

# International Intelligence

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## Swedish labor leader dies

Hans Ericson, former chairman of the National Transport Workers Union of Sweden, died suddenly April 6, at the age of 59, after a short illness.

Ericson became one of the most beloved trade union leaders of Sweden because of his outspoken defense of individual rights in a nation whose social democratic governments have grown increasingly pro-Soviet and authoritarian.

Because of his opposition to the late Premier Olof Palme's policies, Ericson was subjected to a 10-year-long smear campaign by media and legal authorities. Despite this, he never stopped fighting for what he felt was a right and just cause.

Ericson expressed this fighting spirit when he joined Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the German political figure and wife of U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, as a founding member of the international Schiller Institute. He also worked closely with LaRouches' co-thinkers, the European Labor Party in Sweden. Ericson stood up for these commitments in the midst of the enormous harassment campaign against the LaRouches' friends, ordered by Moscow after the assassination of Olof Palme in February 1986.

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## Soviets lose tempers over Pope John Paul

The Soviet Union has launched a barrage of the most vicious attacks to date on Pope John Paul II. It began with a March 18, Radio Moscow broadcast in Russian, seeking to villify the Pontiff in connection with financial scandal-mongering in Italy around Archbishop Marcinkus, the Vatican's chief financial official.

The broadcast carried the polemical title, "The Holy Father's Criminals," and depicted Marcinkus and others as financial frauds operating under the direct thumb of

the Pope himself. It even alleged that the Pope was a party to the activities of the Propaganda-2 Freemasonic lodge. That lodge was outlawed in 1981, after its links to drug-trafficking, terrorism, and flight-capital, and perhaps the first assassination attempt on the Pope in 1981, were exposed, sending many a political celebrity in Italy to jail or a fugitive's flight abroad.

The Pope's visit to South America sparked the second wave of invective from Moscow. Soviet Radio and the weekly English-language "Moscow News" denounced the "alliance between the Pope, the CIA, and President Reagan." The Pope is accused of "supporting reactionary leaders of the Argentine Catholic Church, nostalgic about the previous military dictatorship." It added that in Uruguay, the Pope was "attempting to revive Catholicism in the least religious country in Latin America."

Before the Pope's South American tour, Soviet TV declared that in Chile, the Pope would meet "surprises." Then, during his stay in Chile, Soviet TV gave lengthy and spectacular coverage to riots and violence.

One monitor of Soviet TV over many years told *EIR*: "Never have they covered a trip abroad by the Pope in such a totally negative and hostile manner."

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## Probe German arms shipments to Iran

Answering a parliamentary question from the Social Democrats, Germany's deputy foreign minister, Helmut Schaefer, confirmed that in 1985, 500 TOW anti-tank missiles were flown into Ramstein U.S. Airbase, from there to Israel, and then to Iran. The transport was carried out by Southern Air Transport, a part of Lt. Col. Oliver North's network, at least from the United States to Ramstein base.

Although Schaefer denied that the Bonn government had been informed about this operation, the Social Democrats believe that Bonn was informed.

In another affair just reported in the Ger-

man press, the West German freighter *Frauke* transported 100 tons of dynamite from Sweden to Iran, according to Swedish sources.

The left-wing anti-Khomeini Iranian exile group, Mujaheddin, held a press conference in Bonn April 2, accusing the German government of complicity in allowing Iran to purchase West German arms. The charges of the Mujaheddin were also circulated in Paris the same day.

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## U.S. devices in China monitor Soviets

The United States is using monitoring devices in China to improve its estimates of the size of Soviet nuclear tests, the *New York Times* reported April 3.

According to Defense Department documents and interviews with Reagan administration officials, the seismic devices, manned by Chinese operators, were installed as part of an American-Chinese program to study earthquakes. The *Times* said one such device was in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, near the Soviet nuclear test site.

The Pentagon said it will use the data from this and other instruments to improve U.S. monitoring abilities. The document cited by the *Times* was obtained under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act by a member of the Institute for Policy Studies.

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## Moscow full of praise for Venetians

The Cini Foundation, the flagship "culture" think tank of Europe's oligarchical families, held a conference in Venice at the end of March, and immediately received warm praise from Soviet quarters.

The April 4 *Izvestia* carried a feature on the conference, which had three Soviet representatives. *Izvestia* said that besides East-West relations, two major topics discussed were terrorism and AIDS, which it called

## Briefly

● **SOME 120,000** messages coming from Soviet spies based in France are intercepted by the French intelligence services each year, according to the April 5 *France Soir*. The article's author told *EIR* that France's recent expulsion of six Soviet diplomats, is linked to at least three different espionage cases involving KGB penetration of the French services, which are now "cleaning out" in secret.

● **NEGOTIATING TEAMS** for the United States and Spain announced April 4 that they had made no progress concerning the future of an American military base in Spain.

● **THE GREEN PARTY** of West Germany is funding the New People's Army guerrillas in the Philippines, meaning that such funds are coming from East Germany, which finances the Greens, charged Uwe Henke v. Parpart, an *EIR* contributing editor. His charges made front-page headlines in Manila. Parpart led a seminar at the Manila Polo Club, sponsored by the Pacific Futures Development Center, on "The SDI and Future Security in East Asia and the Pacific."

● **VIOLENCE** continues to disrupt the election campaign period in the Philippines. Three men on motorbikes killed Muslim leader Sahak Habbil on April 2; a day later, gunmen killed businessman Arthur Vitug, the son of another government candidate. Anti-communist vigilantes attacked and killed a left-wing rebel.

● **TOP SPIES** of East bloc nations are still in leading positions in the West German government and the political party hierarchies, said Gerhard Böden, Germany's anti-espionage chief, in an April 8 interview with *Bildzeitung*. "Bonn is still one of the world's prime targets of espionage today," he said.

"predominantly Western problems."

One Soviet participant, author Stanislav Kondrashev, called Venice the "mother of common European culture," said *Izvestia*. The conference was held "on the European culture," said *Izvestia*. The conference was held "on the island of San Giorgio, given to the Benedictine Order in the 10th century." Kondrashev gushed over "Venice, the age-old wonder," the "Doge State," a city where "monuments of the past are not dead, they are alive." "The Attila of modernity, the auto, is not allowed in Venice," he added.

After asserting that "it is in the Venetian blood" to preserve culture and aesthetics, Kondrashev cites Venice's "powerful tradition of beauty," concluding: "According to Dostoevsky, beauty will save the world. Despite the encroachment of the sea and its progressive decay, Venice, so far, has been spared from self-destruction."

### ***New scandal mocks Britain's royal family***

The shocking story that two cousins of Britain's Queen Elizabeth are locked away in a mental institution, became the subject of leading news stories in all the British press in early April. Apparently, two female members of the Queen Mother's Bowes-Lyon clan, were incarcerated for over 40 years, but reported to be dead. The one who is still alive, according to Germany's *Bild-Zeitung*, has "a certain similarity to the Queen!"

For five years, the Queen Mother had been aware of their incarceration, although the story has been hushed up because matters of "blood" and "inbreeding" are, of course, very sensitive in Great Britain. The prestigious Burke's Peerage had reported the two nieces' deaths in 1963, and the nieces' mother, Fenella Bowes-Lyon, had reported their "death" in 1962.

The London *Times* uses the occasion to review the history of hereditary madness in other eccentrics in the Bowes-Lyon clan. "Madness, illegitimacy and divorce are three

skeletons that rattle loudest in the royal cupboard," writes the *Times*. "Fears of madness stem largely from the condition of George III, the present Prince of Wales' favorite monarch, who had a bout of madness, or so his ministers thought.

"The House of Windsor has suffered little from cases of mental instability, unlike some continental dynasties. . . ."

"But a residual fear must always exist. The blood succession is all, and the system is weakened if the direct line has to be diverted from its path to avoid passing the crown to someone unsuitable. . . ."

### ***Libyan army facing supply problems***

Libyan arms seized by the Chadian forces loyal to Hissein Habré, after their victory over Qaddafi's army at Wuadi Doum, are worth about \$500 million, according to Chad government spokesmen. The impressive Qaddafi arsenal was composed of the most sophisticated Soviet armaments—SAM-6 and SAM-13 anti-air missiles, MiG-24 fighter-bombers, T-55 and T-72 tanks, and many standard armored trucks, cars, and helicopters.

On April 3, Habré's spokesman revealed that the United States has been supplying Chad with satellite photo reconnaissance intelligence, contributing to their stunning victory at the end of March.

At present, Libya is suffering from severe supply difficulties since 11 T-55 tanks and over 100 other vehicles were captured in the assault on Faya-Largeau alone. But Chadian tactics rely upon high concentrations of artillery platform fire—including missiles—and they have stretched their logistics lines thin with recent advances.

Chad officials said Libya could 1) fight a pitched battle on the plains, which would decimate Libya's remaining 15,000 troops; 2) withdraw totally from the triangle of northern Chad that borders Nigeria and Sudan; or, 3) most likely, withdraw into the mountains in northwest Chad and regroup.