

International Intelligence

Izvestia counterattacks Sakharov statements

The Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* Feb. 1 ran an attack on Andrei Sakharov, the physicist and dissident who was only released from house arrest last year.

In an unsigned article that trained observers say originated at a high level, the paper warned that recent declarations by Sakharov and his wife expressing grave doubts about the future of Gorbachov's reforms "can be taken seriously, provoking all sorts of ideas, and creating doubt and trouble in the mind, which does not, of course, help *perestroika*. . . . Without concrete facts, without proof and serious research, it can only be seen as a political fantasy."

France's *Le Monde* says it took one week for the Soviet authorities to respond to Sakharov, who had made his statements in an interview with *Le Figaro* Jan. 26.

The Soviet leadership's dilemma in answering was that, on the one hand, it was hard for Gorbachov not to react to someone casting doubts on the success of *perestroika*, because such expressions of doubt are threatening to him, but, on the other hand, an attack on Sakharov only revives memories of his long period of exile, and the previous repressions to which he was subjected.

Gorbachov set for mid-May Beijing summit

Mikhail Gorbachov will fly to China in mid-May for a summit, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced from the P.R.C. capital Feb. 4. Shevardnadze said that normalization of relations would not threaten other countries; and that China and the Soviet Union could reduce the scale and number of military exercises and guarantee not to increase troop levels in certain regions. But, he added, "Of course, this will take time."

The New China News Agency quoted Deng Xiaoping, after his meeting with Shevardnadze, saying that normalization of

relations with the Soviet Union would begin with his meeting with Gorbachov.

"Three years ago, I said the Cambodian issue should be solved, first of all, and Vietnam must genuinely pull all its troops out of Cambodia. The Soviet Union can contribute much in this regard," Deng said.

Shevardnadze had breakfast with Shanghai Mayor Zhu Rongji, described as "a reformist leader."

Israel releases leading Palestinian

Israel's Jan. 30 release of detained Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husseini is the clearest indication to date that the Israeli authorities are quietly engaged in dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Jailed last year, Husseini is a renowned activist on the West Bank and a leading member of the PLO. Just prior to his release, he was visited by a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Defense. Husseini is considered a potential president of a state of Palestine.

On Feb. 3, the Hebrew daily *Yedioth Ahronoth* reported that officials of the Ministry of Defense, including Yitzhak Rabin, have concluded that there is no alternative to talking to Yasser Arafat's PLO, and that a meeting of respective representatives would soon be arranged in Europe. This has been denied by Rabin. But Shin Beth intelligence officials have been quoted saying that, although "we do not talk to the devil [Arafat], there should be no illusions. We are talking to his envoys."

Both Rabin and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir have come forward with various peace proposals, going a step further than the original autonomy plans conceived of in the 1970s at Camp David. So far, two offers have been flatly rejected by PLO officials.

More significant was a Jan. 31 statement by former Herut party member Amirav, now a leading advocate of direct negotiations with the PLO. Shamir's recent statements, he said, reflect the fact that "he has reached the stage I reached some two years ago. . . . He is the kind of personality able to take a courageous act."

Jenninger to publish book on his ouster

Former West German Parliament President Philipp Jenninger will publish a book on the affair that toppled him. It will contain select letters of support he has received since his Nov. 11 resignation.

Jenninger, who delivered a thoughtful and profound speech on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1938 anti-Semitic pogrom known as *Kristallnacht*, or Night of Broken Glass, was subjected to a Communist-inspired walk-out and news media attack, claiming his speech was "pro-Nazi." He resigned under intense pressure a day later.

The incident was part of a broader Soviet-orchestrated campaign aimed at severing West Germany from the NATO alliance.

Jenninger's book is expected to deliver a verdict of political cowardice against Jenninger's former close friend, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who sacrificed him to the lions of the pro-Soviet media. The book will hit Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as a whole, and could contribute to Kohl's fall.

In this context, a new West German opinion poll showed that the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) has overtaken the CDU in popularity, with 42% to the CDU's 39%. The party's general manager has been quoted saying: "Thank God there are no national elections now. They would be one big catastrophe."

Shcharansky to be U.N. ambassador?

The possible appointment of Anatoli Shcharansky as Israel's U.N. ambassador is expected to create new tension in Israeli-Soviet relations, even at a time that various East bloc delegations have been following one another to Jerusalem. After a Hungarian visit, an East German delegation visited Jerusalem the first week of February.

However, Shcharansky is reportedly the choice of both Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir and Moshe Arens, because of his longstanding anti-Soviet record. He spent 10 years in a gulag and emigrated to Israel in 1986. Since then, he has been outspoken in denouncing Gorbachov's *glasnost* as a fraud.

Professional diplomats at the Israeli Foreign Ministry are furious, according to the Hebrew daily *Hadashot*.

The appointment has not yet been confirmed. The report came, however, on the same day that a leading Soviet scientist, Professor Kogan, member of a computer and mathematical institute of the Academy of Sciences, surfaced in Israel after he disappeared 48 hours earlier in Paris, where he was attending a Franco-Soviet seminar. Obviously, his defection to Israel was carefully prepared by French and Israeli authorities, who have been denounced by the Soviets.

Kogan said that he decided to defect, instead of requesting an official exit visa, because given his area of expertise, one might never be granted.

These sudden developments, antithetical to Israeli-Soviet relations, come amid a series of statements and published articles by Israeli officials critical of the superpowers. On Jan. 27, Shamir said that the "superpowers' plan for the Middle East" will never be accepted by Israel, and that any idea of the superpowers imposing their own peace plan was "ludicrous."

War over opium on in Golden Triangle

The largest opium crop ever harvested in the Burmese section of the "Golden Triangle" is setting off battles among five armies in the region, London's *Observer* claimed Feb. 5. Correspondent Andrew Drummond filed the report from Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. Drummond himself has been linked by some to the wing of the Burmese "opposition" known to be dealing in drugs.

Sure enough, Drummond was able to interview and photograph the northern-Burma-based "opium king" Khun Sa at the fortified base of his ethnic-Chinese Shan army near the Burmese-Thai border. The Thai

government has placed a \$25,000 price on Khun Sa's head.

Burmese Communists, the Thai military, the Burmese military, the Shan army, and, Drummond claims, "the remnants of the Chinese Kuomintang Nationalists" are all at war over 2,000 tons of raw opium ready for transport and sale. "This is now a fight for the control of the Thai border," Khun Sa told him. "If we win, we shall have control of 80% of the opium in the Golden Triangle."

He said one of the reasons for the bumper crop was that the Burmese government, crippled by unrest and economic disaster, has told farmers in the Shan states that they could resume their traditional opium cultivation. All Western nations have canceled economic aid to Burma due to "human rights violations," and the U.S. cut all anti-drug aid.

"This means that the crop, which we expected to be about 1,200 tons, should be about 2,000 tons," Khun Sa said—enough to supply the U.S. heroin market for 10 years.

Burmese villagers confirmed that the government has told them there will be no punishment for opium growing, but claimed the crop was actually slightly less than last year's.

Gandhi warns Pakistan after missile tests

India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has warned that India will have to take steps to "protect itself" following Pakistan's successful testing of its own medium- and short-range ground-to-ground missiles.

According to Pakistani Chief of Staff General Aslam Beg, the two missiles have a range of 300 and 80 km, respectively, and could carry a 500 kg payload with "full accuracy."

The test of what the Indians described as "cross-border missiles," occurs at a time that the Bush administration is considering cutting military and economic aid to Pakistan as of next fiscal year, following the failure of the last Reagan administration to certify that Pakistan does not have the nuclear bomb.

Briefly

● **FRENCH** Defense Minister Chevenement has issued an appeal for the intensification of Franco-German military cooperation. According to a report on West Germany's *Deutschlandfunk* radio Feb. 5, Chevenement said that a "joint military-industrial base" should be developed by the two countries.

● **EXECUTIONS** in the People's Republic of China are now taking place at a rate hitherto only known in Iran, say British press reports. In Canton recently, 17 people charged with robbery and murder were sentenced to death. Other reports say that during the first three weeks of January, almost 100 criminals were executed just in Guangdong Province, of which Canton is the capital.

● **THE U.S. AIR FORCE** is closing its long-range "spacetrack" radar system in the Philippines, one of about two dozen systems worldwide used to detect foreign satellites, a spokesman from Clark Air Base said Feb. 5. The 17th Surveillance Squadron at San Miguel Naval Communications Station, 60 miles northwest of Manila, is scheduled to be deactivated by April.

● **VIRGILIO BARCO**, President of Colombia, has offered to pardon the top leaders of the M-19 terrorist gang who assaulted the Justice Palace in Bogotá in 1985 and murdered half of the Supreme Court justices on behalf of the drug mafia. A spokesman said the pardon is being considered "if the process of dialogue that has begun ends successfully." The government recently signed a "peace accord" with M-19.

● **JAPANESE** police are mounting an unprecedented security operation to protect the Feb. 24 funeral of Emperor Hirohito. Some 32,000 police, and many special security squads, have been mobilized. Police report their possession of "coded memos" showing that leftists plan attacks on the funeral, probably with mortar launchers.