

International Intelligence

PAN storm-troops riot in Mexico

One man was killed, two were injured, and the newspaper office and homes of leaders of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Mexico (CTM) union were burned down in a riot provoked and led by members of the fascist PAN party Feb. 21 in the border town of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. The homes of the son and brother of the leader of the CTM were burned to the ground.

The mayor of Nuevo Laredo, an appointee of governor of Tamaulipas, Emilio Martínez Manatou, is close to the PAN, and gives border drugrunners a free rein. Nuevo Laredo is one of the most important border crossings, and is controlled by the CTM-run custom workers' union. CTM head Pedro Perez Ibarra opposes the formation of Hong Kong-style free enterprise zones along the border, incurring the wrath of Martínez Manatou on this score, and the CTM newspaper, *Laredo Ahora*, exposed efforts to build up four small U.S. border cities into "industrial centers" on the Hong Kong model.

The PAN has waged a bitter fight to break the CTM. Recently 50 CTM municipal workers were fired; when the CTM responded with a municipal strike, the PAN and the local Chamber of Commerce (Canaco), which supports the drug apparatus, called for a demonstration in the town to break the CTM strike. Thugs were bused in from Monterrey, about 100 miles to the south. As the crowd gathered, the director general of the local pro-PAN paper *El Diario*, Eduardo Villarreal Marroquin, took to the airwaves of the local radio, XEK, to broadcast the addresses of targets of the mob.

The director of the CTM newspaper told *EIR* that union members went to the mayor for protection, but he refused all help. Police head Blas Pena Garcia not only refused to do anything, but put vehicles under his control at the disposal of the demonstrators.

Ignacio Quinones, a former PAN candidate, Ernesto Salazar Martínez, former head of the local Canaco, and Francisco Garcia Lozano, current head of the local

Canaco and current PAN deputy in the Tamaulipas congress, led the demonstration, which rapidly turned into a riot. Pablo Emilio Madero, just elected as new national president of the PAN, is also the local PAN leader in this border area.

Ernesto Martínez Orozco, political adviser to the Canaco in Monterrey confirmed to a reporter that "we set the spark; let the people take over from there."

In a statement immediately issued by Marivilia Carrasco, secretary-general of the Partido Laboral Mexicano, identified Pablo Emilio Madero as the intellectual author of PAN violence along the whole length of the border, including attacks against the CTM in San Luis Rio Colorado. Carrasco stated that the PAN's goal is to force the deployment of U.S. troops out of Europe to control the U.S.-Mexico border. The statement was covered by the Mexico City daily *Excelsior*.

Europe awakening to strategic reality?

Recent articles in the Swiss oligarchy's "newspaper of record," the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, are warning against any wishful thinking by the West that the succession of the new Soviet leader, Konstantin Chernenko, represents a lessening of the strategic war danger. In a lead article Feb. 20, the chief editor Fred Luchsinger cautions that Yuri Andropov had been welcomed as a "pragmatist,"—and look where Andropov's policy led the world in 1983.

The main concern of the Soviet leaders, now as before, Luchsinger asserts, is "the danger of a possible future superiority of American strategic armament" in space (i.e., beam weapons) "which would make null and void 20 years of strategic buildup under Brezhnev."

Luchsinger hopes that U.S.-Soviet relations will touch neither of two extremes: "Yalta 1944 as the symbol of their mutual understanding at the expense of third parties, and the Berlin 1961 tank confrontation at Checkpoint Charlie," but stay on middle ground.

A Swedish *NZZ* correspondent reported

Feb. 22 that recent Soviet submarine intrusions into the coastal waters of Sweden and Norway are part of a pre-war deployment to secure the Soviet northern flank in case of escalating hostilities.

He disclosed the contents of an unpublished study revealing Soviet military plans for northern Europe which would explain why the Soviets have taken such risks to deploy their mini subs. According to the study, the current incursions are "operative exercises" for "surprise strikes via Sweden, by which the NATO advanced bases and the Norwegian troops in central and northern Norway could be destroyed.

The Soviets, according to the same study, would perform a surgical "surprise attack" to destroy NATO defenses before a NATO nuclear option can be exercised, and prevent dispatch of U.S. reinforcements.

A northern "nuclear-free zone," concludes the study, would be the political preparation for military operations.

Qaddafi orders a rampage

A government-controlled mob took over the Jordanian embassy in Tripoli and burned it to the ground Feb. 18. The ambassador and his staff barely escaped with their lives. Both Jordan's King Hussein and Egyptian President Mubarak were burnt in effigy as the mob demanded the death of PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. The Jordanian government recalled its ambassador from Libya Feb. 21; it is expected to expel the Libyan representatives in Amman.

Qaddafi's government has just concluded weeks of sessions of the Libyan Popular Committees, which demanded more radicalization and the assassination of exiles.

One day before the Tripoli riot, the secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Relations Al Obeidi was removed for being "too diplomatic." Obeidi has been replaced by Abdessalam al Triki, the Libyan U.N. ambassador and former foreign minister.

Qaddafi issued a communiqué Feb. 18 warning that Libya is considering military

Briefly

● **ITALIAN TROOPS** in Lebanon were never hit by terrorist bombings because of a "silent agreement with Syria," according to high-level French government sources, quoted in *La Repubblica* Feb. 19. The Craxi government has not denied the charge. The same sources said France is very worried about the diplomacy of Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, whose friendship with Syrian President Assad is well known, "because of the links the minister cultivates with the Arab countries and Soviet Union."

● **STEVEN BOSWORTH**, head of the George Shultz-created State Department Policy Planning Council and a Henry Kissinger protégé, was nominated by Britain Feb. 22 for the post of executive director of the International Energy Agency. Bosworth's Planning Council has been overseeing the Israeli economic crisis and the Latin American debt crisis at the State Department.

● **'HILEX'** maneuvers—"High Level Exercises" of NATO—were run in mid-February under a scenario in which Soviet threats to Iran precipitate U.S. preparations to deploy the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) into the Persian Gulf. NATO is testing European reactions both to the immediate danger of a full-blown war in the Persian Gulf and to a potential pullout of U.S. forces from Europe for missions in the Gulf or other "out-of-area" trouble spots.

● **FYODOR BURLATSKII**, the leading Soviet "peace" propagandist and roving anti-war ambassador under the regime of Yuri Andropov, has dropped his peacenik rhetoric. In his first column for the Soviet weekly *Liternaturnaya Gazeta* since Andropov's death, Burlatskii raves: "Yu. A. Andropov did a great deal to strengthen the international positions of our country and to raise its defense capacity and the military might of the Soviet Armed Forces."

"intervention and directly hitting the Comiso base" in Sicily where cruise missiles will be deployed in the spring. This is the first time Libya has made a threat of actual military intervention.

Colonel Boubakheir Younes, the years-long head of Libya's intelligence services, has been given the post of minister for external security in the new government. Younes led the Libyan delegation to Moscow for the funeral of Yuri Andropov.

Terror alert in Western Europe

Italian and British authorities are on a high-level alert following the assassination of Leiman Hunt in Rome Feb. 14. The Red Brigades terrorists, who claimed responsibility for the Hunt assassination, have re-emerged in Italy. This terror network was partially dismantled when Italian police released Gen. James Lee Dozier from Red Brigades kidnappers in January 1982.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will visit Jordan later this month with an unprecedented security screen. Her private jet will be outfitted with anti-aircraft missiles and escorted by a fighter squadron. British authorities fear that terrorist actions as in France and Italy may soon reach England through the IRA.

Castro visits Spain's González

Cuban leader Fidel Castro paid his first visit to a Western European nation when his Soviet airlines flight from Yuri Andropov's funeral stopped over in Madrid. The 50-minute stopover was extended at the airport when Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González greeted the plane, in which Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua was also flying. Soviet Ambassador Dubinin was also at the airport to greet Castro and Ortega.

González met with Castro, who was in full military uniform, and Ortega for several hours over lunch.

The discussion reportedly focused on Castro's interest in Spain's industrial reconversion plans and the scientific-technical challenges of the future, and little was said about the conditions in Central America, although Colombian President Belisario Betancur called during the meeting.

Castro later telephoned Spanish King Juan Carlos and told him: "I come from that always loyal island which was the last jewel of the crown and which in a certain way still is that jewel." The Cuban dictator told the press that he had called the King "Your Majesty."

Spanish Communist Party (CPE) leaders Gerardo Iglesias and Sanchez Montero met Castro at the airport at the request of the Cuban embassy, to discuss the internal situation of the CPE.

France's Mauroy reaffirms support for beams

Pierre Mauroy, the prime minister of France, reiterated President François Mitterrand's call at The Hague for a defensive European manned space station that would use the "technologies of tomorrow." Mauroy gave an interview to the Austrian daily *Arbeiter Zeitung*.

"For several months, we have been considering the consequences for France of the eventual launching of the American program to develop defenses against strategic nuclear missiles [beam weapons]. . . .

"Everyone knows that both America and the Soviets are pursuing their research in the domain of laser beam weapons and their utilization in space. I do not think that Europeans can ignore the development of these defense systems, although they pose important strategic problems. This is true concerning East-West relations; it is true concerning the defense of Europe; it is also true concerning our own defense policy. To face these new challenges we think that Europeans must mobilize themselves. We would be wrong in fact in trying to defend the Europe of tomorrow with the means and the organizational structure of yesterday."