

International Intelligence

British intelligence in secret talks with Soviets

British intelligence coordinator Sir Percy Cradock made a secretive trip to Moscow on Feb. 22. Cradock met with Karen Bruntents, the deputy head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, who works under top Soviet policy coordinator Valentin Falin. The trip was covered in a very small item in the Soviet Communist Party daily *Pravda* Feb. 23, but has received no notice anywhere else. *Pravda* noted that they discussed "German-German relations and the German question."

Knowledgeable British sources expressed surprise about the Cradock visit, since his personal expertise has almost exclusively been in the China/Far East theater, and he has had no special expertise on Germany. He was formerly British ambassador in Beijing, and made a diplomatic mission to China late last year which provoked quite a scandal in Britain. The British sources estimate that Cradock visited Moscow in his capacity as Mrs. Thatcher's special adviser on intelligence affairs and the general coordinator of the powerful Joint Intelligence Committee. In recent months, the JIC has created a spinoff, called JIC [G] which was set up to upgrade British intervention into the German situation and to increase MI-6's activities in Germany.

Cradock's trip occurred days after Mrs. Thatcher had made an international issue over the question of the German-Polish borders.

Sun Yat-sen attacked in Communist China

The Communist Chinese media have attacked Sun Yat-sen, the founder of republican China, as a "bourgeois intellectual," the French daily *Le Figaro* reported on March 6. Sun was criticized because he sought inspiration for the Chinese renaissance in Japan and America.

This is just the crudest part of the Communist Party's campaign of xenophobia, which is their effort to hold back the "contamination" of the revolutionary upsurges in Eastern Europe, Mongolia, and the Soviet Central Asian republics. The Chinese Communists have previously tried to claim Sun as their own, displaying his picture in Tiananmen Square during National Day celebrations.

But the official *People's Daily* claimed on March 5 that Chinese students, after having looked to "imported" ideas of Sigmund Freud, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Friedrich Nietzsche for inspiration, then "discovered" Mao Zedong, finding in his works the answer to the question, how do we save China?

KGB agent: Andropov plotted to kill Pope

A high-ranking defector from the Soviet KGB has charged, in an interview published in the *Washington Post* on March 2, that the late Yuri Andropov, who was KGB chief and then President, coordinated a plot to kill Pope John Paul II.

David Ignatius, the pseudonym of a former CIA agent, interviewed KGB Major Victor I. Sheymov, who defected to the United States on May 16, 1980. Sheymov reports that during a trip to Poland in 1979, he learned of a cable to the KGB general directing the Warsaw office from KGB chief Andropov, which read: "Obtain all the information possible how to get physically close to the Pope."

"Everyone knew what it meant," Sheymov said. "It meant they wanted to assassinate the Pope." On the same trip, the Warsaw KGB chief confided to Sheymov that when Pope John Paul II was elected, Andropov had complained to him, "How could you possibly allow election of a citizen of a socialist country as Pope?"

Sheymov says he told the CIA immediately after his 1980 defection that Andropov was preparing to kill the Pope. He does not know what the CIA did with the information in the months before the May 1981 assassination attempt by Mehmet Ali Agca, which

has been traced via the Bulgarian connection to Andropov.

In a commentary on March 3, the British newspaper the *Guardian* wrote that the revelations may force the West to see Andropov in a "new light." Since he was the "godfather of perestroika" and mentor of Gorbachov, this may have wider repercussions.

Lebanon's Aoun pulls his troops back

Lebanese Prime Minister Gen. Michel Aoun's troops on March 2 gave up some ground gained in the latest fighting with the Lebanese Forces militia, as part of a withdrawal apparently prompted by the Catholic Church and international pressure.

The troops withdrew shortly after Lebanese Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir threatened General Aoun and his rival Samir Geagea and their men with excommunication unless they halted their month-old war for control of East Beirut.

"Thus, they will be expelled from the Church body and prevented burial according to Church rites," Sfeir said in his latest plea for a cease-fire.

Both Aoun and Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea vowed in separate statements to abide by the cease-fire called for by Sfeir and fighting eased to sporadic rocket and mortar fire. The withdrawal was "a goodwill gesture and in response to mediation efforts by the Vatican, France and Patriarch Sfeir," a source close to Aoun said.

'Gorbachov Committee' formed in Britain

Britain's MI-6 intelligence service has formed a "Gorbachov Committee," which is supposed to give Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher "advanced warning" about threats to Gorbachov's political survival, the *Sunday Express* of London reported on March 4. This "secret group of experts," the paper says, is proof of the "growing fear in Whitehall" over Gorbachov's staying power. It is

Briefly

assumed in London that Gorbachov's attempt to assume dictatorial powers is a sign of weakness rather than strength.

According to the article, the Gorbachov Committee is directed by Sir Patrick Wright, the permanent undersecretary of the British Foreign Office and Britain's "most senior mandarin," who has departmental oversight of MI-6 and who chairs many of the weekly meetings of Britain's powerful Joint Intelligence Committee. It also includes Sir Christopher Curwen, the former head of MI-6 who is now the intelligence and security coordinator at the Cabinet Office, and Sir Colin McColl, present head of MI-6.

In a related development, the London *Independent* newspaper on March 3 reported that "the assassination of Mikhail Gorbachov and overthrow of the Soviet leadership in a KGB coup are secretly being contemplated as a crisis scenario by emergency planning units" of the British Home Office's civil defense apparatus.

The scenario for an "emergency planning exercise" was used in the West Midlands, under the code-name "Samson XVII." The scenario began with the words: "The TV and radio over the last days have been full of the deteriorating international situation. This has been getting steadily worse since German reunification." The scenario ends in nuclear war.

Vatican: German unity is long overdue

Vatican officials believe that German reunification is an idea whose time is about 40 years overdue, and are quietly preparing to facilitate the process through collaboration between Catholic bishops in East and West Germany, according to a report from the Catholic News Service published in the Feb. 22 *Catholic Herald* of Arlington, Virginia.

The article quotes a Vatican official, "In effect, the Holy See never recognized this division, which was imposed, and was never desired by the people, and you cannot deny them now the right to self-determination." The official estimated that 95% of

East Germans support the idea of unity.

Vatican officials have pointed out that while there are still deep misgivings in Poland about the Polish-German border issue, these should not deter reunification. "I think we need to help Germany to accept these borders as final," one Vatican official said. "But I think we're beyond the point of fearing a resurgence of German nationalism."

The article stresses that the Vatican has taken pains not to enter into the current debate on reunification. "But privately, officials do not hide their enthusiasm for the move."

East and West German Catholic bishops are holding their first joint postwar planning session March 7-8 in Augsburg.

British fascist calls for alliance with Russia

British fascist leader Enoch Powell called for a British-Russian military alliance against Germany, in a speech at Nottingham University on March 2 which was reported in the *Daily Telegraph* of London. Powell pointed to the likelihood of imminent German reunification and of U.S. military withdrawal from Europe. Under such conditions, he said, the small nation-states of Europe would seek protection against "an aggressive military power. They all identify that power no longer as Russia but as Germany."

Powell went on to say that such British-Russian responsibility arose from the fact that "we, each of us, effectively unaided, defeated Germany—we in 1940, Russia in 1943. Any power at war with Russia, any power at war with Britain, and *a fortiori* any power at war with both Britain and Russia is a power doomed."

Powell further said that Britain could never play its necessary role if it identified itself with continental European states, and stood or fell with continental conflicts. No British merger with France, for example, would ever work. Said Powell: "Britain, guarantor of the settlement of Europe, is by definition and by logic, a United Kingdom politically and militarily independent."

● **DAVID OWEN**, the Social Democrat and former British foreign secretary, denounced Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for being "in danger of swallowing whole the insidious KGB propaganda that seeks to sell Mr. Gorbachov as a closet democrat." He warned that Gorbachov is becoming a dictator with power greater than most Russian czars.

● **LONRHO** chairman Tiny Rowland's connections to Britain's MI-6 intelligence service was for the first time ever brought up in the British Parliament on March 2. Labour Party parliamentarian Dale Campbell-Savours pointed out that it is "likely that MI-6 has long used Rowland as a source of information over Africa."

● **'THE SDI** seems unstoppable," said Dr. Frank Barnaby, the British anti-SDI scientist who was executive director of the Stockholm SIPRI think tank, in an interview on Danish National Radio on March 3. Barnaby cited the development of the "the x-ray laser, the so-called 'Brilliant Pebbles,' and magnetic pulse weapons."

● **EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT** Hosni Mubarak called Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh Feb. 27 to discuss the subcontinent, the Indian press reports, likely focusing on the crisis in Kashmir. Just before the call, Pakistan's Minister of Religious Affairs Khan Bahadur Khan met with the Egyptian President, afterward calling a press conference where he highlighted Egypt's possible mediating role between India and Pakistan.

● **AN ALARMING** increase in heroin use and AIDS has been monitored in Communist China, reported Simon Long, China correspondent for the London *Guardian* on March 5. Police in the Yunnan province city of Kunming arrested more than 2,000 addicts last year.