

International Intelligence

When will Soviet troops really leave Germany?

Soviet Col. Nikolai Petrusenko, a leader of the "Soyuz" group of deputies, told the newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* of March 2 that it may take as much as 16-19 years, rather than the agreed-upon 4 years, for Soviet troops to leave Germany.

With the debate in the Supreme Soviet beginning March 4 over ratification of the "2 plus 4" treaty concerning the status of reunified Germany, Petrusenko advises that the treaty not be ratified, but that "new negotiations" be initiated.

"The transport capacity of the railways is such that it will take 16-19 years for troops to leave," he stated. With help from the Navy and with the use of transport planes, the time could possibly be reduced to 9-10 years. According to Petrusenko, not all the problems involved in the troops leaving were foreseen at the time that the troop-withdrawal agreements were signed between the Soviet Union and Germany, so the whole thing should now be reconsidered: "Is it not better to show courage and to recognize that we made a mistake with the withdrawal agreement?"

His comments were given wide coverage in the German media.

Political unrest spreads in Egypt

Egypt, a member of the U.S.-led coalition that defeated Iraq, has been the scene of growing student protests against the government's policy, and also of efforts by the ruling elites to distance themselves from Anglo-American plans for a "new world order."

At the end of February, before the ceasefire was declared, stone-throwing students demanding an end to Egyptian participation in the war, confronted police, who used tear gas against them. One student was killed.

On Feb. 26, some 5,000-10,000 students sponsored by the Egyptian Student

Union marched from the university campus to the center of Cairo, with little evident obstruction from the authorities.

An outspoken critique of the U.S. war aims was published by the government-controlled Cairo daily *Al Ahrām*, whose editor wrote on Feb. 26 that the overthrow of Saddam Hussein had been demanded neither by the United Nations nor by the Arab League. The U.S. desire to topple Saddam, he said, was an "open violation of international law, which is to become the fundamental for the new world order of America." The paper recommended that the coalition "leave Saddam Hussein to his inevitable natural end," because he would have to pay the price for his defeat sooner or later.

Responding to the growing unrest, President Hosni Mubarak declared on Feb. 24 that Egyptian troops would not enter Iraqi territory along with the coalition forces, but would confine their operations to the liberation of Kuwait.

Ali Boutros-Ghali, the assistant foreign minister, has repeatedly affirmed that Egypt could live with a postwar Iraq under Saddam Hussein, provided the 12 U.N. resolutions were fulfilled by the Iraqis. Boutros-Ghali even recalled that before Aug. 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein had been the "main ally" of Egypt.

Iraqi opposition leaders reject war reparations

In a declaration published in Munich, Germany on Feb. 27, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Opposition of Iraq denounced any plans for foreign powers to shape the political structure and economics of Iraq in the postwar period. The statement rejected any dictates by the victorious powers, modeled on the Versailles Treaty, which imposed crushing reparations on Germany after World War I. Indeed, it is the *coalition* powers which should pay reparations, for bombing of the Iraqi civilian population and the country's infrastructure, in violation of the United Nations mandate, the council said.

The future of Saddam Hussein should

be determined by the Iraqi people, not from outside, the opposition groups stressed. If Saddam Hussein is to face trial, it would necessarily have to be a national trial in Iraq, and it should be left to the Iraqi opposition to find the form of government and leadership the nation of Iraq needs.

Havel warns of danger from Soviet instability

Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel warned about the global dangers that could arise from a collapse of the Soviet Union and the Soviet economy, in an interview with the Prague magazine *Respekt* published March 1. He said that "the danger lies more in permanent instability and chaos, which would affect not only neighboring countries, but also Europe and the entire world."

A Soviet economic collapse could lead to a situation where not only are large numbers of refugees streaming into Central and Western Europe, but where "armed liberation armies" cross Soviet borders, he said. Furthermore, said Havel, it is possible that the economic disintegration of the U.S.S.R. would lead to a situation where no Soviet oil is exported. He also warned of "hardliners" in the U.S.S.R. intentionally sabotaging certain economic functions and deliberately targeting central Europe, especially as Soviet propaganda has begun to talk of Prague, Budapest, and Warsaw being centers of spying for the West.

Soviets draw military lessons from the war

Soviet military leaders, in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, are drawing their conclusions about their own military preparedness. Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov set the tone on Feb. 25, upon returning from meetings about the formal dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, scheduled for March 31. He said that "everything will be concentrated on the security of our state. We always used to talk about the security of the Warsaw Pact orga-

nization, of a group of states. And now we shall talk about the security of our union."

On Feb. 28, Yazov answered questions from the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet about the evident failures of Iraqi anti-aircraft defenses in stopping the air offensive. "What happened in Kuwait and Iraq necessitates a review of the attitudes to army air defense and the country's entire air defense system," he replied.

Similarly, Gen. Col. Rakhim S. Akchurin, commander of Soviet anti-aircraft forces, told the TASS news agency: "Today our anti-air defenses are capable of repelling the attacks of any air targets, *but what will happen in two or three years?* The echo of missile thunder in the desert must put us on our guard."

Soviet military spokesmen are claiming that the U.S. used state-of-the-art weaponry, from Stealth bombers to laser-guided bombs, against older Soviet-supplied Iraqi weaponry, and conclude from this that it would be suicidal to cut the Soviet military budget now. Speaking to the newspaper *Izvestia*, Gen. Maj. Nikolai I. Kutsenko said that the Soviet Army had some weapons similar to those used by the U.S. in Iraq, "but not all. This is something for our military research and development to think about."

'Indigenous' groups promote Black Legend

As part of the counterorganizing campaign against the 1992 celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America, indigenous, peasant, and labor organizations in Central and South America have launched an offensive entitled "500 Years of Indigenous and Popular Resistance." As *EIR* reported in our issue of Oct. 19, 1990 ("'Black Legend' Hides Truth on History of Americas"), such campaigns seek to promote the "Black Legend," according to which the Spanish conquest and evangelization of the continent "oppressed" the native peoples.

The current campaign is coordinated from Guatemala, and in Colombia, operates

under the name "Campaign for the Self-Discovery of America." Plans for this mobilization originated in Geneva, Switzerland in 1987. A conference of indigenous organizations will take place in Guatemala in October to plan further action.

The groups charge that the last 500 years have been characterized by "invasion, genocide, and evangelization"; like many of Colombia's guerrilla groups, the organizers claim that Colombia's "violation of human rights" and "suppression of political freedom" must be denounced everywhere, and that the cultural values of indigenous populations must be respected and revived, not eliminated. The organizers call on the Church to enhance the understanding of "cultural and religious differences" among different ethnic groups, and work for their preservation rather than their extinction.

Mexican journalist: Britain started the war

Mexican journalist Manuel Mejido, author of the book *The Oil Lords*, wrote in the daily *El Sol de México* of Feb. 28 that "the British are responsible for what is happening today in the Persian Gulf. Their treason against the Arabs, Hashemites, and Wahabites, during and after the First World War, created the environment of irreconcilable confusion, rancor, and hatred that exists today in the Middle East."

After reviewing the British refusal to comply with the Sykes-Picot Treaty, which established that after World War I no foreign troops would remain in the Arab world, Mejido writes: "As usual, the British didn't comply and the soldiers of His Gracious Majesty stayed in the region from 1918 to 1953 . . . while the politicians and oil businessmen established new borders, eliminated Kurdistan, and divided it into Turkey, Iran, and Iraq, giving birth as well to Lebanon and Syria. Jordan had to be created to give the Hashemites a kingdom of camel drivers, and Kuwait separated itself from Iraq . . . leaving it the personal property of the Al Sabah family."

Briefly

● **GEORGE BUSH** should get a "Nobel War Prize" because of his bellicosity in the Gulf crisis, the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato* proposes. The Italian magazine charged at the end of February that the U.S. President was the ideal candidate for such a prize, because he had turned down each and every peace effort over the past seven months and held on to war as the only option.

● **WESTERN EMBASSIES** in Pakistan told all their nationals to stay out of public places because the population is so outraged about the war against Iraq, especially the bombing of hundreds of civilians, the *Hindustan Times* reported Feb. 15. The Pakistani government has had to pull soldiers from the frontier to increase protection for Western diplomats and foreign residents in Islamabad.

● **FIDEL CASTRO** charged Feb. 25 that "the U.S. refused a peaceful outcome" of the Gulf crisis. "What it wants is butchery and slaughter. It wants to try out its weapons, kill hundreds of thousands of people, and create an ecological catastrophe." Castro said that the Soviets were too enmeshed in domestic problems to be able to do anything effective.

● **LITHUANIA** will repeal all Soviet laws as of March 17, the day of the Moscow-sponsored referendum on the Union, the agency Baltfax reports. The Lithuanian government views the referendum as "interference in the republic's internal affairs and a renewed attack on its sovereignty."

● **MOSCOW** could work closely with Teheran to put together a new governing team in Iraq, said Joseph Maila, professor at the St. Joseph University in Lebanon and chief editor of the French-language publication *Cahiers de l'Orient*. According to Maila, the Russians would favor a new team in which Saddam Hussein would remain, but in the context of a broader coalition.