

International Intelligence

Stalin's countryman joins Politburo

The Soviet Central Committee plenum, convened on July 1, promoted Georgian Party boss Eduard Shevardnadze, 57, to the Politburo. The addition to the Politburo of the first native of the Republic of Georgia since shortly after Stalin's death (besides Stalin himself, the other Stalin-era Georgian on the Politburo was the dreaded secret police chief, Lavrenti Beria) corroborates the ongoing revival of Josef Stalin in the Soviet Union.

Shevardnadze has a police background, having been Georgian interior minister in 1965-72, and, is also close to his fellow Politburo member from Transcaucasia, former Azerbaijan KGB Chief, and later party boss, the "Muslim," Geidar Aliyev.

Shevardnadze himself, as a candidate Politburo member, gained special prominence for conducting a well-publicized year-end visit in 1984 to the troops of the Trans-Caucasian Military District. The visit was covered in *Red Star* of Jan. 1. Visits by Politburo or candidate Politburo members to troop units, are never publicized. Thus, this tour of Shevardnadze raised many eyebrows.

General Nutting rips plan to invade Nicaragua

General Wallace Nutting, retiring commander of the U.S. Army and Air Force combat forces grouped under the Readiness Command, called for the United States to avoid the trap of a military invasion of Nicaragua in an interview granted to the *New York Times* on June 25. He called for cooperation with U.S. allies in the hemisphere on the tasks of economic development.

"We should be concentrating on developing the hemispheric idea of coalition, building strength through political reform and economic development," the General stated in the interview, granted days before his retirement from 35 years of active duty.

"Frankly, all talk about invading Nicaragua is counterproductive to the long-term coalition we ought to be building in the hemisphere."

Until recently, Nutting, as head of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama 1979-83, had subscribed to Henry Kissinger's arguments that U.S. troop strength in Western Europe should be sacrificed to build up a military capability in the Caribbean area.

"I'd rather see us work the positive side of the problem, solidify democratic control in El Salvador, try to help the Hondurans maintain it, help the Guatemalans get their act together, which they are trying to do, bolster Costa Rica and Panama," Nutting stated. "There has to be string political support for reform, relatively massive economic support, and a minimum of military assistance."

Peru starts to crack down on terrorists

On July 3, the Peruvian government thwarted "a vast conspiracy known to Peruvian subversive leaders by the code name 'Presidente,' which was intended to sabotage the presidential inauguration ceremonies scheduled for July 28, while triggering terrorist explosions in the major rural centers of the country," according to a TELAM news cable from Lima.

The plot targeted the heads of government expected to attend the inauguration.

Police at highway checkpoints seized four cars loaded with dynamite and powder and primed for explosion, in Ayacucho and Corcona. Twenty-four suspects were arrested. In a jungle shootout on July 7 in Loreto province, the civil guard killed seven terrorists from Shining Path, one of the most barbarous terrorist organizations in the world. In Inquitos, capital of Loreto, 13 terrorists who had murdered several civilians were arrested with their head, who is the son of a former cabinet minister and president of the Maoist "Social Revolutionary Party."

The terrorists appear to be deployed to defend the major international banks from the potential emergence of a continent-wide

alliance against their genocidal debt-collection policies. President-elect Alan Garcia has called for a "great assembly" of all of Peru's mayors to forge "an internal common front against the foreign debt and to defend, without taking a single step backward, our independence, sovereignty and national dignity."

Hit plan on Sri Lankan President is foiled

A plot to assassinate Sri Lanka's President Junius Jayawardene was foiled on July 11, Sri Lankan authorities reported. Two people were arrested in an assassination attempt which would have murdered Jayawardene by blowing up his office. Those arrested were members of the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Tamil separatists, who are known to be funded by Libya.

Jayawardene, whose island-nation has been rocked by separatist terrorism by extremists of the Tamil ethnic group for several months, lifted the curfew in the northern Tamil-dominated section of the country and also released 600 Tamils, on July 10, in gestures of reconciliation between the Tamils and the Buddhist Sinhalese population. The two groups are engaged in talks, which were pulled together by the Indian government, in Thimpu, Bhutan.

Soviet Union, China improve relations

Chinese Vice Premier Yao Yi-lin arrived in Moscow July 10 to sign a \$22 billion, five-year trade agreement with the Soviet Union, which is expected to double Sino-Soviet trade by 1990.

Now that U.S. influence in Asia has been destroyed, thanks to the "China Card" policy of Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, et al., the Chinese are looking to Moscow as the major power in the region to deal with. For Moscow, there is nothing to be lost by gaining security on its long border with China, as it heads for war confrontation

with the United States.

Although Moscow has given no indication that it intends to meet any of Beijing's conditions for full-scale normalization of relations—withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, withdrawal of troops from the Sino-Soviet border, and withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia—the Sino-Soviet rapprochement has nevertheless enjoyed steady progress.

The Soviets, according to the new agreement signed, will provide China with 7 new industrial plants and modernize 17 installations built by Soviet engineers in the 1950s. China will supply the Soviets with agricultural goods, industrial raw materials, and consumer goods.

On July 13, Chinese President Li Xian-nian left Beijing for a three-week tour of the United States and Canada. Li's trip is the first visit of a Chinese head of state to the United States since the 1949 Chinese Revolution. But, in contrast to the strides taking place in Sino-Soviet relations, Li's departure press conference, set an ominous tone for the future of Chinese-U.S. relations.

Li assailed a House of Representatives resolution passed July 10 to withhold all or part of a planned \$51 million U.S. contribution to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in an effort it said was designed to pressure China to halt forced abortion and infanticide caused by China's strict enforcement of its one-child-per-family population policy.

The focus of Li's discussions in Washington was expected to be disagreements over textiles, grain sales, and technology transfer.

Todenhöfer: Arms control has failed

Western foreign ministries have too much say on defense matters, writes Jürgen Todenhöfer, defense spokesman for the Christian Democratic Union, the ruling party in West Germany. Todenhöfer's statement appeared in an essay published in the current bulletin of the German Society for Conflict Research.

Arms control has failed, Todenhöfer writes, because "the Soviets never accepted military balance, but always aimed at supremacy. What has been called arms control debate has been mainly a debate in the West."

Der Spiegel highlights fight against Richard Burt

The July 8 issue of the influential West German magazine *Der Spiegel* reports on the efforts of "Helms & Co." to block the nomination of Richard Burt and 28 other State Department-backed candidates for ambassadorial posts. The article highlights the role of Lyndon LaRouche in the campaign against Burt.

Der Spiegel is a left-wing, semi-pornographic newsweekly, whose editor, Rudolf Augstein, was convicted on June 5 of transporting 40 grams of hashish across international borders.

Der Spiegel describes Sen. Jesse Helms's effort to block the nominations, and then writes: "Also the followers of the dubious Lyndon LaRouche (who is behind the exotic 'European Labor Party' in the Federal Republic of Germany) marched against Burt, together with the (Helms) rightwingers. Their hurriedly established 'Coalition to Stop Burt' rants in a leaflet: '[Egon] Bahr and other SPD leaders, who are allied with the Communists, have repeatedly praised Burt and assured that his nomination was highly acceptable.'"

Against this combined "right-wing" lobbying, *Der Spiegel* writes, "Shultz, whom the right wing considers the real threat to America's foreign policy," didn't give in: "The Secretary of State, Reagan's most important aide in the hostage affair, feels certain about his master's support—but for how much longer?"

"These rightwingers," continues the article, "are still in the minority, and won't be able to make President Reagan fire his second Secretary of State (after Alexander Haig). But Ronald Reagan will have to compromise with his hawks, if he doesn't want to be doomed to inaction for the remaining three years of his term."

Briefly

● **BELIEVE IT** or not: Iran's No. 2 leader, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Parliament, set the record straight at a press conference in Beijing, China the first week in July. He told reporters that "air piracy and stealing an airplane and annoying other people is something we are against. We are totally opposed to such acts."

● **V. ALEKSANDROV**, the computer scientist known in the West as the main Soviet spokesman for the "nuclear winter" scenario, has disappeared without a trace, reported *Nature* magazine on July 4. He disappeared from a meeting in Toledo, Spain. Soviet dissident sources believe that Aleksandrov had become convinced that the Soviet campaign about the danger of a nuclear winter was merely propaganda for Western consumption, and intended to say so. For this reason, they say, he "was disappeared."

● **HOVADIA SOFER**, the Israeli ambassador to France, said in an interview to *Journal du Dimanche* published July 7, that the hijacking of TWA's jet was "not aimed at releasing the Shi'ites in Israel," but was "sponsored by Syria, itself sponsored by a superpower which aimed at destabilizing the peace process in the Middle East and destroying American interests in the region." He warned that "after the hijacking of the TWA Boeing, there will be other terror actions."

● **JIMMY CARTER** is scheduled to meet with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou July 14 on the island of Corfu, during a week-long visit to Greece. Meetings are also set with Greek President C. Sartzetakis and Foreign Minister Ioannis Charalambopoulos in Athens. A Greek government spokesman announced that the Carters will visit the site of the ancient oracle at Delphi.