

# International Intelligence

## ***Witchhunt on against German defense minister***

Having ousted Bundestag President Philipp Jenninger in November, the Soviets now want to oust West German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz. Since mid-January, Soviet assets have surfaced left and right to accomplish the task.

First, the district court of Wuppertal is hearing a case against Scholz for alleged violation of safety rules in the Remscheid crash of an A-10A Thunderbolt II aircraft.

Second, former Deputy Defense Minister Peter-Kurt Würzbach used a session of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group in Bonn on Jan. 17 to declare he felt badly mistreated by Scholz, who had fired him in December.

Würzbach received applause from the group, while Scholz, intervening promptly to correct Würzbach, was booed. Group chairman Alfred Dregger did not intervene on behalf of either, interestingly enough. Chancellor Helmut Kohl did, however, stating his support for Scholz.

Third, all Social Democrats and Greens on the parliamentary defense commission walked out of its meeting Jan. 18 when Scholz rose to explain his plan for limiting and restructuring air force training flights. The training flights have been plagued by repeated and uncanny crashes, widely believed to be Soviet-directed sabotage, possibly involving electromagnetic-pulse weapons. But the crashes, often involving civilian deaths on the ground, have been used to whip up hysteria against NATO forces in Europe.

In the parliamentary defense commission, charges were issued that Scholz was "blocking the only meaningful step, banning all flights at low altitudes for the time being"—which would severely impair NATO air force readiness.

Finally, Social Democratic members of the commission investigating the Ramstein Air Show disaster, in which three planes engaged in a routine show maneuver collided, burst into a fireball, and killed 50 spec-

tators on the ground, ostentatiously welcomed Würzbach when he arrived to testify Jan. 18.

## ***Shultz hails CSCE accord***

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, after an agreement was reached on the final documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE or Helsinki Agreement) in Vienna, exultantly declared that the accord was of "great importance."

According to Shultz, the crowning achievement of East-West relations in the near future, would be the tearing down of the Berlin Wall by the Soviets.

Various Western analysts have recently expressed concern that the Soviet Union might conduct a public relations ploy over doing exactly that, as part of a new "Stalin Note," by Gorbachov. The Stalin Note of 1952 pledged a reunified Germany, but clearly under Soviet domination.

The obstacles to the CSCE agreement were removed in the past days, when Romania, on the one hand, and Greece and Turkey, on the other, were bludgeoned into line after they had raised last-minute objections.

In Vienna now, talks are to begin soon on "conventional stability," i.e., disarmament.

## ***Israel pushed to recognize PLO***

The new coalition government of Israel is coming under growing pressure, from both within and without, to recognize and deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israeli peace groups are about to launch a major offensive to force the leadership of the Labor Party to change the party program's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state and negotiations with the PLO. This is one of the results of a Jan. 12-13 seminar in Paris, where "indirect" talks be-

tween Israeli and PLO officials took place. These were characterized as very "successful" by sources.

The pressure is already being felt inside the Labor Party. On Jan. 15, Secretary General Uzi Baram resigned in protest over party leader Shimon Peres's anti-PLO policy.

Meanwhile, the latest opinion polls have registered 56% of Israelis in favor of direct talks with the PLO, if its renunciation of terrorism proves real. Speaking on Jan. 10 before of the Knesset Defense Committee, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron revealed that the PLO has not sponsored any terrorism or operation of military infiltration from Lebanon against Israel since last November.

A few days later, Gen. Mordechai Gur, the former chief of staff, said that the Israeli government would finally have to recognize that there is no way around inclusion of the PLO in Mideast peace talks.

Foreign pressure for such actions is also mounting. In the "public part" of a Jan. 13 meeting between a junior British Foreign Office minister, Waldegrave, and Yasser Arafat in Tunis, Waldegrave made a point of being overheard telling the PLO leader that he would not be satisfied "as long as you don't have a place you can call your own," i.e., a Palestinian state. Arafat later stressed that the importance of good relations with Britain is that, while other European countries have "good ties with America, Britain has influence."

Of note, the chairman of the Anglo-Israeli parliamentary committee reacted that Britain and the Europeans should stop "trying to put undue pressure on Israel . . . because everybody knows that sooner or later Israel will talk directly to the PLO."

## ***Did Soviets snatch missile data recorder?***

The Soviet intelligence services probably stole the flight data recorder from a U.S. strategic missile after its 1987 test firing near Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, wrote Marc Berkowitz, an analyst from the National Institute for Public Policy, in a

## Briefly

commentary in the Jan. 15 *Washington Post*. The United States has been unable to recover the recorder, despite five separate searches.

The article points out that "such operations are within the capabilities of 'special designation' (*spetsnaz*) units deployed with each of the four Soviet fleets," and says that this may be "part of an expanding pattern of naval *spetsnaz* activity."

Berkowitz pointed to the evidence of Soviet intrusions in Scandinavian territorial waters, particularly Sweden's 1981 "Whiskey on the Rocks" incident—Whiskey is a class of Soviet submarine—and similar incidents in the Far East.

He concludes, "Indeed, the apparent increase in naval *spetsnaz* activity is indicative of the Soviet Union's willingness to employ the full range of its intelligence assets in an effort to compromise U.S. national security despite the trend towards improved foreign relations with America."

Meanwhile, senior officials of the West German Counterespionage Bureau (BfV) reported at a seminar in Bonn on Jan. 13 that Soviet scientific espionage in the West has increased significantly.

Peter Frisch, vice president of the BfV, said, "Our impression is that someone in Moscow gave directives [to spies] to get as much as possible. One has to keep in mind, that Gorbachov's fate depends on the growth of economic output."

### **Opposition demonstrates at Taiwan parliament**

About 300 protesters from the opposition Democratic Progressive Party massed outside the parliament of the Republic of China (Taiwan), accusing the government of ramming through reform bills that bolster the position of the ruling Kuomintang party.

"The retirement bill is a ploy to perpetuate Kuomintang rule," said opposition leader Yao Chia-wen. He said that elder deputies—veterans of the fight against the Chinese Communists—would cling to their seats despite being offered pensions.

The Democratic Progressive Party argues that the older deputies were never really elected, have no legitimacy, and no right to a pension.

The DPP leadership was trained in West Germany by the Soviet-linked circles around the West German Green party. It is dedicated to the destabilization of Taiwan on behalf of power-sharing arrangements between the superpowers.

### **Philippines getting ready for U.S. exit?**

Philippines Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus on Jan. 17 predicted a withdrawal of Soviet and U.S. forces from Southeast Asia and said the Philippines is preparing for the conversion of key American military bases for civilian use.

"The United States and the Soviet Union could even now be drawing up their own separate timetables for a withdrawal of military installations from this region," he said in a foreign policy speech in Manila. "Our own Department of National Defense as well as various U.S. officials have issued alerts to that possibility," he continued.

Manglapus announced that he is going to the Soviet Union in the spring to prepare for a visit to the Soviet Union President Corazon Aquino. He also said that Manila is studying the possibility opening diplomatic ties with North Korea.

Meanwhile, President Aquino told a visiting group of Soviet legislators that the Philippines is ready to expand trade with Moscow, and noted that Manglapus as well her Trade and Industry Secretary would soon visit the Soviet capital. "I would like for more of these visits to take place," she told reporters afterward.

On Jan. 17, Philippine Defense Minister Fidel Ramos met with Col. Gen. Vladimir Lobov, first deputy chief of the Soviet military general staff. The meeting was believed to be the first high-level military contact between the two countries since they established diplomatic relations in 1976.

● **DONALD GREGG'S** nomination as ambassador to South Korea has brought criticism from the Korean news media and some opposition figures, "We just want to point out that 'another CIA official?' is what the Korean people generally feel about Mr. Gregg's nomination," an editorial in the newspaper *Chosun Ilbo* said. The nomination means that "the U.S. regards Korea not as a diplomatic, but as an intelligence and operations target."

● **IRANIAN PRESIDENT** Khomeini told Afghani Shi'ites at a Tehran seminar Jan. 15 that they should continue negotiating with Moscow over a postwar order in Afghanistan.

● **MIKHAIL GORBACHOV**, in a letter, delivered by Ambassador Zamyatin, told Britain's Margaret Thatcher that he wants to visit Britain to make up for the opportunity lost in early December when he suddenly canceled a visit—ostensibly over the Armenian earthquake. Thatcher told Zamyatin that Gorbachov would be welcomed to Britain at any time.

● **MALAYSIA** banned rock star Michael Jackson from performing there in December. Said Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rahmat, "His stage performances are too erotic and would be a bad influence on our youth. . . . He is a cult figure."

● **INDIA** and the Soviet Union signed an agreement for delivery of six IL-62 and TU-154 Soviet aircraft. An agreement is also expected in the next two months on securing aircraft for the domestic Indian Airlines and Air India. Russian pilots, ground engineers, and Soviet fuel at concessional rates will come with the planes, allegedly because there is not enough time to train Indian pilots.