

International Intelligence

U.S. pulls troops from Spain's Torrejon base

American Ambassador to Spain Thomas Enders told the press in Barcelona on July 14 that the newly announced withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Spanish air base of Torrejon is "just the first step, and we will work with the Spanish government for other achievements of this nature." Five hundred American soldiers will be sent home, to be replaced by U.S. or Spanish civilians. The move comes as a result of a Spanish referendum on NATO membership adopted in March.

Spanish Foreign Ministry spokesman Innocencio Arias announced on July 12 that both parties had agreed to resume talks in Washington in October on further withdrawals. Spanish officials say there will be a gradual but significant reduction of American personnel and facilities. Some 12,000 American troops are currently stationed at three air bases and a naval station in Spain.

A reduction of the U.S. presence, refusal to admit nuclear arms on Spanish soil, and nonintegration into NATO's military structure were the conditions for continued alliance membership approved by Spaniards in the NATO referendum.

South African blacks defy general strike call

Blacks streamed to work in South Africa on July 14, ignoring the call of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) for a general strike against the country's month-old state of emergency. Cosatu, which is linked to the Soviet-backed African National Congress, had urged a day of industrial action today to demand the release of hundreds of union officials detained under the emergency. Union sources said the actions would range from sit-ins to strikes and cover the crucial mining sector, already hit by protest strikes.

Bus service was halted from Alexandra, on the northern border of Johannesburg, the

country's largest city, but many blacks walked or hitched rides to get to their jobs in the city.

In Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town, few blacks heeded the call, but in the Eastern Cape, a stronghold of the anti-government United Democratic Front (UDF), employers reported considerable observance of the strike. In some Port Elizabeth townships, militants chased away workers at bus stops, residents reported.

Washington Post caught lying on South Africa

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, chief minister of the Zulu nation, president of the Inkatha liberation movement, and principal spokesman for South Africa's moderate blacks, wrote an angry letter to the *Washington Post* published July 15, charging that its June 30 article headlined, "Pretoria Lets Zulus Hold Soweto Rally," was "riddled with inaccuracies."

He wrote: "For the record: Violence did not 'break out' between Inkatha supporters and the United Democratic Front. Buses carrying Inkatha supporters leaving the Soweto prayer meeting were petrol bombed in the township, resulting in three dead and scores injured when one bus ran out of control and another minibus was crushed between two other buses. There is no record whatsoever of 'at least two persons' being shot by my followers. That Inkatha was once again at the receiving end of violence there is no doubt, but let me make it clear that the tragedy was in no way instigated by Inkatha. . . ."

"What [reporter Glenn Frankel] did not report was that Inkatha members have been hard-pressed defending themselves from being burned alive, hacked to death and maimed in vicious attacks on their persons and property. In all the rhetoric about the struggle for liberation in South Africa today, what is often deftly pushed aside is the fact that it is the External Mission of the ANC [African National Congress] and its internal surrogate, the United Democratic Front, that are committed to making this country 'un-

governable' and 'eliminating' political opponents. The ANC has embarked on the so-called 'armed struggle' and kills people as a matter of policy. Blacks and whites are presently being blown up at bus stops, in hamburger bars, on farm roads and in shopping malls. It is the ANC that receives arms and ammunition from the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc."

Terrorism called part of 'Soviet war against West'

The official Catholic newspaper *L'Avvenire* commented on July 15 that the murder of Siemens board member Karl Heinz Beckurts on July 9, by Red Army Faction terrorists, was part of a Soviet war plan against the West.

The language of the RAF's communiqué, like that of the Italian Red Brigades, is a "Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist language of the 50s."

Communist or proto-communist, the targets are highly modern, and coincide with the targets of the U.S.S.R., not of 40 years ago, but of today."

Beckurts was playing a key role in German cooperation with the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the paper pointed out, "which is the *bête noir* of Gorbachov." The article concluded: "Perhaps, as Solzhenitzyn says, the Third World War has already started, not in the traditional form . . . but through a myriad of 'conventional' wars in the Third World and terrorism in the industrial countries."

Who is backing Egypt's Islamic fundamentalists?

A strike wave primarily controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood swept Egypt during the first weeks of July, as the government imposed new austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund. According to the July issue of the Paris-based magazine *Israel and Palestine*, the United States, Israel, and Iran are all supporting these ac-

tions against President Hosni Mubarak—each for its own reasons.

The journal reports that the United States thinks it can use the fundamentalists to open the way for a takeover by Defense Minister Marshall Abu Ghazala; Israel wants to neutralize Egypt and thinks that a destabilization of the country will halt all attempts at peace negotiations in the region, while Iran thinks that a destabilization of Egypt will be a severe blow to Iraq.

Although the Mubarak government has backed off from removing price subsidies altogether, as requested by the IMF, it has raised prices on most items by about 25% in the last two months, while wages are frozen. At the end of June, textile workers went on strike, followed in July by a two-day railway strike which was broken up by the army. The strikes are being controlled by local union committees under the control of the Muslim Brotherhood or the communist underground.

Andreotti seeks to form austerity government

Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti is continuing his efforts to form a new Italian government, under the benevolent eyes of the Soviet Union and the Trilateral Commission.

Informed sources in Rome report that this foreign sponsorship, not the endless internal machinations of Italian politics, is determining the outcome of the current negotiations among the political parties, and that, by fall at the latest, Andreotti will certainly become prime minister.

The key question is the policy of the new government, and Andreotti has declared that he will draw up a program for his government first, and only then decide on the makeup of the cabinet. He has two priorities: to shift Italian foreign policy toward the Soviet Union, and to reduce the budget deficit by cutting the standard of living of the population. To reach both objectives, some form of the collaboration with the Communist Party is necessary.

The Communists, right on cue, have is-

sued their own proposal for an austerity program to form the basis for a new government. It would eliminate the federal budget deficit within five years by curtailing expenditures, particularly investments. When an *Il Tempo* reporter asked a spokesman for the party whether its proposal could be considered an Italian version of the U.S. Gramm-Rudman amendment, the answer was, "Yes."

German Greens look to Biedenkopf as an ally

Otto Schily, a leader of West Germany's fascist-ecologist Green Party, suggested a possible alliance with the Christian Democratic faction of Trilateral Commission member Kurt Biedenkopf, in an interview published July 11 in *Sonntagsblatt*, the weekly of the German Lutherans. Biedenkopf, the party chairman in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, is a rival of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Asked if a coalition were possible between only the Greens and the opposition Social Democrats, Schily replied: "For the time being, I see no other option. I don't want to rule out, though, that the Christian Democrats might make a basic change, maybe under the leadership of Kurt Biedenkopf, who is much more open for talks than many a right-wing Social Democrat. But people like Biedenkopf would not get a majority in the Christian Democratic Union, at the moment."

As if in response to Schily's courtship, the Christian Democrats in the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia passed a resolution calling for the creation of a "Rock Music Bureau." The motion alleged that rock music had been "proven to encourage a continuous, creative motion among young people," and "appealed to the basic emotional needs of the young generation."

The Green movement is making preparations for a huge rock music concert at Wackersdorf, Bavaria, the site of violent demonstrations last month. Organizers of the concert said that it should be "a festival of alternative creativity."

Briefly

● **CARDINAL RATZINGER** arrived in Peru on July 18, at the invitation of Cardinal Juan Landazuri. He was scheduled to give a public speech on July 19 on "Christian Freedom and Liberation." Ratzinger, an opponent of "Liberation Theology," was previously in Ibero-America in 1984, when he visited Colombia.

● **JORDANIAN KING** Hussein's decision to oust the Palestine Liberation Organization "has ended Jordanian influence in the West Bank," according to the newspaper *Al Fajr* July 8. Informed sources believe that the King's action meant that "either King Hussein is suicidal, or he is being led into an assassination trap."

● **IZVESTIA** on July 8 attacked the European Labor Party of Sweden for its campaign to have Sweden join NATO, and attempted to revive discredited charges that the party was implicated in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. Since Palme's death on Feb. 28, Soviet media have attempted to implicate Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers from the ELP in the assassination plot. Now, in a front-page article, *Izvestia* has denounced "representatives of the reactionary 'European Labor Party,' headquartered in Brussels [sic], who demanded the 'resignation of Palme' from his post and who campaign for 'saving Sweden through the country's joining NATO.'"

● **RIFAAT AL ASSAD**, the Syrian vice-president, arrived in London at the head of a 15-man delegation on July 14, in a visit shrouded in mystery. His arrival coincided with that of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

● **SWEDISH COMMANDER** Gen. Lennart Ljung has announced that non-commissioned officers will now be trained in special units to counter the threat of Soviet spetsnaz (special commando) forces. The decision followed a special investigation of recent spetsnaz operations in Sweden.