

International Intelligence

Moscow admits rapid spread of AIDS

The Soviet Union could have 200,000 AIDS cases by the year 2000, *Pravda* reported on Feb. 21, based on the current rate that the disease is spreading across the country.

Varying estimates as to the rate of increase of AIDS infection and full-blown AIDS cases were given a day earlier at a conference of an emergency commission on AIDS in Moscow, chaired by Health Minister Yevgeni Chazov.

"Mathematicians calculate that, at the current growth rate of the disease, by 1995 there will be in the country approximately 600,000 carriers and 6,000 sick and dying from AIDS. By the year 2000, the number of carriers will rise to 15 million and the sick and dead to 200,000," *Pravda* continued.

According to the Trade Union daily *Trud*, Deputy Health Minister Alexander Kondrusev said that there are currently 150 people infected with AIDS—which is 30 more than the number given by the top Soviet specialist on the disease, Valentin Pokrovsky, in January.

The *Pravda* report noted that a special commission sent to the northern Caucasus town of Elista in January, after 27 infants had been infected with AIDS in a maternity hospital, found that infected syringes were still being used there.

"We need to act quickly . . . and that is why the total absence of any such action is amazing," *Pravda* remarked.

Hungary's 'multi-party' system: New Yalta ploy

Recent speeches by Hungarian Communist Party leaders indicate what—besides the need to divert the people from their economic plight—is behind the new "multi-party system" just introduced there: the Soviets' ideas about splicing "Europe 1992" into the Soviet empire.

In December 1988, Hungarian party and

government leader Imre Poszgay addressed the Arnoldshain Evangelical Academy in West Germany on the topic, "Europe—Dream and Reality." The division of Europe after the war was "a mistake, an error," he said. "It is no accident that in our search for the Central European idea, in our clinging to Central Europe, Hungary has opened up especially toward Austria. . . . One could think of the historical memories, of the beautiful common experiences and historical developments with Austria. . . . But I think that the basic motive in Hungary's opening up toward Austria is Austria's present neutrality."

On Jan. 29, Hungarian party chief Károly Grosz spoke at the Davos Economic Forum in Switzerland. The Hungarian communist daily reported his speech under the headline, "Our Fate—Europe." Declaring his ideas to be in "harmony" with the "ideas on cooperation" of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Grosz said, "We Hungarians have started on the road leading to a common Europe. We are carrying out political and economic reforms simultaneously. . . . We are determined in our strategic efforts to open up to the world at large. . . . By establishing free-trade zones, creating mixed enterprises, and involving working capital, we are striving to achieve cooperation in production that will expand our traditional trade relations."

Meanwhile, Moscow has announced that Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachov will receive Grosz in Moscow in the second half of March.

Worry about growing anti-Semitism in Russia

The anti-Semitic Pamyat movement "attracts more than a million followers" in the Soviet Union, writes the *Daily Telegraph* of London's Xan Smiley Feb. 20, in a feature entitled, "Anti-Semitism as a Way of Life."

Smiley calls Pamyat (Memory) a throwback to the "pogrom-making Black Hundreds. . . . I used not to take it serious-

ly, with its woolly mysticism, its tedious ramblings about Mother Russia, and that tiresome thing called the Russian soul, and with its driving conviction that the Jews are to blame for all that goes wrong. Now I am not so certain."

While Pamyat may lack political weight, writes Smiley, "the wider sentiment of extreme Russian nationalism, with its anti-Semitism, its contempt for Western liberal democracy and judicial processes, has become a threat to democratic reform."

Pamyat intersects a growing mood in Russia that "Jews" are responsible for Russia's problems, especially given that many of the leading Bolsheviks were Jewish. One unnamed "old princess" told Smiley that Lenin was "worse than Stalin. You see, Lenin went for us—the upper classes, the Church, the priests. But Stalin killed his own kind, the Bolsheviks and the Jews."

Warning from Paris to Washington, London

Andre Fontaine, editor of the French newspaper of record, *Le Monde*, discussing the West German situation in an unusual front-page editorial on Feb. 22, quotes from the late President de Gaulle's *Memoires*, a tirade by Churchill about Stalin, which represents the Anglo-American policy toward Europe:

"Russia is a very large animal that was hungry for a very long time. We cannot stop it from eating nowadays. . . . I try to moderate Stalin, who may have a big appetite, but does not lack of sense of realities. And then, after the meal comes digestion. When the time for digestion comes, the slumbering Russians will meet trouble."

Based on that, Fontaine shows that Chancellor Helmut Kohl, besieged internally by the pro-Gorbachov faction and public opinion and by the Republikaner Party, a right-wing neutralist outfit, and externally by unwarranted Atlantic pressures, may be betrayed very soon by Hans Dietrich Genscher.

Genscher is the foreign minister and

Briefly

● **THE U.S.** National Security Agency has used its listening posts in West Germany and West Berlin, to monitor telephone conversations related to domestic West German affairs as well as military radio traffic from the East bloc, according to *Der Spiegel* magazine, which is a frequent purveyor of Soviet disinformation. If true, the story can only add to U.S.-German tensions.

● **GEN. BORIS GROMOV**, the "butcher of Salang . . . who ordered the slaughter of Afghan civilians along the length of the Salang highway to ensure a safe retreat for his men" from Afghanistan, has been promoted to commander of the Kiev Military District, according to a report in London's *Sunday Telegraph*. "His new command is a key job in shaping Warsaw Pact doctrine towards NATO."

● **ARIEL SHARON** opposes a U.S.-Soviet deal that might sacrifice Israel, saying "It will happen to us, what happened to Czechoslovakia," in a "soliloquy" published in the *Wall Street Journal* Feb. 10. Much involved in the past in superpower behind-the-scenes deals, Sharon apparently fears he'll be dropped as the New Yalta nears fulfillment.

● **ARNALDO FORLANI** was elected general secretary of the Italian Christian Democracy Feb. 23, replacing Ciriaco De Mita, who remains prime minister of Italy.

● **EL SALVADORAN** terrorists issued a new "peace proposal" Feb. 20. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) offered to halt its nine-year war and join "the political life of the country" in exchange for postponement of March elections and disarming of the nation's military. It wants the army reduced from 58,000 men to the 1978 level of about 12,000. Similar proposals have brought coup threats from the military, but the U.S. State Department called it "worthy of serious and substantive consideration."

deputy chancellor from the Free Democratic Party, coalition partners with Kohl's Christian Democrats. It was Genscher who pulled the plug on the coalition led by Social Democrat Helmut Schmidt in 1982.

But contrary to Genscher's betrayal of Schmidt in 1982, the consequences would be devastating, writes Fontaine. "Nothing would be sillier than showing astonishment or indignation at what some, in the U.S. or France, call Germany's drift or even her slide. Even sillier would be to foster the drift by means of well-publicized pressures."

Fontaine's editorial follows French President Mitterrand's snubbing of James Baker III during his recent whirlwind tour of Europe. The inference is that the Elysée Palace (France's "White House") is making its discontent at Washington publicly known. Fontaine's recipe for helping Germany is to keep the balance equal, help Bonn achieve whatever it can to solve the German Question, and help them to not go it alone.

Sihanouk accuses Thailand, Vietnam

Intensified diplomatic activity around Southeast Asia is aimed at turning Kampuchea into a "Thai-Vietnamese condominium" with "China acting as overseer," Prince Sihanouk, former head of state and now head of the Kampuchean resistance coalition, told the Paris paper *La Croix* in mid-February.

He said the current plan would take Kampuchea back to 1883, when only French colonization saved Cambodia from being carved up between Vietnam and Thailand.

Under the current plan, he said, Thailand and Vietnam would each have their influence in the "condominium," with China acting as chairman of the board of directors. Kampuchea would have no real sovereignty.

Meanwhile, a second round of Sino-Vietnamese talks on Kampuchea and normalization of bilateral ties will take place soon, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Co Thach said Feb. 21 in Jakarta. In an interview with a selected group of jour-

nalists, Thach said the two sides were working out the time and venue.

Thach also confirmed earlier reports that Vietnam will open Cam Ranh Bay's naval facilities to freighters of nations other than the Soviet Union.

Weizman ready to talk with Arafat

"I would invite Arafat for talks. I would say, 'Look, you fought me and I fought you, but I think it is time to sit down and talk,'" declared Ezer Weizman, Israeli Science Minister, in an exclusive interview with *EIR*'s Europe-based newsletter, *Middle East Insider*. The interview was published in *MEI* Feb. 20, and will also appear in a coming issue of *EIR*, along with an interview with Gen. Mordechai Gur.

The Weizman interview was conducted on Feb. 13 in Weizman's office at the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology in Jerusalem.

A founder of the Israeli Air Force and a former minister of defense—among numerous ministerial appointments—Weizman talked at length on both the perspectives for peace in the region and Israel's own political situation.

He notably warned that he may soon resign from the government to free himself for initiatives to move the peace process forward.

While strongly underlining his readiness to meet with Arafat, he also made clear that Israel will not negotiate for "peace at any price." A Palestinian entity should be subjected to an agreement on "limited forces. If I can have an agreement with a country like Egypt, why can't I have it with a Palestinian entity?" he asked. Ultimately, "I want to go to the years when I was a youngster, when I used to go with my father to Beirut, Damascus, Cairo."

However, for this, in Israel, "we need a strong leadership, a leadership which will have enough guts to take a risk, like Sadat took a risk, like Begin, like de Gaulle took a risk."