads to China, according to London's *Sunday Times* April 3, but Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has denied it, according to the *Washington Times* the following day.

"Evidence is accumulating that an enormous arms trade between the two countries has been going on for years," the London paper wrote. The *Sunday Times* described details and named five members of an Israeli negotiating team that traveled secretly to Beijing Nov. 22-27, 1987, using fake Filipino passports.

One member of the team, Israel Radomsky, told the *Sunday Times* the mission had the approval of the "highest levels of the Israeli government."

The report identified the other members of the Israeli team as Willie Zalmon, Hanoch Ayalon, Shmuel Elad, and Asa Ziv, adding that they were assisted by Israel's consul-general in Hong Kong, Reuven Mer-

hav.

The lid was blown off the operation when Israeli middleman Zvi Gafni was arrested in Hong Kong. Gafni had a previous drug conviction in Hong Kong and was under suspicion of links to international arms dealers, cocaine smuggling into Mexico and the United States, illegal sale of computers to the communist bloc, and distribution of counterfeit U.S. dollars, according to the *Sunday Times*. Mossad agent Merhav had been sent to Hong Kong by David Kimche to assist in the arms deal, according to the newspaper.

Kimche has been working for Shaul Eisenberg since October 1986, when he was ousted from the Foreign Ministry after Shimon Peres took over the ministry. Eisenberg is the "richest man in Israel" and the "key Israeli figure in the China trade." He is linked to two other Iran-Contra figures, Al Schwimmer and Ya'acov Nimrodi. Eisenberg, who is the biggest independent trader in Chinese products, has been making a survey of China's industrial needs, at China's behest, since 1984, and has organized a \$6 billion consortium of European firms, including Salzgitter of West Germany, Alsthom of France, and ACEC of Belgium to develop the coal-rich Yunnan region.

Knights of Malta selecting new sovereign

In mid-April, 36 electors will gather in Rome "in solemn and secret conclave, to elect a blue-blood sovereign for history's oldest chivalric order and the world's smallest state," the April 2 *Los Angeles Times* reported. The Knights of Malta will be selecting his Most Eminent Highness Prince and Grand Master of the Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, to replace the deceased Angelo de Mejana di Cologna, who was elected in 1962.

Only 22 Europeans are eligible. They can "trace noble lineage on both sides of their families for at least 200 years," the *Times* said.

The 36 electors will include two Americans. "One, interim order leader Giancarlo Pallavicini . . . studied biochemistry at Columbia University and worked at the NIH in Washington," while the other is "businessman J. Peter Grace." Also members of the order are former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca, and Washington, D.C. mob lawyer Edward Bennett Williams.

The order's choice will have to be ratified by Pope John Paul II, as required in the order's constitution.

Soviets in pogrom against Ukrainian church

The Russian Orthodox Church, "with active support of the Communist Party and local authorities," has been conducting a pogrom-like campaign to take over "illegal" Ukrainian Catholic parishes in the western Ukraine, sources at the Vatican in Rome report.

The Ukrainian Catholic or "Uniate" Church was outlawed by Stalin. It owes allegiance to Rome.

The Ukrainian church in Kalinovka was invaded and disrupted during Christmas Eve services by police and local officials, in evident reprisal at the priest of the church there, Fr. Zeleniuk, who had defended Uniates' claim to legality. A ranking provincial official later turned over Zeleniuk's church to Russian Orthodox priests.

Similar incidents, leading to seizure of Uniate churches by Russian Orthodox priests, have occurred at Nahachiv, Ustia, and Starychi.

New era in tuning launched in Milan

World-renowned opera singers soprano Renata Tebaldi and baritone Piero Cappuccilli addressed a conference in Milan, Italy on April 9, which was held to launch a movement to return to the classical norms of tuning, before A-440 and even higher

pitches were imposed.

The conference was convened by the Schiller Institute, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the wife of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., who has written numerous articles on the scientific basis for a tuning of C-256. Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche addressed the gathering of approximately 200 in this world capital of opera, invoking the ideals of the poet Schiller as the model for advancing the whole of society through art.

Speeches and greetings were sent to the conference by many well-known musicians, among them tenors Luciano Pavarotti, Alfredo Kraus, and Placido Domingo, soprano Anneliese Rothenberger, violinist Wolfgang Schneiderhans, and the head of the organ department of the Pontifical Academy of Music.

Miss Tebaldi was greeted by a standing ovation, and spoke for half an hour on the damage which too-high pitch has done to voices and instruments. Seventy musicians signed an Appeal to Lower the Pitch.

Russians call for space-launch inspections

In their latest effort to derail the American Strategic Defense Initiative, a Soviet memorandum, published by TASS, and said to have been submitted to the Geneva disarmament talks on March 17, offers to open the Soviet space program to full international inspection if other nations do the same. It also proposes to bar the deployment of weapons in space.

"The principal goal of establishing an international space inspectorate is to take measures to verify that any objects being launched into and orbited in space by states party to the agreement are not weapons and are not provided with any type weapons," the Soviet proposal said.

The proposal called for on-site inspections immediately prior to every space launch and the permanent stationing of international inspector groups at all launch sites.

The Soviets defined space objects as any

craft intended for launching and orbiting in space, thus excluding ballistics missiles.

Soviet fleet spotted in Sea of Japan

A fleet of six Soviet warships led by the aircraft carrier *Novosibirsk* was spotted cruising north in the sea of Japan some 200-300 kilometers off Wajima in Ishikawa Prefecture early on April 4, Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force reported. An MP6-class missile supply ship thought to be carrying SS-N-5 anti-sea and anti-ground attack nuclear missiles, was part of the fleet, which moved to waters some 80 kilometers north of Iki island, Shimane Prefecture, by noon.

The Soviet fleet was believed to be present because of the *Team Spirit '88* U.S.-South Korea military exercise now under way in South Korea.

It was the first time since August 1987 that the 37,000-ton *Novosibirsk* belonging to the Soviet Pacific Fleet has been confirmed operating near Japan.

Threat to Thailand is real: Sigur

The recent battles between Thai troops and Laotian invaders in the border region of Phitsanuloke is evidence that Thailand's status as "a front-line state" is more than rhetoric, Gaston Sigur, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, said the first week of April.

Speaking to the House Appropriations Committee about the \$442 million he said was needed in aid to Thailand in FY1988, Sigur noted that Thailand is in the process of restructuring its armed forces to face not only the armies of Laos and Kampuchea, but also the over 150,000 Vietnamese forces in those two countries.

"Together, these armies significantly outnumber the Royal Thai Army, without considering the even larger and better equipped military units in Vietnam itself," Sigur said.

Briefly

● **IRANIAN** or Iraqi jetfighters crossing into Turkish airspace will be shot down without warning, announced Turkey's prime minister, Turgut Özal, on March 28. He made the announcement after an Iranian jet fighter's bombardment of the Turkish town of Habur on March 24. Habur is a strategic crosspoint for trade between Turkey and Iraq. Iran later apologized, calling the incident a "mistake."

● **CHINA** is experiencing an epidemic of hepatitis. More than 600 people have died in the northwest, according to London's *Daily Telegraph*. The health ministry is officially saying that, in the last 18 months, 122,000 cases of the infection have been reported. In Shanghai, the disease has killed 11 people, but infected more than 400,000. Hepatitis spreads under conditions of poor sanitation.

● **SOVIET SPIES** are being sent to Israel, before being given assignments elsewhere, according to Isser Harel, founder of Israel's Mossad. His statements were reported in the March 29 *Jerusalem Post*. "One Soviet method of planting spies in other countries has been to send them through Israel," he said.

● **FRENCH DEFENSE** Minister André Giraud warned Libya April 6 not to attempt to use the diversion represented by the French presidential election period to launch new attacks on Chad. He reported the Libyans to be massing troops and tanks at Chad's borders. France will "meet its commitments" and defend Chad, said Giraud.

● **400,000 BOOKS** were destroyed by fire at the Leningrad library, Soviet press now admit. The Feb. 14 fire consumed, among other collections, the tracts, letters, and manuscripts of G.W. Leibniz, Western historians believe. One Soviet official called the fire "a cultural Chernobyl."