

International Intelligence

British defense minister resigns

British Defense Minister Michael Heseltine announced his resignation on Jan. 9. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher immediately appointed Scottish State Secretary George Younger, a former deputy minister of defense, as his replacement.

The nominal reason for Heseltine's resignation was a fight inside the cabinet over whether Britain's Westland helicopter company, which is the target of two different consortium bids, would accept an American-led Sikorsky-Fiat consortium offer, or would become part of a European-wide consortium; Heseltine has persistently championed the European deal, while Thatcher has favored the American consortium.

Observers, however, say that the Westland issue was being used as a pretext to ease Heseltine out of office, citing as evidence that the Younger appointment was announced only moments after Heseltine resigned. One British source claimed that Thatcher was irritated over Heseltine's barely hidden ambition to be Britain's next prime minister.

Sources also say that Heseltine was much more reluctant to sign the U.S.-British agreement on the Strategic Defense Initiative than was Mrs. Thatcher.

Euthanasia spreading in northern Europe

The Royal Societies of Medicine and of Pharmacy in the Netherlands are trying to find "the right drug to use for euthanasia, to advise doctors, so they will be able to comply with the Dutch Government Euthanasia Commission's guidelines," a source in the Dutch medical profession told *EIR*. He said: "Doctors who perform euthanasia here must conform to the guidelines which the Commission released in August of 1985: it must be the end of the patient's life; there must be no cure for the ailment; the family must

know; there must be another doctor present; it must be voluntary; the doctor must inform the prosecutor."

Because of the August 1985 Commission report, he stressed, euthanasia in Holland is, already, for all intents and purposes, legal.

Elsewhere, there is resistance, but euthanasia is being pushed strongly. "The Swedish Constitution Prescribes Euthanasia," is the headline of an article that appeared recently in the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*. The author was former chief judge and ombudsman Bertil Wennergren.

According to an associate of Wennergren, "The question is one of free will. The Swedish constitution recognizes the right of free will, so if a person himself expresses a wish to die, the Swedish constitution prescribes, in this sense, euthanasia."

Wennergren's associate said that they expect, nonetheless, some very tough opposition in Sweden, where there is a "lot of fear" about the euthanasia question, particularly from doctors. "People could become afraid that the doctors would take their lives, against their own will."

Soviets deploy missiles in violation of SALT

In a December report on Soviet violations of the unratified SALT II Treaty, the Reagan administration for the first time gave the numbers of specific Soviet missiles deployed in violation of existing arms-control agreements. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger reported that 27 of the mobile intercontinental ballistic missile designated SS-25, had been deployed, in "a clear violation of the SALT II agreement."

The SS-25 is the second class of ICBM, after the gigantic, mobile SS-24, deployed by the Soviets since SALT II, which limited each side to one new ICBM.

The same Dec. 23 White House report that lodged this official evaluation of the SS-24/SS-25 violation, revealed that new silos observed under construction at two Soviet missile test sites point toward preparations

for initial flight testing of two other mobile ICBMs during 1986. These two weapons, preliminarily tagged the SSX-26 and SSX-27, underwent open-air test firing of their engines several years ago.

Yugoslavia cracks down on Albanian separatists

In early December, Yugoslav authorities arrested 150 ethnic Albanians on charges of belonging to an illegal Albanian ethnic-separatist organization in the province of Kosovo, called the "Movement for Liberation." According to the police, they wanted to make Kosovo, which was swept by ethnic-separatist riots in 1981, a separate republic in the Yugoslav confederation—stopping just short of breaking Kosovo off from the country and merging it into Albania.

Army officers of Albanian ethnic origin were among those arrested.

On Dec. 27, a Serbian backlash became evident, probably enjoying the sponsorship of some official circles. A petition by 2,000 Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo demanded a reduction of Kosovo's autonomy, stronger Serbian rule, and an end to "fascist genocide by the Albanian chauvinists" against the Serbian population. The petition contained a threat of counter-violence: "We Serbs of Kosovo and Metohija are making the final attempt to defend the lives of our families in a legal manner. . . . Our situation is desperate . . . while we are being terrorized every day, the State Institutions in the province remain passive."

Velikhov denies Soviet space weapon program

On a "Moscow News" interview, Soviet scientist Yevgenii Velikhov, the head of the Soviet laser weapon program, denied the existence of the Soviet laser weapon program. The interview was entitled, "In the Footsteps of General Keegan," the former

head of U.S. Air Force Intelligence who resigned over the Carter administration's refusal to launch a laser weapon program to match the Soviet efforts.

Velikhov was asked to comment on the Pentagon pamphlet on Soviet strategic defense. Velikhov replied: "It is blatant juggling of facts. The research carried out in the Soviet Union in the field of laser technology and that of accelerators . . . is not secret. American experts can easily monitor these tests. They are welcome to come to our laboratories. . . . None of the Soviet research programs involving lasers is aimed at developing anti-missile space weapons."

The Pentagon claims are just as "at odds with reality" as those of "the half-witted Gen. George Keegan," who said that by 1990 the U.S.S.R. would have laser weapons in space.

Velikhov also said, of the Soviet fusion energy program: "The research has reached the required level, and from both the scientific and technological standpoint we are prepared to construct an experimental fusion reactor by 1993. This will enable us to test our basic technological concepts, and by the year 2000 it should be possible to build the first fusion power station."

Soviets blast Bonn for 'preparing war'

The Soviet military newspaper, *Red Star*, on Jan. 8 launched the strongest-ever tirade against West Germany, accusing Bonn of a "policy of confrontation" and "war preparations." The article charges West Germany with being "especially willing to follow the course of aggressive circles in the United States, for a confrontation with the nations of the Socialist Community."

Red Star "informs" the Russian troops that "after the Kohl/Genscher government came to power, the political climate in the Bundeswehr [German army] was transformed into a right-wing conservatism. . . . The war preparations in West Germany are not only confined to increasing the strength

of the Bundeswehr, but are taken into account as part of the general tasks of the entire State and society.

"The Bundeswehr remains the most modern Army with the most modern units and weaponry in Western Europe, so that it, more than ever, can work on and prepare for—in the spirit of anti-Sovietism and revanchism—a war of aggression against the States of the Socialist Community."

Soviets extend backing to Libya

"The Soviet Union will continue to support Libya," in its opposition and resistance to American "bandit policy," Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa declared in response to U.S. threats of military action against terrorist dictator Muammar Qaddafi.

Describing U.S. actions against Libya as "vivid evidence of the policy of neo-globalism," Kapitsa said that the United States had worked out a "secret plan . . . to destabilize Libya and assassinate its leader," and referenced European resistance to such plans.

Kapitsa also described Southeast Asia as "tense," and blamed the United States for "interfering" there. He rejected U.S. accusations of "massive build-up of Soviet military power" in the Pacific, saying it is "the United States and not the Soviet Union that has concentrated its naval forces in the area." The United States has recently been carrying out joint military maneuvers with South Korea and Japan.

On the eve of Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's trip to Japan, Kapitsa said that his country wants to "improve" economic cooperation with Japan. He also spoke of the Soviet intention to work for a non-aggression pact with China. Kapitsa laid out the heavy Soviet diplomacy with Asian countries planned for 1986: In May or June, Chinese Foreign Minister Wu will be in Moscow. Indonesian President Suharto and the Malaysian prime minister are expected to visit Moscow later this year. Party chief Gorbachov will go to India.

Briefly

● **IZVESTIA**, the Soviet government newspaper, declared that the U.S.S.R. has a "passionate interest" in maintaining peace in the Mediterranean basin, because "our policy in that region is determined by the fact that the Soviet Union, being a Black Sea power, has a vital interest in the maintenance of peace" there.

● **EAST GERMANY** and Poland have declared that they will stand by Libya in the event of any "imperialist attacks."

● **U.S.-GERMAN** talks in Washington will include the Strategic Defense Initiative on their agenda, but that will not be the emphasis as originally planned. Starting Jan. 10, a Bonn government delegation led by Economics Minister Bangemann will be in the United States for six days. The talks, said a Bonn spokesman, "may include SDI, but the main emphasis is on general questions of technology and science cooperation."

● **PRINCE CHARLES** ought to be Hong Kong's last colonial governor before it is handed over to China, the London *Times* has editorialized. Wrote columnist Simon Winchester: "It would be a diplomatic masterstroke," and restore confidence to the colony, bring new warmth to Sino-British relations, and prevent Communist China from interfering with Hong Kong before 1997 when it takes over the colony. Buckingham Palace said merely that it knew of no constitutional reason why a crown prince should not hold such an office.

● **YEVGENII PRIMAKOV**, long-time director of Moscow's Institute of Oriental Studies, has been promoted to head the flagship international affairs think tank of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO). At the orientology institute, Primakov coordinated the work of ethnographers and political scientists, who chart opportunities for Soviet asset-building in the Third World.