

International Intelligence

Malaysian leader calls for U.N. anti-drug force

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on March 14 recommended the creation of a special U.N. police force and "hot pursuit" across international frontiers, as a total war against drug trafficking, according to an AP wire published in the *Nation* of Bangkok, Thailand on March 15.

"Drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs are amongst the greatest threats to mankind today," he said in a speech delivered on his behalf to American anti-narcotics officials. "The war against drugs has to be a total war."

Mahathir said that the proposed force would work with drug-producing countries to destroy crops, police growing areas, and prevent replanting of opium, coca, and marijuana. He called on the United States and other donor countries to make financial aid for rural development and crop substitution in producing countries conditional upon the destruction of crops according to an agreed time schedule. "Only with determination can we succeed in crop eradication which is an important element in supply reduction," he said.

The speech opened the three-day East Asia and Pacific Regional Narcotics Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In attendance were some 70 U.S. State Department and Drug Enforcement Administration officials based in 12 Asian countries and the United States.

Bangladesh to become an Islamic state

President Ershad of Bangladesh announced on March 13 that his country will cease to be a secular nation, and the law books will be soon changed to fit Koranic law. Government officials privately told reporters that General Ershad's declarations are the first step in turning Bangladesh into an Islamic Republic.

Ershad had earlier expressed the hope that Parliament would soon make a decision

in this regard. "The people have given spontaneous response and overwhelming support since I broached the proposal for a State religion a month back," he told a prayer meeting in Rangpur on Feb 27.

Religious leaders have seized upon Ershad's announcement. On March 13, the Islamic Constitution Movement had a demonstration, shouting slogans demanding an Islamic Constitution. The group's leader, Maulana Ishaque, demanded the resignation of the government and transfer of power to "religious scholars."

Austrian Jews rebuff Edgar Bronfman

Edgar Bronfman, chairman of the World Jewish Congress, insulted the Austrian nation and Austria's Jews, declared the executive of the Jewish community in Vienna on March 10. The statement responded to Bronfman's remark in Brussels a few days before, that as long as the Austrians kept Kurt Waldheim as President, they are "no longer a member of the club of civilized nations."

Addressing official commemorations of the Nazi coup in Vienna of March 1938, Viktor Frankel, an Austrian Jewish leader, repudiated Bronfman's attribution of "the collective guilt of a nation." Frankel said that the real problem is to judge between good and bad, the competent and the incompetent, "a dividing line going through all nations, all races, all religions." Nations allowing the bad and incompetent to take power, would also become "capable of perpetrating a holocaust on others." Even the Jews themselves, Frankel said, are not "immune to this kind of seduction."

Waldheim, who was a lieutenant in the Wehrmacht during World War II, has been accused of aiding and abetting Nazi war crimes, although no substantial evidence of this has ever been produced, and "documents" purporting to show it, turned out to be forgeries. On the basis of the charges, Waldheim was put on the U.S. Justice Department's "watch list," and is now banned from entering the United States.

Pol Pot's gang wants to regain power

The Khmer Rouge is taking secret steps to enable it to return to power in Kampuchea once Vietnamese forces have withdrawn from the country, diplomatic and resistance sources told the Agence France Presse (AFP) in Bangkok.

The group, under the leadership of Sorbonne-trained guru Pol Pot, oversaw the genocide of one-third of the Kampuchean population during its 1975-79 rule. It was supported by Henry Kissinger and others in U.S. State Department circles, as part of the "China Card" policy.

AFP's sources noted that the Khmer Rouge is avoiding direct confrontation with the Vietnamese, infiltrating agents into the Hanoi-backed Kampuchean government, and building up arms caches for "the big day." Said one official of the National Sihanoukist Army, "We are in possession of secret documents that prove they are preparing to take power. They refrain from provocations against the Vietnamese and leave us to carry the weight in combat."

Today, the Khmer Rouge is the biggest fighting force in the tripartite resistance coalition that is recognized by the United Nations as the legitimate government of Kampuchea. No joint military operations by the resistance have occurred since September.

Norway's leader backs Chinese population policy

In the name of protecting "environmental resources," Norwegian Socialist Prime Minister Gro Brundtland endorsed the Malthusian "one child only" population policy of the People's Republic of China during her visit to Beijing in January, the *Beijing Review* reported in its March 7-13 issue.

"Some people, especially people from the West, argue that China's one-child policy is a violation of human rights. But Norwegian Prime Minister Brundtland . . . expressed a different opinion on the question,"

the *Review* wrote. At a Beijing press conference, Brundtland said: "We studied China's experience and pointed to China's experience as one example of having a policy which was related to a country's environmental and resource framework. . . . I think we should respect the efforts that have been made by China in this area."

The inevitable results of this policy are appearing in China. Infanticide has become widespread, and now, with an aging population, and fewer workers to support them, debate over euthanasia is becoming a "hot topic," as a *China Daily* headline proclaimed March 5. The *China Daily* is the English-language version of the official *People's Daily*. State-owned radio is broadcasting a series on euthanasia, "to renew people's concepts and have them think about what they have never thought about before," in the words of radio editor Ren Xiaodong.

China is suffering from a severe shortage of essential medicines, including insulin, vitamins, and antibiotics.

European Community stops AIDS tests

The European Commission has ordered a halt to testing for AIDS as a prerequisite to employment within the European Community's institutions.

This move comes as new exposés of the spread of AIDS hit the press. At least 1 in 10 European prisoners may be carrying AIDS, according to Dr. Timothy Harding, principal medical officer at a Geneva prison and reader in legal medicine at Geneva University, who spoke on March 8 to a seminar organized by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders in London. Prisons could hold the key to controlling AIDS in the community generally, he said.

Dr. Harding's figures come from studies in three countries. In five jails in the Swiss canton of Berne, it was found that 11% were AIDS carriers. In France, 500 newcomers to Fresnes prison were screened and 12-16% found to be infected with AIDS. In Amsterdam, 11% were found to be infected. Dr.

Harding said he was suspicious of the "extremely low" number of prisoners said to be carriers in England and Wales (less than 1%), but said it could reflect a low level of screening.

Fund will link U.S. to Soviet Cultural Fund

Wall Street tycoon and philanthropist George Soros, who is reportedly worth a cool \$300 million, has made an investment of \$2 million into promoting Mikhail Gorbachov's "new way of thinking." The money is earmarked for programs linking the Soros Foundation-Soviet Union and Raisa Gorbachova's Soviet Cultural Fund; it will facilitate trips for Soviet academics to the United States, to work on research projects, computers, etc. The fund will also allow Soviet lawyers to work with law firms in the West.

Soros was born in Hungary, and emigrated to the United States in 1956. His philosophy is summed up by his statement, "The Soviets are very philosophical, they like to grasp ideas. In many ways I find myself closer to the individual in Soviet society than in America. I am trying to sniff the people out who are interested in change."

The foundation was established on Sept. 22, 1987 in Moscow, with help from the KGB's favorite billionaire, Armand Hammer. Its parent group is the Manhattan-based Soros Foundation, which provided initial funding of \$700,000 for international programs, and 1 million rubles for domestic Soviet programs. Co-chairmen of the Moscow outfit are George Soros and Georgi Miasnikov; one of the sponsors of the project is Yevgeni Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The Soros Foundation joint committee has been discussing a lawyer-exchange program with the American Bar Association, and to be run in cooperation with American law firms.

EIR's sources did not report whether U.S. lawyers will be given the opportunity to work in the Gulag Archipelago, in return.

Briefly

● **PRESIDENT AQUINO** of the Philippines has denied reports that she would consider allowing the return of Ferdinand Marcos to the country. According to the *Bangkok Post* March 11, she said she knows nothing about allegations that the United States urged her to allow Marcos's return, in order to suppress documents linked to the Iran-Contra scandal and thereby "protect the campaign hopes of Vice President George Bush."

● **AN OFFICIAL DIALOGUE** has begun between Moscow and the government of South Africa, over the future of Angola. According to the newsletter *Lettre d'Afrique*, Moscow has pressured the African National Congress to negotiate with the South African government.

● **PARTHENIOS III**, the Orthodox patriarch of Alexandria in Egypt, visited the Soviet Union in March, at the invitation of the Russian Orthodox Church. He and Moscow's Patriarch Pimen signed a document which envisages more comprehensive cooperation between the two churches and a more lively involvement of Orthodoxy in the activity of the World Council of Churches.

● **ARAB-SOVIET** cooperation was the main feature of an international seminar held in Amman, Jordan on March 16 by the Club of Rome-sponsored Arab Thought Forum. A 10-man Soviet team participated, led by Mikhail Kapitsa, the director of Moscow's Oriental Institute. The agenda included religious issues and the role of Islam in the Soviet Union.

● **LAWYERS** for John Demjanjuk in Israel are asking the court to reopen the war crimes case, because they have obtained new evidence, withheld by the U.S. Justice Department, which testifies to Demjanjuk's innocence. Demjanjuk is awaiting the verdict of a panel of judges, on charges that he was the Gestapo's "Ivan the Terrible" at the Treblinka concentration camp.