

International Intelligence

MIDDLE EAST

Anglo-American forces ready Saudi coup d'etat

In a front-page feature yesterday, the *New York Times* signalled that a military coup is being prepared for Saudi Arabia. The *Times*' article zeroes in on "corruption" in the Saudi Royal family, going after a son of ruling Crown Prince Fahd, in particular. It is Fahd and his commitment to the development of the Arab world, in cooperation with the Europeans, that the controllers of the *Times* find unacceptable. The newspaper demands: "The Royal family must adjust ... or face challenges to its authority."

The article dangles Iran as an "example." "Because of differences between Saudi Arabia and Iran, officials doubt that corruption could fuel the kind of broad-based opposition that led to the overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi. Instead ... resentment about Saudi corruption could conceivably mix with other factors, including the development of an independent military, to set the stage for a coup."

According to observers, such an independent military faction would most likely be led by the pro-British Prince Abdullah, head of the National Guard and leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Saudi Arabia. The Brotherhood, which controls Iran under Khomeini, was a 1929 creation of British intelligence's Arab Bureau.

Abdullah is playing a suspicious role in a scandal over a new British film, that relates the execution of a Saudi princess because of her love affair with a commoner. Although Prince Fahd is trying to cool down the uproar that the film has ignited in Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdullah is demanding that Saudi Arabia impose an oil embargo on any na-

tion that shows the film. Yesterday, Dutch television ignored government requests and announced it will show the film. In the United States, the Public Broadcasting System, controlled by the British Broadcasting Corporation, which was created and is still run by British intelligence, has announced a decision to air the film May 12, one day after Jimmy Carter's "deadline" for European cooperation around the Iran crisis.

EUROPE

Schmidt wants freeze on Euromissiles, alarms Washington

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has proposed a freeze on the production of medium-range missiles in Europe pending the results of arms control negotiations. American sources in Bonn reacted to the proposal with surprise, since this would seem to bypass NATO's Dec. 12, 1979 decision to produce and deploy the Pershing II and cruise missile in Western Europe.

Schmidt's proposal followed meetings with Soviet ambassador Vladimir Semyonov, in which Semyonov delivered an invitation for the Chancellor to visit Moscow. While the Bonn government denies that there is any connection between Schmidt's arms offer and the invitation, government spokesman Armin Gruenewald admitted that the arms issue would undoubtedly come up at any Soviet-West German meeting. A spokesman for the Chancellor's office declared that Schmidt is presently determining whether a Moscow trip could be arranged for the late summer.

Meanwhile West German industrialist spokesman Otto von Amerongen gave an interview to the daily *Die Welt* April 16 in which he qualified his pre-

vious statement that U.S. sanctions against Iran were no longer avoidable. He underlined that West Germany should take no unilateral actions to support the U.S. moves, but act only in concert with the rest of the European Economic Community. He ruled out any West German backing for an embargo against the Soviet Union. "We will be in a cold war again."

Soviet ambassador in Paris warns Europe against U.S.

Central Committee member Stepan Chervonenko, Soviet Ambassador to France, invited himself to a meeting at the International Diplomatic Academy in Paris to deliver a blunt warning to both the United States and Europe. Referring to the destruction of detente by U.S.-NATO policy, he said, "It is not necessary to examine in detail the consequences of this political shortsightedness. Since the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. are the greatest thermonuclear powers ... the destiny of universal peace depends on these two powers."

If Western Europe goes ahead with the controversial medium range missiles deployment it agreed to under U.S. pressure, warned Chervonenko, the Soviet Union would increase its own armaments in turn. In the meantime, if the decision sticks, the basis for any arms negotiations is "collapsed."

Chervonenko called the dispatch of American naval ships to the Persian Gulf "a direct threat to the southern part of the Soviet Union," and urged the allies to reject American pressure to hitch their wagon to U.S. policy. This, he said, would make NATO an "instrument for America's global policy."

Chervonenko's themes were echoed in a Tass release April 14. The Soviet news agency accused the U.S. of "black-

mailing" Europe into support for Washington's Iran policy. Moscow takes note of the "confusion and unconcealed irritation" in Europe as a result of high-handed treatment on the one hand, and arm-twisting on the other, by the U.S.A.

French press blasts 'puppet' Carter for pressure tactics

An April 16 editorial in *Le Monde*, the French daily, attacks U.S. pressures against European governments, advising Europeans that they are much stronger in the face of the U.S. than they seem to believe. The editorial is entitled "A Transatlantic Crisis."

"This world is not mono or bipolar but rather multi-polar, and against the weakness of the dollar and the collapse of U.S. productivity, the old continent is in fact stronger than it believes itself to be," says *Le Monde*.

"Actually the United States presently needs its allies more than ever before, and this at the very moment when the Europeans are more and more convinced that the United States is not politically credible. ... It is getting less and less credible to ask sanctions against whomever it may be ... Carter is trying to address himself to the European populations above the heads of European governments ... What doubtful means are those. But who would believe that the European or French citizen will be more interested in defending American interest than the American citizen himself?"

"Detente, with or without Afghanistan, is fundamental to European solidarity ... Europe will not try to punish Moscow. The Atlanticism created in post-war times is not standing up to the tensions of the 1980s ..."

On the same day, the newspaper for northern France, the *Republican Lor-*

rain, reports that Jimmy Carter is nothing but a puppet of the Trilateral Commission, that "it is actually the City of London's oligarchy which has the real power in the Trilateral Commission," and Europe, not the Soviet Union, is seen as the main enemy.

LATIN AMERICA

New U.S. provocations against Cuba

Just a few days after 10,000 people invaded the Peruvian embassy in Havana, an incident the Carter administration has used in an effort to isolate Cuba in the region, the U.S. Defense Department announced it would carry out massive land and naval maneuvers in the Caribbean region, beginning May 8.

With the participation of over 200,000 men and women, 42 ships, and 350 airplanes, the "Solid Shield 80" maneuvers will last for three weeks and include a provocative landing of 2,000 marines on the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba.

Political observers have termed the Defense Department announcement a dangerous escalation of the "flight forward" mode now characterizing the Carter administration in various "hot-spot" regions, which could be the prelude to "live" military action in the region. The administration has long sought an excuse for action against Cuba, and also to seize Mexico's vast oil wealth for a Western Hemisphere "strategic reserve."

Cognizant of the motives behind Washington's provocations, Mexican President López Portillo announced last week that he would accept Cuban President Fidel Castro's long-standing invitation to visit Cuba at the end of July.

Briefly

● **THE ASSASSIN** unsuccessfully deployed against Indira Gandhi this week has been linked to Second International circles of George Fernandes, a former Industries Minister. The brother of Mrs. Gandhi's assailant was implicated in a terrorist bombing (the "Baroda dynamite case") several years ago, masterminded by Fernandez. One day before the attempted assassination, "100 intellectuals," largely Second International, gathered to denounce Mrs. Gandhi as "anti-people."

● **GUNTER GRASS**, West Germany's most influential literary figure, signed a letter to Chancellor Schmidt warning him that capitulation to the foreign policy of the U.S. Carter administration would lead to thermonuclear war. Mr. Grass appealed to Schmidt "not to let the American government ... draw you into a policy that could result in the destruction of life on this planet. ... Nobody is attacking us, nobody is threatening us..." The letter called for West German participation in the Olympics and renunciation of all sanctions. "These attitudes must take the place of half-baked declarations of steadfastness and loyalty. ... No nation on earth ... has a stronger obligation than the Germans" to prevent world war.

● **GENERAL ZIA** of Pakistan, under mounting pressures to negotiate with the Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan, had a "chance meeting" with Indian premier Indira Gandhi in Salisbury during celebrations marking the independence of Rhodesia-Zimbabwe, according to sources. The meeting is viewed as "a good omen" in southwest Asia.

● **JEAN-PAUL SARTRE**, author of *No Exit* and *Being and Nothingness*, exited from being into nothingness on April 16.