

International Intelligence

Gandhi, Bhutto hold historic talks

Two days of talks between Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi were held Dec. 30-31 at the presidential palace in Islamabad. Both sides said the official talks were the dawn of a new era.

"I think you will find that we will move things forward in these two days more than we have in the past 11 years," said a senior official accompanying Gandhi. Reuters wire service quoted Pakistani officials saying that Mrs. Bhutto must move slowly in relation to India, because of her newness in office and domestic constraints.

Nevertheless, the two leaders reached an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations. This was reported by Pakistan television, which showed Mr. Gandhi and Mrs. Bhutto witnessing the signing by their foreign ministers. It said the two leaders also reached agreements for cultural cooperation and avoidance of double taxation between the two countries.

Other reports said that the two agreed in principle to work to stop the illegal trafficking in arms and other goods across their border. Prime Minister Bhutto said categorically that she was opposed to using extremist Sikh terrorists in Punjab against India.

There are now plans to follow up the summit meeting with discussions at the foreign ministry level.

East German leadership seen in trouble

East German leader Erich Honecker is coming under extreme pressure now, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov wants him out, according to some Western intelligence sources. Markus Wolff, former head of the state security and intelligence apparatus, the Stasi, who stepped down in the spring of 1987 under unexplained circumstances, is said to be Moscow's choice to replace Honecker.

Lending credence to that report, factional warfare is now visible inside East Ger-

many's ruling SED communist party and intelligence apparatus.

Honecker rejected outright any change of policy, in a speech during the official event commemorating the 70th birthday of the KPD (German Communist Party) in East Berlin Dec. 30. Referring to calls for East Germany to imitate Gorbachov's reforms, Honecker said that the 1976 SED party program was more than adequate, and nothing new had to be introduced. Calls for change, he said, only aimed at introducing Western principles, which would undermine socialism and must be repudiated.

For his part, the 64-year-old Wolff gave an exclusive interview to West Germany's ultraliberal *Der Spiegel* magazine, a KGB outlet, taped in Moscow. Wolff used the interview to present himself as the incarnation of German-Soviet communist friendship. His young wife was depicted close by his side, in a "campaign photograph."

There are also targeted leaks into Western channels, for example, that the Honecker regime has grown so unpopular among the East Germans that 1.3 million people, almost 10% of the population, have applied for emigration to West Germany. Growing unrest and organized protest are reported, along with raids and arrests of dissident group members by the Stasi. At least 2,400 political prisoners are now said to be in East German jails, and this fact was made into a prime news item on West German radio Dec. 30.

The West German government has apparently taken account of the unsettled situation to the east. Bonn government spokesman Friedhelm Ost stated Dec. 29 that, contrary to earlier announcements, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has "no plans to visit East Germany in the course of 1989."

Strikes, riots push Sudan toward chaos

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Khartoum, capital of civil war-torn Sudan, in the closing days of December, denouncing the economic and political policies of the government. In successive days' strikes and rioting, at least four were reported shot dead and some 50 wounded by gun-

fire. Khartoum is now rife with rumors of an impending coup.

The demonstrations and riots were provoked by a 500% price increase of such basic commodities as sugar, ordered by the International Monetary Fund. Starting as an economic revolt supported by the national trade unions, the movement quickly took a political turn, with violent denunciations of Islamic fundamentalism and the imposition of Islamic Law.

On Dec. 28, the major coalition party, the Unionist Party, left the government. Some two weeks earlier, that party had negotiated a preliminary agreement with southern rebel leader John Garang for the holding of a national constitutional conference on Sudan's future and the issue of Islamic Law. This was rejected by Premier Mahdi and Justice Minister Turabi.

Turabi, an Islamic fundamentalist, is an advocate of a partition of the country to solve the problem of the south, populated by black African Christians (animists) whom Khartoum has deliberately been starving.

A Benedictine-educated black Christian, Garang is also a self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist who demands political change in the whole of Sudan, and thus, has been opposed to partition. He is supported by Ethiopian and Cuban troops.

Egypt is believed preparing to step into the crisis. One coup attempt has already been reported from Khartoum. A Sudan in chaos dooms all chances of Nile water management, and would create the world's largest, unimpeded breeding ground for locusts.

Britain could develop its own 'Star Wars'

British Defense Ministry experts believe Britain could develop its own "Star Wars" missile defense system to protect its nuclear bases from attack, the London *Times* reported Jan. 3. The paper said that ministry scientists, after an 18-month study, had concluded that existing weapons systems could form the basis for a defensive umbrella eventually capable of being deployed throughout Europe.

The umbrella would complement the Strategic Defense Initiative, creating an

Briefly

overall defense shield linking Europe and the United States.

The *Times* quoted a senior Defense Ministry source, "We have shown in our study that if we are prepared to shoulder the expense, we can protect our nuclear retaliatory assets against an all-out nuclear attack by the East bloc. If the systems looked at were deployed throughout Europe, they could have a beneficial effect on the whole SDI concept and significantly enhance deterrence."

The system could be developed from Sea Wolf anti-air and anti-missile weapons used by the Royal Navy and from a new laser-guided anti-air missile called Starstreak, which is not yet in service. These would then be linked to surveillance sensors attached to satellites that would track incoming missiles. Space-based weapons would also be deployed.

Defense Secretary George Younger confirmed the *Times* report that a system could be developed. "But as far as we are concerned, we are not involved in establishing or developing any anti-ballistic missiles or systems ourselves" Younger said in an interview with BBC that the study "is part of the American SDI program. There is no intention, money, or need in Britain for such a system at this moment."

Andrew Duncan, defense analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said that such a British system would only form a part of the lower tier of an anti-missile defense. "The Sea Wolf and Starstreak missiles could only perform the task of intercepting in the upper atmosphere."

Second Soviet Mars probe in trouble

The second Soviet probe of the Martian moon Phobos is in trouble, according to reports by the Associated Press and the *Houston Chronicle*. Two Soviet probes were launched last July, and were supposed to arrive in Mars orbit in January. They were to perform a series of scientific experiments there, and then orbit and land on the Martian moon in April.

The Soviets admitted losing contact with

Phobos I in September, due to an incorrect computer command, but hoped that the second probe would still make the half-billion dollar, international project a success.

Now, according to Samuel Keller, NASA's deputy associate administrator for space science, "What I heard is that some of the Phobos II instruments allegedly have failed. . . . There is no question they are having problems." Another source told the *Houston Chronicle*, "There is no prospect of any science data return" from Phobos II.

Over half of the Mars spacecraft that the Soviets have launched over the past 20 years have failed.

Israeli firm profiled Pan Am security

An Israeli firm profiled Pan American Airways security procedures in London and Frankfurt, according to the Dec. 29 *Washington Post*. The private security firm, headed by a former military attaché at the Israeli embassy in Washington, did a detailed profile of Pan Am security vulnerabilities in May 1986.

The disclosure may fuel speculation that an Israeli private intelligence network, opposed to the U.S.-PLO dialogue, may have been involved in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland Dec. 21.

Yossi Langotsky, an official of the firm, KPI, Ltd., told the *Post's* Glenn Frankel, "We were shocked by the tragedy, but I'm sorry to admit we were not surprised. . . . If something is not changed, I am afraid it is going to happen again."

Responding to Langotsky's remarks, Pan Am Vice President Jeff Kriender said he was "sick and tired" of Langotsky "bad-mouthing us."

In May 1986, an Israeli team that included Langotsky, as well as a former head of protection and security for the Shin Beth, Israel's domestic intelligence service, and the former security chief of Israel's El Al Airlines, did an extensive profile of Pan Am's security procedures at 25 international airports including Frankfurt and Heathrow, London, finding what they called major flaws in the procedures in most of cases.

● **AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI** had a letter delivered to Soviet leader Gorbachov on Jan. 4 telling him that Communism is dead and he should study Islam. "It is clear to everyone that Communism should henceforth be sought in world museums of political history," Khomeini's son Ahmad quoted the message.

● **SOVIET WOMEN** have been recruited in significant numbers to *spetsnaz* special forces military units, given intensive training, and deployed under cover abroad, often as "peace activists," reports *Jane's Defence Weekly* from Britain. Some of these participated in anti-missile protests at Greenham Common.

● **FIDEL CASTRO**, on the 30th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, betrayed fears that the Soviets may abandon him in a *quid pro quo* with the United States, as they divide up the world. "It is almost certain," he said Dec. 5, "that the peace of the empire [U.S.] is peace with the powerful, with the Soviet Union. But it will be war with the small, revolutionary socialist or simply independent countries of the Third World."

● **THREE BOMB** threats forced Scandinavian Airlines to mount one of its tightest security operations ever. Phone-in bomb threats were followed over the New Year's weekend by a warning from Interpol offices in Budapest, Hungary.

● **U.S. AMBASSADOR** to Pakistan Robert Oakley may have deliberately delivered a kiss of death to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, when he told the Lahore-based daily *The Nation* that from the moment George Shultz arrived in Islamabad to attend General Zia's funeral, the United States used its influence to push Bhutto into power. The statement makes Mrs. Bhutto look like a puppet, and almost forces her to adopt an anti-American posture.