

International Intelligence

Malaysian leader hits Project Democracy

Speaking before the U.N. General Assembly, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamed took to task the representatives of the U.S. "Project Democracy," the State Department agents of destabilization internationally. "It would be tragic if a working, prosperous nation is destroyed because some self-appointed democrat felt it was not democratic enough," he declared.

Without naming the Philippines, Panama, Korea, or other nations, he stated, "The 'holier than thou' attitude is out of tune with modern times. As with fanatical religious proselytizers, the so-called champions of democracy are not averse to using undemocratic and coercive means to force their particular brand of democracy on the weak and the poor. Refusal to comply results in all kinds of economic and political arm-twisting."

He also called for the creation of an international agency manned by a fulltime staff to eradicate poverty. He insisted that poverty cannot be wiped out by one nation alone or through ad hoc charitable efforts.

"We see living children being literally devoured by flies," he said. "We see skeletons hobbling around. We see people so ill that we wonder how they survive at all." Mahathir was caustic on the subject of "environmentalism." "Even if we have to spend billions on . . . preserving the beauty of nature, the forest, the rare insect species, and the other things that we claim will enhance the quality of our life, we have no excuse in this day and age to permit such misery to befall millions of fellow humans."

U.N. delegates stood in line to offer their congratulations after the prime minister's speech.

U.S. blocking British sales to China

British efforts to sell in-flight refueling equipment to the Chinese Air Force are being blocked by the United States, which is fearful the equipment will boost Beijing's air power dramatically, enabling it to mount

operations in areas currently out of range.

But U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci is, at the same time, believed to be secretly trying to sell American fighter-bombers to China.

Both the United States and Japan have objected to Beijing's deal with the British FR Group, on the grounds it would give China an increased capability to launch attacks on Japan. The equipment would be fitted first to 20 of China's aging Qiangjiji-5 fighter and strike aircraft, a copy of the Russian MiG-19. Some of China's H-6 bombers, a copy of the Soviet Tu-16 Badger aircraft, would be converted into airborne tankers.

China does not currently possess any airborne refueling equipment. Once acquired, areas of Southeast Asia would come within range, including large portions of Vietnam, thus considerably strengthening China's hand in disputed places such as the Spratly Islands.

The U.S. protest has led to the deal being referred to the Paris-based CoCom, the Atlantic alliance agency which restricts the sale of sensitive equipment to communist countries.

Kaunda attacks approach to AIDS

The President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, told the Long Island, New York daily *Newsday* that many Western scientists and drug companies view Africans as "mere guinea pigs" in the fight against AIDS.

Kaunda said that Africans all too often are being looked upon either as potential recipients of untested drugs and vaccines, or as the subject of AIDS research that brings fame to foreign scientists but no relief to suffering African patients.

"I wish that some international regulations could be formulated which would place controls on these matters. . . . How could anybody think we should be guinea pigs here? Human beings! I can't understand that. We are all one human race, and for any part of it to be treated as guinea pigs, because of their race or I don't know what, is wrong. . . . We should be uniting our forces, weak and strong, coming together, because in the end AIDS knows no boundaries."

Kaunda will give the keynote address to the International Meeting on AIDS, to be held in Montreal next June. Two of the President's sons have died from AIDS.

Palestinian council finally to meet

After much delay, the Palestinian National Council is finally expected to meet on Oct. 31. The final date was decided on by Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat after much pressure by the Soviets to postpone the gathering even longer.

But Arafat decided that if the Likud wins the upcoming Israeli election, the PNC would be unable to make any political concessions to Israel, out of fear that they would be seen as displaying weakness in the face of Israeli hardliners.

The conference will hence be held just one day before the Israeli elections. But under Soviet pressure, reported by *Le Monde* on Oct. 15, the PLO has abandoned the idea of creating a government-in-exile, and will only issue a "declaration of Palestinian independence."

Another feature of the PNC meeting will be the integration of West Bank Islamic fundamentalists who had mounted a challenge to the PLO there, but have now "reconciled."

However, a main question is where the meeting will be held. Palestinian sources report that Algiers was ruled out because of security concerns in the present unstable situation. Tunis may be the next selection. An assassination attempt on Arafat is feared.

Taiwan adviser resigns over Moscow trade

Republic of China President Lee Teng-hui's senior personal adviser resigned Oct. 17 amid press reports of a high-level dispute over trade links with Moscow.

A presidential office statement said Shen Chang-huan, the President's secretary who twice served as foreign minister, resigned because of ill health.

But the *United Daily News* reported on Oct. 13 that Shen opposed a visit to the

Soviet Union this month by a 60-member trade delegation and raised his objections at a meeting of the ruling Nationalist or Kuomintang party's top policy-making body.

Signs of growing Israel-Soviet ties

The "Society for Friendship and Relations with Israel" has just been created in the Soviet Union, with the official support of the Soviet government. The organization was one of the sponsors of a rally on Sept. 27 to commemorate the Babi Yar massacre of Jews near Kiev during World War II.

Although the Soviets authorized such a commemoration last year, this year was the first time that state-supported organizations participated. Also present was the Soviet-run Anti-Zionist Committee, as well as members of the Israeli consular delegation in Moscow. The commemoration received widespread coverage by Tass and Moscow's *Evening News*.

The Israelis, too, upgraded their delegation. Its leader, Gordon Meron, a diplomatic attaché to the embassy in Rome, is to be recalled and replaced by Arich Levin, a diplomat of ambassadorial rank who heads the Foreign Ministry's Research Division, i.e., intelligence.

Meanwhile, Industry Minister Ariel Sharon became the first official to pay a state visit to Hungary, in mid-October. (Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's September trip was described as a "private visit.") Of interest, Sharon arrived in Budapest via Sofia, Bulgaria. Although Sharon had requested only a "transit visa" through Bulgaria, Israeli sources acknowledged that he met with Bulgarian officials somewhere en route. There are also widespread but unconfirmed reports that he recently met with Soviet-backed Palestinian terrorist leader George Habash of the PFLP.

Sharon's visit to Hungary is primarily expected to yield economic contracts. Hungary, like most East bloc countries, wants to benefit from Israel's "free trade" agreement with the United States, which allows a third country engaged in a venture inside Israel to re-export its product to the United States duty free.

Over the past year, well-to-do Israelis

are reported to have flooded Budapest. The latest economic survey published there shows that 40% of the gamblers in Hungary's casinos are holders of Israeli passports!

Italy's De Mita meets Mr. Gorbachov

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov told Italian Premier Ciriaco De Mita in Moscow that he fears a return of anti-Sovietism in the United States during the transition period between the election of the new President and his inauguration, according to the Oct. 16 daily *La Repubblica*. Gorbachov referred to a recent Henry Kissinger article in *Newsweek* as an example of Soviet concern: "Kissinger goes so far as to hypothesize a broader Europe up to Poland and excluding the U.S.S.R. We say no."

Answering a question from De Mita on the Soviet preference in the U.S. elections, Gorbachov said, "I am for the continuity of American policy. The Democrats have some interesting ideas, but they lack the courage to implement them. The Republicans think less, this indeed is true, but they do things, or at least they try to do it."

Gorbachov claimed, "The enemy image here is rapidly vanishing. We don't want at all, therefore, to decouple Europe from the United States. You have to consider this. The U.S.S.R. is also interested in European security and does not represent a threat anymore."

De Mita, for his part, specified the preconditions for a Western "Marshall Plan" for Russia. Speaking at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, he expressed the sentiments circulated by Italian businessmen who are there for the Italia 2000 exposition. "The Soviet Union has to propose a coherent and credible plan to increase East-West economic cooperation. . . . Such issues as currency convertibility, the free circulation of people, goods, and capital, the certainty of the laws, are part of this needed picture. Immediately after these come the necessity to develop great transnational economic projects . . . for real cooperation between the socialist community and European Community and the unified market we will have after 1992."

Briefly

● **THE PERONIST** candidate, Carlos Menem, has officially launched his campaign for next May's Argentine presidential elections, pledging to live up to his promises of higher wages and lower taxes. Menem has promised a five-year moratorium on interest payments on a \$56 billion foreign debt. Recent polls have given him a 15-point lead.

● **EUROPEAN COMMUNITY** foreign ministers meeting in Greece Oct. 15-16 decided to seek "closer contacts with the Soviet Union." But the meeting was factionalized, as British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe urged caution: "We shouldn't assume that the changes mean that Gorbachov is a convert to democracy. He is a Communist Party leader with great problems in his own country."

● **'THE DECADENT** capitalist nations must be lulled to sleep by the greatest peace proposals ever made in history, and when their guard is down, we will crush them with our clenched fist," taught Dmitri Manuilski at the Soviet Military School a few years ago, says F.G. Dreyfus in the October issue of *La Presse Française*.

● **A GREEN PARTY** member of the German Bundestag was caught photocopying a top-secret defense plan for the 1990s. Gertrude Schilling confessed to making copies of the whole plan and providing them to "colleagues and friends" who were "also interested."

● **THE FASCIST JVP**, an ethnic Sinhala chauvinist organization, has ordered the people of Sri Lanka's southern province to deploy two members from each family to all anti-government demonstrations or face execution.

● **PLAGUE** has broken out in areas of southwestern and northern China and is spreading, a senior health official told *China Daily* on Oct. 12.