

International Intelligence

Army takes power in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Army Chief of Staff General H. M. Ershad, seized power in a bloodless coup March 23, ousting President Abdus Sattar. Sattar had become president following an abortive May 1981 coup in which President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated. Initial reports were that Bangladesh is calm and there are as yet no mass arrests.

General Ershad is one of the East Pakistani generals who chose to remain in West Pakistan during the 1971 Bangladesh war of liberation. However, Ershad is not part of the most extreme pro-Pakistan, pro-Jamaate-Islami (Muslim Brotherhood) factions inside Bangladesh. Indeed, Ershad had criticized Sattar for bringing too many of the latter into the Bangladesh government.

As noted in *EIR* Delhi correspondent Paul Zykofsky's report in our last issue on his visit to Bangladesh, if the coup should lead to further economic devolution of Bangladesh, it will accelerate the flow of refugees into India, increasing political turmoil in that country, along the lines of a scenario discussed in 1971 by Henry Kissinger.

Brezhnev makes bid to improve Peking ties

As predicted by the *EIR*, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has signaled a shift toward relaxation of tensions with Peking. The signal came March 24 in an important foreign-policy speech in the Central Asian city of Tashkent.

In language not heard from a Soviet head of government in many years, Brezhnev outlined four "principles" of Soviet policy toward Peking: 1) Despite criticisms of Chinese departures from "socialist principles," the U.S.S.R. "does not deny the existence of a socialist system in China"; 2) the Soviet Union recognizes the sovereignty of the People's Republic over Taiwan; 3) the Soviet

Union is ready to renew talks on border disputes "at any moment," and to this frequent Soviet offer Brezhnev added a reference to "possible measures to strengthen mutual trust in the frontier areas"; 4) the Soviet Union "remembers the bonds of friendship and comradely cooperation" between the P.R.C. and U.S.S.R. in the past and considers their estrangement "not normal."

Brezhnev said that Moscow is interested in relations "of mutual benefit with no detriment to third parties" in the areas of economics, science, culture, and politics.

Haig, Ledeen called good friends by P-2

Licio Gelli, the Venerable Master of the outlawed fascist Propaganda-2 Freemasonic Lodge, has just finished an autobiography, and, on a tape-recording in the possession of Bologna Judge Aldo Gentile described by the Italian magazine *Panorama*, intends to use it in "political warfare" against "his enemies."

Gelli has been spotted recently in the French city of Nice and in Switzerland, according to information in the hands of Italian magistrates.

Gelli decided that he will designate as his agent for getting the book published none other than Michael Ledeen, the former special adviser to Secretary of State Haig who is himself implicated in P-2's operations. Gelli said he considers Ledeen the person he can trust most to get the job done.

Francesco Pazienza, the Socialist Party and P-2 member investigated by the Italian Parliamentary commission on P-2, called Haig a good friend in an interview with the Italian newspaper *Il Mondo*. Pazienza, who conduited funds to Ledeen through Swiss bank accounts, bragged how his clout with Haig was such that the Secretary of State postponed a trip to Camp David to meet with the President in order to attend a meeting with Christian Democrat Flaminio Piccoli that Pazienza had set up. Pazienza also confirmed his own ties to the Israeli Mossad in the interview.

Election strategy backfires against French Socialists

The French Socialist Party and its ruling coalition partners, the Communist Party and left-radical MRG, suffered drastic losses in the provincial elections that ended March 21. They not only lost about 75 of the seats held from the last elections in 1976, but nearly all of the 167 newly created provincial seats.

Interior Minister Gaston Defferre had created the new seats in a gerrymandering operation.

Guatemala coup threatens all Central America

Two weeks after the fraudulent March 7 elections which elected Gen. Aníbal Guevara as the next president, a battalion from the Air Force and the Army surrounded the National Palace and placed outgoing President Gen. Romeo Lucas García and president-elect Guevara under house arrest on March 23.

The new head of a five-man junta is Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt, who ran unsuccessfully for president on the Christian Democratic ticket in 1974. However reliable sources report that the power behind Ríos Montt is Mario Sandoval Alarcon, the extremist head of the Movimiento de Liberación Nacional (MLN), who is known to control the "Mano Blanca" death-squad apparatus in the country.

According to reports in the major U.S. press, the change in government was intended as a moderate "young colonels" coup carried out with State Department knowledge but "betrayed" at the last minute by Ríos Montt in order to place the death-squad backers in power.

EIR's assessment is that the original and only purpose of the coup, which probably did have State Department backing, was to unleash a civil war in that country and intensify crisis conditions in the rest of Central America—

particularly in El Salvador. This coheres with remarks made by Alexander Haig in a recent interview with the *Los Angeles Times* in which he warned that Guatemala is "the next target" and that "Mexico is a very short run from here." Undersecretary of State Thomas Enders, according to congressional sources, is promoting Salvadoran death-squad leader Gen. Roberto D'Aubuisson, a candidate in the March 28 elections. The Guatemalan coup is certain to encourage the insurgency in El Salvador and could strengthen D'Aubuisson in the March 28 elections.

Canadians warn United States on water

The Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Allan E. Gottlieb, predicted that Canada may become "considerably less secure" for the United States if it challenges its northern neighbor over a host of issues, including "the diversion of rivers and the buildings of dams which effect the other side." The warning came in the Ambassador's speech before the Baltimore World Affairs Council March 18.

Although Gottlieb did not mention it by name, the only plan on the table that would effect Canadian water is the NAWAPA proposal to bring water from Alaska through Canada into the drought-stricken High Plains of the United States. The plan would also aid Canadian agriculture.

Canadian Environment Minister John Roberts, according to Montreal's *La Presse*, expects "strong economic pressures" on Canada within the next 10 years to persuade Canadians to sell water to the U.S. Western states. "Water is the petroleum of tomorrow," Roberts said. "We must not negotiate."

In the mid-1960s, Jack Davis, then Minister of Forestry and Fisheries, called the original NAWAPA a scheme created "to steal Canadian water." Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton called NAWAPA "a monstrous concept . . . a diabolical thesis that all waters of North America should be-

come a shared resource," in his 1966 address to the Royal Society of Canada.

Bonn rejects Global 2000 in Bundestag statement

The West German government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt refuted the premises of the Carter administration's 1980 *Global 2000 Report*, which calls for policies that it states will lead to the elimination of almost 200 million people by the year 2000, in a March 12 document responding to several parliamentary motions. The document states that "The German federal government is committed to making contributions in the future to find ways to break through the assumed natural limits to the development of population growth and food supply."

It asserts that the Bonn government does not think that the *Global 2000 Report* has sufficient insight into international problems to be taken as blueprints for government action. "Because a positive approach is lacking, *Global 2000* fails to concretize practical steps and therefore inevitably paints a gloomy picture."

Global 2000's methodology is also seriously at fault, because it uses a manifold of partial models which were developed at different times with different purposes." As well, "there is no investigation of alternate developments by which the trends [*Global 2000* cites] could be altered."

The Bonn statement rejects the *Global 2000* claim that "it would be better to limit economic development and technological progress in the highly-industrialized countries and for the developing countries not even to industrialize. . . . The situation would be worsened [by such policy] and the potential for international conflicts would be increased. . . ."

Addressing the central issue of continued existence of nation-states, the document states: "The sovereignty and self-responsibility of the developing nations must be respected, especially in this sensitive political area; the same applies to the preservation of basic human rights."

Briefly

● **DENG XIAOPING**, the Vice-Premier of China, declared March 23 that a downgrading of U.S.-China relations will be "inevitable" if the U.S. supplies arms to Taiwan. Hsinhua, the official news agency, says Peking does not think a visit to China by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Holdridge is possible at this time—before any such official request was made.

● **PAKISTANI** University students are continuing to boycott classes throughout the nation in protest of the regime of dictator Ziaul Haq. On March 13, students clashed with Muslim fundamentalist youth gangs that sources report were organized by Zia to terrorize the campuses.

● **COSTA RICAN** police seized March 16 the largest cache of illegal weapons in that nation's recent history, being transported to Salvadoran guerrillas by an "international commando." The arms included American-built weapons provided to Israel under the Camp David accords. Sources reported that the "commando" was integrated with Israeli Mossad agents.

● **A BRITISH** operative has been stirring up ethnic strife in the Balkans. Marcia MacDermott, one of a group of Britons sent to Bulgaria by the Foreign Office to "train Bulgarian diplomats," has received great publicity in Bulgaria for her claim that Macedonia's national heroes were ethnic Bulgarians. The Yugoslav press denounced Bulgaria in turn. Bulgaria retains its territorial claim to the Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia.

● **MEXICO** is the target of a fiscal-austerity program being organized among private banks by the U.S. Federal Reserve. A senior official at the New York Fed told an interviewer March 23 that "Our message to the banks is, 'If you're a creditor of Mexico's, you should be putting pressure on them to reduce their borrowing needs.'"