

International Intelligence

North Korea invites South Korean students

The North Korean regime of Kim Il Sung has officially invited all South Korean students who have been agitating for reunification of the Koreas to the Youth Festival to be held in Pyongyang in July 1989, the BBC reported Dec. 26.

The invitation was sent through the border village of Panemun to South Korean student representatives.

Just days earlier, on Dec. 24, Radio Moscow reported that the final joint communiqué from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's short visit to Pyongyang said that the Soviets would look with favor on the eventual creation of a so-called united, democratic, confederated republic of Korea.

Asian countries begin to take action on AIDS

AIDS has become a major issue in Asia, judging by the sudden actions that have been taken, almost simultaneously, in at least four nations.

In Japan, persons suspected of having AIDS will be tested before they are allowed to enter the country, under a new law just passed by the Diet (parliament). Whoever refuses to be tested will be fined and denied entry to Japan. According to the latest figures, from August, Japan has had only 90 AIDS cases, of whom 50 have died, but 1,048 people are known to be infected.

In the same December time-frame, the National Assembly of South Korea passed a law requiring foreigners on long-term visas to take AIDS tests. Six South Koreans have died of AIDS and 27 are known to be carrying the virus, according to government figures.

On mainland China, AIDS will be listed among 35 infectious diseases under strict state control, as soon as a draft law now being considered by the National People's Congress is passed. AIDS is not included in

the most serious category, as were plague and cholera, but in a second category along with hepatitis and syphilis. Nationwide blood tests of 67,000 people turned up 18 AIDS carriers and three people suffering from AIDS.

In India, meanwhile, the Council of Medical Research announced that it has screened 120,000 persons from high-risk groups, and detected 22 AIDS cases and 370 carriers. On Nov. 30, the regional director of the World Health Organization, Dr. Ko Ko, said that nearly 600 seropositive persons have been detected in India, according to the *Hindustan Times*. Testing of 10,000 foreign students found 46 to be seropositive and one sick with AIDS.

Addressing a Dec. 5 WHO seminar on AIDS in India, the director of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Paintal, called for legal provisions against sexual contact between Indians and foreigners. He said he feared that Africa is already being decimated by AIDS, and referred to reports that some raw materials companies in the United States are buying up property in Africa, expecting the local population to be decimated. He feared that poor countries lacking education and even primary medical facilities will be the worst victims of AIDS. He said that apart from educational steps, legal compulsion will be necessary to deter the spread of the disease.

Schiller Institute: Save Brunelleschi's dome!

At a conference in Rome on Dec. 20, the Schiller Institute kicked off an international campaign to save one of the greatest works of the Italian Renaissance, the dome of the Florence Cathedral, built by Filippo Brunelleschi in the 15th century.

The dome is cracking, and the effort to repair it will require a scientific effort to rediscover the principles of geometry used by Brunelleschi to erect the edifice—principles that have been lost in the world of digital computers and Euclidean geometry.

Lyndon LaRouche sent a memorandum of greeting to the conference, outlining a

hypothesis that the key to saving the dome is the geometry of negative curvature, including notably the work of Eugenio Beltrami in this field.

To build the dome without scaffolding, Brunelleschi had to create a system that was self-sustaining from its foundations and through all its elevation. So, the architects had to imitate the natural way in which the living systems grow, or to use the methods by which steady structures are shaped, for instance, in moving water (e.g., vortices).

Among those addressing the conference was Prof. Lando Bartoli, an engineer who has hitherto waged a one-man campaign to save the dome, exposing the incompetent "restoration" techniques that have actually accelerated the process of collapse (see interview in *EIR* of March 29, 1988). In February 1979, he reported, the 48 staging holes left by Brunelleschi to allow for the expansion and contraction of the dome because of changes in temperature, were stopped up with concrete, on the pretext that this was necessary to allow restoration of the murals on the inner face of the dome. As a result, the cracks in the dome are growing larger.

Kissinger says he fears world war

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger thinks that the West's romance with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov is bringing the world closer to war, not peace. "Most of the media seem to have made up their minds: Gorbachov is a new phenomenon who has rejected all previous Soviet history," Kissinger began his column in the Dec. 20 *Washington Post*.

"For 400 years the Russian Empire—under czar and commissar—has been expanding . . . in part because Russia has sought absolute security, which means absolute insecurity for all its neighbors."

Kissinger reports that "the general perception that Gorbachov has put forward unilateral concessions is nonsense." If, on the other hand, serious arms control negotiations are undertaken in Europe, Kissinger continues, the West must ask itself, "Does

Briefly

● **RACIAL RIOTS**, leaving at least 13 people injured, hit the Chinese city of Nanking, the BBC reported Dec. 26, quoting Xinhua News Agency. African students and Chinese officials clashed at the city university, and police were forced to move in to protect the Africans after 2,000 Chinese students marched on the university.

● **SOVIET** Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov will visit Thailand Jan. 16-17, a Foreign Ministry source confirmed Dec. 16. Thai officials met with their Soviet counterparts in Bangkok in late December to discuss preparations.

● **AN EXPLOSIVE** device was found as a large crowd in Lahore, Pakistan awaited the arrival of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Dec. 25. The bomb was hidden in a flowerpot behind security barriers at the airport. "The government takes a very serious view of this lapse in security concerning the movement of the prime minister," said a government statement. Mrs. Bhutto spent two days in Lahore, capital of Punjab province.

● **PHILIPP JENNINGER'S** wife told a *Bildzeitung* interviewer that the resignation of her husband, the President of the West German Bundestag, was forced by the cowardice of politicians in Bonn, starting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Jenninger stepped down after a Communist-instigated outcry over his speech on Nov. 11, the anniversary of the Nazis' anti-Semitic *Kristallnacht*. Soviets assets falsely called the speech pro-Nazi.

● **RADIO MOSCOW** reported the Dec. 21 crash of a Pan Am jet over Scotland, killing 258 onboard, as an accident, saying there was "no evidence" of sabotage or terrorist responsibility, although Western authorities now concur that the plane's crash was the result of a terrorist bomb exploding on board.

equality of forces enhance stability? Every European war would seem to prove the opposite. . . . Gorbachov may be betting that his policy will disintegrate NATO more rapidly than the same policies plus *perestroika* will dissolve the cohesion of Eastern Europe. But if he is right, there will be a crisis, because America will not be pushed out of Europe without a reaction. And if he is wrong, there will be a classic East European blow-up of the type that produced World War I."

The Bush administration, says Kissinger, "must not let itself be stampeded, but define its own agenda and timetable."

But Kissinger does not suggest a determined economic, military, and political response from the West, but falls back on his usual Metternichean formulas about "a concept of equilibrium" and secret negotiations.

Will the human race become extinct?

The extinction of the human species may not only be inevitable, but a good thing, according to an editorial published in the *Economist* magazine of London at the end of December. The kooky *Economist* is the house organ of the City of London bankers.

"Extinction is an inescapable fact of life, and this is no bad thing," the *Economist* writes. "Conflict is necessary to an ecology, rather as competition is necessary to a market. So long as there is conflict, there will be natural selection. So long as there is natural selection, new species will evolve—and established ones will die off. Extinction is an integral part of the history of life: no species is going to last for ever. There is no reason to think that the infant species *Homo sapiens* is any exception to this rule."

"This is not to say that the rise of human civilization is insignificant," the article continues. "But there is no way of showing that it will be much help to the world in the long run. It is still too early to tell. Today's technological civilization, capable of engineering wholesale changes, could collapse in the

next few centuries, or wither away over the millennia, or be superseded by a civilization that has values as alien to man in the late twentieth century as today's values would be to the cavemen of Lescaux. . . .

"Extinction is not a mark of failure, as the dinosaurs showed. . . . Indeed, every species living is related to species that have died. . . . If *Homo sapiens* died out now, his closest relatives, the chimps, or at least some of the primates, might continue."

The article ends with various musings about how genetic engineering or man's exploration of space might help evolve new species. "When the last *Hominis sapientes* fade away, they may do so knowing that something of them remains. *Homo lunaris*, *Homo constellaris*, *Homo pangalacticus* and all their sibling species may mourn, as dutiful children should do. And life will go on."

Defense chief attacks Red Army commissars

Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov charged Red Army political commissars with neglecting combat readiness, at a "party conference" of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG, East Germany). His remarks were covered by *Krasnaya Zvezda* (*Red Star*, the Soviet armed forces daily, on Dec. 25).

Yazov attacked the army political officers for failing to "translate" *perestroika* into improvements of army discipline and military training. Daily practice in the armed forces is, Yazov said, "widespread irresponsibility, permissiveness, formalism, and bureaucratism."

Some generals and their officers, Yazov charged, were simply disoriented over the changing political situation and neglected their genuine task of training the troops for combat, as well as training their own "practical capabilities of conducting combat and troop movements." It is important, Yazov said, "to see to it that no room be left in the army collectives for any sentiments of pacifism and lack of perspective."