

International Intelligence

Israel pushing for Lebanon partition

A source close to Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel has described Israel's April 21 invasion of Lebanon as a "limited, surgical move—a softening-up for a full-scale invasion and partition of Lebanon in the month following the Sinai withdrawal."

"There is no cease-fire anymore," the source stated. "It will have to be renegotiated, and on tougher terms than the last one. Phil Habib [President Reagan's special envoy] is no longer acceptable to the Israelis. Someone more hard-nosed is needed."

The source went on to predict a military move by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon into Lebanon in the coming month that will decimate the Palestinian population. "It will make the 1970 Black September operation look like nothing in comparison."

Sharon, intelligence sources report, is intent on using his Lebanon rampage as a means of catapulting himself to power to replace the ailing Begin. The April 21 strike was reportedly designed by Sharon as a limited operation to identify the Palestinian and Syrian targets in preparation for the expected larger assault.

Peking postpones crisis over Taiwan

Peking's decision to simply protest the United States' \$60 million spare-parts shipment to Taiwan, announced April 14, rather than downgrade relations as previously threatened, will probably only delay a confrontation between the two countries. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said it took into account a three-point statement of Washington given during talks begun in December: 1) that the spare parts had been promised before the talks over the arms issue began; 2) the shipment included no new weapons; and 3) no new weapons would be shipped as long as the current talks continue.

In the protest, Peking stated that if the United States "continued its viola-

tion of Chinese sovereignty" Peking could not avoid "the worst possible outcome," i.e. downgrading of relations and recall of ambassadors. The stage is set for such a new confrontation when the administration goes ahead with its January announcement of intention to sell F-5E fighter jets to Taiwan.

On April 22 the State Department said Vice President George Bush will not visit China during his early-May trip to Asia, which includes Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Australia.

Italians rebuff Craxi powerplay

The man whom these columns have called Italy's would-be new Mussolini failed in another attempt to bring down the government of Christian Democrat Giovanni Spadolini in mid-April.

Appropriately, Socialist Bettino Craxi made his move in response to charges by current Finance Minister Beniamino Andreatta that Craxi was a "Gauleiter" (the Nazi term for regional leader) who would turn Italy back to "national socialism."

The infuriated Craxi spent a week demanding that the government either remove Andreatta or resign. On April 21 Italian President Pertini, himself a Socialist, met with Craxi and told him that were Spadolini to lose a vote of confidence, Pertini as President would reappoint Spadolini to form a new government.

Pope intervenes in El Salvador

Pope John Paul II sent a message to the people of El Salvador April 18 asking them to work out a peaceful solution to the civil war that has been destroying their country since 1979. The Pope especially appealed to Salvadorans to avoid the ideological extremism which has divided the country.

"The Pope wishes that Salvadorans leave to one side their egotistical purpos-

es and the criteria of goods of the earth which divide them, at the same time pardoning; they should forget offenses, rancors, jealousies, and stop now from viewing their own brothers as enemies," says the message read at mass in El Salvador April 18.

"Now is not the time for us to begin to divide El Salvador, forming political groups versus political groups, but the time to unite ourselves seeking the most essential and basic things," continued Fr. Jesus Delgado, who was speaking as the Pope's representative.

The Pope also sent an emissary to Latin America to rein in the Society of Jesus, the religious order whose members created the Theology of Liberation and has encouraged radical leftism throughout Latin America. Papal emissary Fr. Giuseppe Pittau is now in Brazil, and will be visiting Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

Schmidt survives SPD party congress

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, speaking April 21 to the national congress of his Social Democratic Party in Munich, attempted to rally the deeply factionalized party behind his policies, heading off a challenge from left-wingers committed to toppling his government.

As of April 22, it appeared certain that Schmidt will succeed, at least for the time being. But the brawl in the party will continue, further weakening Schmidt's already shaky coalition government and constraining his ability to execute policy.

British newspaper commentaries pointed with evident glee to the Chancellor's increasing paralysis. "Schmidt launches Munich liferaft for his sinking ship" was the headline in the *Times* of London April 19, while the *Financial Times* noted the "atmosphere of intensity and impending doom" hanging over the cavernous sports stadium in which the congress was being held.

Willy Brandt, the SPD chairman and chief protector of the left wing, set the tone for the congress in his opening

Briefly

speech April 18. Under Brandt's chairmanship, the party has abandoned its traditional role as the pro-growth party of labor and become a "people's party"—a hodge-podge of environmentalists and special interest groups engaged in a tug-of-war with what remains of the trade-union base.

Brandt compared the SPD to a football team, in which his job as coach is to position the various players: this one to the left, this one to the right, that one in the center.

One conservative SPDer angrily retorted that when a football team loses one game after another, it is usually the coach who is fired. But apparently no one is moving to apply this suggestion to the chairman.

Why Haig wanted the Israeli blitz

The story that the Reagan administration failed to criticize Israel's April 21 strike into Lebanon out of fear of jeopardizing the Sinai withdrawal is a complete lie, intelligence sources in Washington say.

Haig's State Department not only fully supported Israel's bombing raid into Lebanon but is backing the same strategic scenario of the Carter administration for the region: the systematic undermining of the Arab moderates and U.S. influence in the Middle East.

Evidence of State Department complicity in the Israeli attack is everywhere. Just hours before the raid, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick vetoed a mild Security Council resolution against Israel for the recent Jerusalem mosque shooting—a virtual signal to Israeli Defense Minister Sharon to go ahead with the Lebanon bombing. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel, in Israel, had cabled Kirkpatrick that anything less than a veto would "upset" Israel!

Hours later, the strike took place, with Israel using 60 U.S.-made F-15 and F-16 jet fighters to bomb the Lebanese coastline. In its statement on the incident, the United States failed to even criticize Israel for the raid and for breaking the

U.S.-negotiated ceasefire.

Stoessel, who had planned his moves during a short stay in London with Haig and British Foreign Secretary Pym, met with Israeli Prime Minister Begin the day of the raid and delivered a letter from Reagan which was described by the Israelis as the "best document ever" received from an American president. Reagan pledged to maintain Israel's technological edge over the Arabs and to defend Israel if Egypt violates the Camp David treaty. In addition, Stoessel and Sharon reportedly signed a secret accord for enhanced cooperation.

The complicity and duplicity of the State Department has irked at least some Foggy Bottom veterans. Middle East Undersecretary Veliotis is said to be on the verge of resignation because of his policy differences with Haig on the Middle East.

North African rebels open to Soviet arms

Predictions of a Central American-style left-wing/right-wing war setup in Northwest Africa came one step closer to being realized as the anti-Morocco Polisario guerrillas threatened to get weapons from the Soviet Union. "The danger of an internationalization of the conflict [between Morocco and the Algerian-backed Polisario rebels] is daily increasing—and the United States has to accept a big responsibility in this," charged Polisario spokesman Mahmoud Abdel-Fattah in Algiers April 17.

Pointing to U.S. arms sales to Morocco, Abdel-Fattah threatened: "If the Reagan administration continues this kind of support to Morocco, our response will be to ask all those who can help us for more weapons—it's logical. The Soviet Union? My reply is, why not?"

Polisario claims to represent nomads from the former Spanish Sahara who oppose the integration of the territory with Morocco, a deal worked out between Morocco and Spain in 1975. Polisario, with the backing of the Socialist International, Algeria, and Libya, maintains that the territory should become independent.

● **PRAVDA'S** senior commentator, Yuri Zhukov, wrote April 16 that the campaign by Robert McNamara et al. for "no-first-use" of nuclear weapons was a sign of "common sense" in the U.S. He did not comment on simultaneous proposals by the Council on Foreign Relations policy-makers for a corresponding buildup of conventional forces. Zhukov, as well as the Soviet military daily, meanwhile, say the U.S. military—represented by Secretaries Haig and Weinberger—wants strengthened U.S. first-strike capabilities.

● **BETTINO CRAXI**, the Socialist who is Alexander Haig's candidate for next Prime Minister of Italy, responded in a newspaper interview April 14 to charges that he is a fascist: "I have not made a devil out of Mussolini. . . . Mussolini the socialist was a revolutionary and Mussolini the fascist became a reactionary," Craxi maintained.

● **SPAIN'S** decision to enter NATO may be influenced by the Malvinas affair, according to the Spanish journal *ABC*. Like Argentina, Spain has a long-standing controversy with Britain over the sovereignty of island territory, namely Gibraltar. How can Spain join NATO, *ABC* asks, if Britain treats it as a colonial, second-rate power? Talks between London and Madrid on Gibraltar's status will occur in June.

● **ADDENDUM** to our April 27 article on the economic advantages of a U.S. nuclear merchant marine: The failure of the Canadian Coast Guard's 1977 effort to have Canada build nuclear-powered icebreakers means that the huge natural-gas reserves beneath the Swerdlow Basin will remain uneconomic to develop, as will much of the gas in the Beaufort Sea and around Melville Island.