

International Intelligence

French push nuclear exports for Africa

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced Feb. 12 that France is planning to help supply several of eight planned Egyptian nuclear reactors within the next 20 years. This marks a major escalation of French policy to provide nuclear reactors to the African continent.

Prior to the Sadat announcement, France had either signed, or had indicated an intention to sign, deals for nuclear energy with five African nations. Previously France had been reluctant to sell the reactors to Africa, and knowledgeable Europeans attribute the turn in policy, in part, to a Paris series of conferences by the Fusion Energy Foundation centering on nuclear-based industrial development for Africa.

The most ambitious of the deals involves Morocco, where France has signed a deal to provide Morocco with a reactor by the mid-1990s, and help build Morocco's uranium industry. Neighboring Algeria has approached France for a similar arrangement.

Oil-rich Nigeria and Angola are also likely candidates for nuclear reactor exports from France.

Can Poland be stabilized?

Joint efforts by the Soviet leadership and France and West Germany have been launched to stabilize the situation in Poland.

A West German think tanker reported to *EIR* that "the Soviets want to give the Poles time to work out what they are going to do. The [government] reshuffle was designed to give the Poles the means to go after the [dissident] KOR and the worst Solidarity elements. If that doesn't work, there could be a declaration of national emergency and a crackdown."

Serge Maffert of the French daily *Le Figaro* said that anything can happen should the stabilization efforts of Poland

fail, because the economic crisis is so profound. He projected a three to four week timeframe for the economy to show improvement. If that occurs, French President Giscard will visit Warsaw to crown the effort's success.

At the same time, opponents of the stabilization attempts have tried to increase disruption in Poland, with the rural Solidarity organization, now officially given "association" status by the nation's courts, threatening to delay spring planting.

China cancels more contracts

In the past week the People's Republic of China has abruptly canceled contracts with Japanese, German, and U.S. firms worth several billions of dollars for projects in steel, chemicals, mining, and hydropower. The Chinese promised compensation to Japan and have reportedly already paid U.S. firms for services rendered. Premier Zhao has admitted in a secret speech that the budget deficit is \$11 billion, twice as large as estimated in September. Certain American executives still recommending major marketing efforts in Peking are being investigated by their security departments to discover which competitor they are working for.

India hosts nonaligned, calls for war avoidance

"Peace is not that which teeters on the brink. That is the absence of war, yet it threatens war." With these words, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi formally opened the conference of foreign ministers of the nonaligned nations, taking place on Feb. 9-12 in New Delhi.

The theme of the necessity of war avoidance and economic development which Mrs. Gandhi struck to open this meeting of most developing nations flows directly from her summit little more than

a week earlier with Mexican President José López Portillo, and echoes the communique of French President Giscard and German Chancellor Schmidt.

Mrs. Gandhi told the assembled leaders of more than 90 nonaligned nations, "The realities of the world situation, the possibility of a nuclear Armageddon by a single lapse or rash act, reinforce the relevance of nonalignment and demand a rededication to peace. From this conference," she continued, "should issue a call to the big powers to de-escalate belligerent rhetoric, to reduce presences in the Indian Ocean and various parts of Asia and Africa, and to resume the earnest search for understanding and peace."

The foreign ministers will approve a report from a special committee of the nonaligned on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The energy needs of the developing nations have been a central topic of discussion at the conference.

Colombia terrorist group tries new play for power

The leadership of the M-19 terrorist gang in Colombia issued a surprise communique in early February denouncing the kidnapping of American citizen Chester Bitterman as the work of a splinter from their ranks. The communique heralds a "turn" in the leadership, which, according to Colombia security officials, is now seeking to become a "legitimate" Social Democratic party. Officials report that the M-19 has decided to accept the government's offer of political amnesty to form an electoral party.

At the same time, the fracture of the terrorist gang, which has been responsible for innumerable assassinations, kidnappings, and bombings, violence in Colombia, lays the ground for the Bitterman kidnapers to emerge as a "hard-line" terrorist group modeled on Italy's Red Brigades.

The three leaders who issued the communique denouncing the Bitterman kidnapers are Carlos Toledo Plata, Iván

Marino Ospina, and Jaime Bateman.

In March 1980, while M-19 held the Dominican embassy in Bogotá, the terrorists had said that they favored neither communism nor capitalism, but a "third way" based on the Social Democracy of Austria's Bruno Kreisky, an ally of Socialist International head Willy Brandt.

Sadat and Shamir make diplomatic rounds

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's talks with French President Giscard, which ended Feb. 11, reportedly centered on an effort to contain the expansionism of Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi. As for Arab-Israeli questions, Sadat, according to Washington sources, hopes to build up as many options as possible, including a closer relationship with Western Europe.

At the same time, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir held private meetings in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Haig. The two appear to be planning to "put the screws" to Sadat and President Reagan to pursue the decaying Camp David accords. Haig has made it clear that one of his priorities is to extend NATO into the Middle East, using Camp David as a back door for militarizing the Persian Gulf.

Syria-Jordan tensions rise after Beirut kidnapping

A terrorist operation that bears all the markings of a British or Israeli intelligence maneuver has brought relations between Syria and Jordan to the edge of renewed confrontation. The abduction of a Jordanian chargé d'affaires by a group claiming to be close to the Syrian regime could turn into a *casus belli*.

Syria officially denies any link to the kidnapers, who call themselves the "Eagles of the Revolution," and blame an

"outside force" for the crime. The Syrian news media link the incident to the recent assassination of a top-level Syrian intelligence operative in the Persian Gulf, implying that wider efforts are under way to destabilize both Syria and Jordan.

The Jordanians, however, insist that Syrian President Hafez Assad's brother, Rifaat al-Assad, had trained the "Eagles" group. Jordanian newspapers accuse Rifaat and his faction of "developing terrorism inside and outside Syria." These charges do not necessarily signify that Jordan rejects the view that foreign intelligence is behind the whole affair, since it is widely known in the Middle East that Rifaat has extremely unsavory international connections.

Dope lobby petition denied by United Nations group

The United Nation's Nongovernmental Observer Council unanimously denied a petition by the International Cannabis Alliance for Reform (ICAR) for semi-official status at the U.N., after a blitz campaign by the National Antidrug Coalition, Feb. 10. The council turned down the application stating that ICAR's goals were "not compatible" with those of the U.N.

The National Antidrug Coalition (NADC) issued a news release heralding the victory against ICAR, the main international promarijuana legalization body. NADC is now planning a campaign for a new treaty to wield the economic and military clout of the United States and its allies to defeat the dope cartel.

In a letter to the council's 13 members, including the U.S., NADC Chairman Allen Salisbury gave evidence that ICAR openly aims for the legalization of "recreational drugs," such as hashish and marijuana. ICAR has called for the annulment of the U.N. Single Convention treaty against drugs, and calls for the "human rights" of peasants forced to grow marijuana, whom it calls "workers in the cannabis industry."

Briefly

● **INDIA**, until recently a chronic food importer, is now a significant grain exporter. In the current fiscal year India exported 1 million tons of rice and 89,000 tons of barley. In the 1979-80 financial year India earned \$2.17 billion in agricultural exports, a figure the government expects to double in five years.

● **KLAUS BÖLLING**, the new chief of the West German mission in East Berlin, was given the red-carpet treatment during a Feb. 8 East Berlin reception. East German leader Erich Honecker, welcoming Bölling, stressed the importance of developing relations between the two Germanies. East Germany's attitude almost certainly reflects the prompting of the prodétente Brezhnev leadership.

● **HERBERT WEHNER**, the veteran party whip of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, engineered a unanimous vote by the party's parliamentary caucus Feb. 11 against SPD Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's economic and defense policies, which had been under unprecedented fire from the SPD's left wing.

● **SOCIALISTS** plan to hold a "disarmament conference" this week in Madrid, under the aegis of several Socialist International think tanks. Sponsors of the conference include the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (West Germany); Pablo Iglesias Foundation (Spain); the Marxist Studies Foundation of the Spanish Communist Party; Italian Socialist Party; French Socialist Party, and Greek socialists.

● **TEN MEMBERS** of the Puerto Rico-based FALN terrorist group were found guilty Feb. 11 of sedition and terrorist conspiracy, in a Chicago federal court. Under the policy of the Civiletti Justice Department, however, no extended dragnet investigation had been pursued beyond the 10 hard-core terrorists, who now face a maximum sentence of 80 years.