

International Intelligence

Anti-terror bill is vetoed in El Salvador

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani decided on Dec. 2 not to sign the anti-terror bill just passed by the El Salvador National Assembly. Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso told the press at a news conference that Cristiani will send the bill back to the legislature "so that we will not have the silencing of the democratic necessity for an interchange of information."

Valdivieso also said that his government is questioning the Army about the circumstances of the killing of six Jesuit priests two weeks ago.

On Dec. 1 Cristiani charged that the FMLN guerrilla insurgents had fired two surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) at Salvadoran Air Force A-37 ground attack aircraft the day before, in the first reported use of the missiles in the El Salvador civil war. Cristiani also rejected the demand from the FMLN that the Army cease using its Air Force, as the condition for not using the SAMs, and said the Air Force had already altered its tactics to minimize the effectiveness of the missiles.

Responding the next day to Cristiani's statement, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that he fully backs the FMLN rebels' use of the missiles.

Chinese students defy assembly ban

Over 100 Chinese turned out on Dec. 3 in Beijing to defy a ban imposed by the People's Republic of China on "English Corner," a parkland haunt where Chinese have gathered for years to practice their English language skills with foreigners. a glade in the Purple Bamboo Park that acts as a Sunday venue was cordoned off, and official notices nearby proclaimed that "English Corner has been withdrawn," Reuters reports.

But students and workers said they would ignore the ban and continue to hold

Sunday conversation sessions. "I will keep coming here," said a postgraduate student of zoology. "The government has no law against talking English and it has no law against going to a park." "China is supposed to have an open door to the world but now they are stopping us meeting foreigners," said one student at English Corner in the northern suburbs. "They say one thing and do the opposite. No wonder people abroad do not trust our leaders."

Official notices said the corner had been closed because Chinese university teachers who used to attend Sunday sessions no longer had time. "But that is just an excuse," said a researcher of economic theory. "Nobody ever came here to talk to the Chinese teachers; we come to talk to foreigners."

Mexican opposition party stonoes capitol building

Mexico's National Action Party (PAN) held demonstrations, blocked roadways, and staged other forms of civil disobedience in the state of Sinaloa during November, in an attempt to reverse what they claim is a massive vote stealing operation by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which resulted in PRI victories in mayoral elections in several cities in Sinaloa, including the capital Culiacán.

Sinaloa is a stronghold of the PAN, and according to reliable observers, they definitely won the mayoral elections they are claiming. On election day, a large crowd had gathered outside the government palace where the votes were being counted, and when the PRI-controlled state government announced the results, PAN supporters began throwing rocks and a general melee broke out.

Meanwhile, a fire broke out in the palace, which burned to the ground. The PAN accused the PRI of deliberately setting it; the PRI governor, Francisco Labastida Ochoa, charged the PAN with starting it, and arrested some alleged suspects.

Following two weeks of growing PAN protests, Labastida announced that he would proceed to punish whoever is found

responsible for setting fire to the municipal palace, as well as for the one death that has so far occurred in the disturbances.

Left-right clashes resume in Turkey

At least 10 students have been injured and more than 150 arrested in the first open left-right political clash on a Turkish campus for nearly a decade, Reuters reported on Dec. 2.

Leftwing students fought rightwingers, Islamic militants, and police for six hours at Istanbul University's Press and Publications Faculty Dec. 1, security sources said.

The right-wing newspaper *Tercuman* headlined its report of the clash "Back to the Old Days"—referring to political violence which killed 5,000 people in the 1970s and was quelled by a 1980-83 interval of military rule.

Rightists were backed by a new force on Turkey's campus scene, Islamic militants with beards and long coats shouting "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is Great).

Tension has risen recently amid demonstrations for the right of women students to wear Islamic headscarves, which are banned under Turkey's secular constitution.

Italian pro-drug party invades Colombia

Marco Pannella, former president of the Italian Transnational Radical party and an avid advocate of legalization of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, traveled to Colombia during the first week of December to meet with Ernesto Samper Pizano, a presidential candidate and a leader of Colombia's drug mafia. But at a press conference organized by the Foreign Press Association of Colombia, he received a highly uncordial reception from members of the other side in the war on drugs.

According to a leaflet distributed just outside the press conference by members of

Briefly

● **ARGENTINA'S** government sent troops into Rosario, the country's second-largest city, on Dec. 6 in order to prevent any repetition of bloody food riots in response to a new round of austerity and a 20% devaluation of the national currency, the austral.

● **IRAQ** announced that on Dec. 4 it launched a 48-ton, three-stage rocket into space, and that it will now locally manufacture new long-range missiles. "If it's true, it is alarming," said Duncan Lennox, an editor of *Jane's* annual *Weapons Systems*, from London.

● **ISRAEL** said Dec. 6 that the way was clear for a meeting of Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. foreign ministers on Middle East peace, because Cairo had agreed not to act as a postman for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

● **A MISSILE WARHEAD** and an aircraft cockpit were destroyed by a carbon-monoxide laser during a test in November at the facilities of the French firm Aerospatiale in Marcoussis, near Paris.

● **40,000 ARMENIANS** laid siege to the parliament of Soviet Armenia on the night of Dec. 4, after deputies voted down a proposal to scrap the Communist Party's automatic right to rule Armenia.

● **THE KVANT 2**, the Soviet Union's space module, finally docked with the space station Mir, the Soviet news agency TASS announced Dec. 6, after ground controllers solved problems with the solar array which provides power for the module.

● **KING BAUDOIN** of Belgium has let it be known that he would rather abdicate his throne and bring on a constitutional crisis, than sign a bill legalizing abortion, which is expected to be passed by both the Belgian Senate and the Chamber of Representatives by early next year.

the Schiller Institute, Pannella, along with Marco Taradash, an American who resides in Italy, held a press conference in London recently, sponsored by the Drug Policy Foundation, to promote the formation of an "Anti-Prohibition League." The leaflet said that in that conference, Pannella and Taradash not only proposed the free sale of marijuana, but also of hashish and distribution of cocaine and heroin at drugstores. The leaflet also said that the Philip Morris cigarette company had sponsored these individuals' drug legalization campaigns.

Asked about these allegations at the press conference, all Pannella could sputter out was, "I run into that Schiller Institute everywhere I go, in all parts of the world, under different names. [They're like] transvestites. . . . Now, they are a real transnational. Who's behind them in the United States? I can't worry about that."

He was also asked why his party had permitted prostitute "la Cicciolina" to join. "Well," he said, "we're like a bus. . . . Anyone who gets on can stay." But a Schiller Institute member in the room supplied a better answer, much to the merriment of the assembled press: "It's because your party lacks a *sosten ideologico!* (In Spanish *sostén* can mean either "support" or "brassiere.")"

Kuomintang loses ground in Taiwan elections

The ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party of the Republic of China won only about 60% of the vote in the national elections in Taiwan Dec. 2, barely retaining a critical margin in the popular vote over the dissident Democratic Progressive Party (allied with the liberal international and the Greens) and various independents.

The KMT considered a 70% victory to be essential to keeping the radical faction of the DPP in check. The DPP radical faction had repeatedly raised the issue of "Taiwan independence" before the elections, an issue which Beijing considers *casus belli* because it considers Taiwan just a renegade province. Just in the last week of November,

Deng Xiaoping again said he wants reunification of Taiwan with the mainland in five years.

A group of U.S. congressmen observing the election, led by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), called the elections "the most free and fair in Taiwan's history." "The entire world can see the contrast between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China," he said, "where, when people ask for democracy, they are greeted with a hail of bullets. In Taiwan, people . . . are given the opportunity to participate in an election and can vote for the candidate of their choice."

The DPP now has a block of 21 members in the parliament, meaning it can introduce legislation. However, the KMT keeps a huge majority in the legislature overall, because a group of delegates elected on the mainland 40 years ago did not stand for re-election.

Voices in Britain want Anglo-Russian alliance

"It is not only Mrs. Thatcher who fears the creation of a European federal super-state. So also does President Gorbachov," commented the London *Sunday Telegraph* on Dec. 3 in its lead editorial which advocates an Anglo-Russian alliance in order to halt it.

"For Russia," the editorial says, "a united federal Europe, incorporating a united Germany, would constitute a wholly unacceptable preponderance of potential power.

Along the same lines, the *Glasgow Herald* echoes other papers in attempting to portray all Germans as racially inferior. According to the *Herald*, there have been two kinds of Germans: the northern type, military-looking, grenade-headed and designed to be a master race, and the southern type, reminding one of a beer barrel, bull-headed, drinking beer from three-liter cups. These two racial types, so the paper's tale goes, turned into a real *schweinehund* race when Bismarck put the whole crowd together into one state during the latter half of the 19th century.