

International Intelligence

KGB charges Pakistan with 'destabilization'

Anatoli Belousov, head of the Soviet KGB in the Central Asian Republic of Tadjikistan, made a most unusual attack on the Pakistani special services, according to Radio Moscow of Aug. 2. He charged them with spreading Islamic fundamentalism throughout Central Asia, "destabilizing the public and political situation in the Central Asian republics, and creating the conditions for their secession" from the U.S.S.R.

Belousov claimed to have "irrefutable proof" that Pakistan used Afghan mujaheddin forces in such efforts. He said his warning is not directed against Islam, but is intended to "protect the constitutional system from subversive activity."

Curiously, the theme of Pakistan's alleged destabilization of Soviet Central Asia has been raised in the context of the U.S. investigations into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). Jack Blum, the chief investigator for Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) on the case, told reporter Larry Collins, as reported in the *International Herald Tribune*, that the real story of BCCI, is that it was a Pakistan-based operation of the late CIA chief William Casey, to fund destabilizations of the Central Asian regions of the U.S.S.R.

Kuwait's Catholics deny reports of Iraqi crimes

"The Iraqi soldiers respected us. . . . Reports of violence and murders of Catholic priests are totally false," Kuwait's Apostolic Vicar, Bishop Aloisius Micallef, told the international magazine *30 Giorni*, according to an article published at the end of July. Micallef also stressed how dangerous the situation is now for Christians in Kuwait.

"It is also false that the Iraqi soldiers had hidden tanks and ammunition in the churches," he said. "Some of the soldiers came to churches because they were Christian. Others came to ask for food because they

were starving." The bishop described the coalition's aerial bombing of an Iraqi Army column in retreat on the highway outside Kuwait City: "Whoever went to see what is now called 'the highway of hell,' described blood-curdling scenes. This is a burden that will remain on the human conscience."

Now, after the war, *30 Giorni* writes, "the small Catholic community in Kuwait could become the last *desaparecida* in the desert storm—a 'disappearance' to be seen as part of the collateral effects of this 'just war,' and which is not even noticed, now that the eyes and the appetites of the world are focused on the billion-dollar contracts for reconstruction."

Said Micallef: "The opening of the borders is selective. Among the Catholics the percentage remains very low. . . . The Palestinian community cannot be criminalized *in toto* for collaborationism. Now all Iraqi and Palestinian residents have been advised to stay home. Nobody was re-hired."

30 Giorni accuses the Kuwaiti authorities of "discouraging the return of the 'stable' foreigners, who before the war amounted to 70% of the population. A real plan of expulsion seems to be being implemented for some ethnic groups: the Iraqis and above all the Palestinians, the biggest community before the war."

Asean countries seek to counter media lies

The six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreed to take steps to promote more balanced, less destructive journalism, at a meeting of information ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Aug. 2, according to Radio Australia.

The information ministers said that the media should not be used in a manner that undermines the stability and well-being of countries. To this end, foreign journalists will be encouraged to spend time in the various Asean countries. Other measures were not immediately specified.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir

Mohamad called the Western press "a threat." He said that it was not easy to ban a newspaper or expel a reporter, but that sometimes it must be done. "You don't do such things without getting a bashing from the Fourth Estate and those who consider themselves holier than us," he said. But "the mindless acceptance of someone else's interpretation of democracy and an unquestioning submission to certain practices, as for example the 'right' to fabricate and tell lies, will undermine not only the fledgling democracies, but the democratic system itself. This, the countries of Asean can ill afford."

Iran's Velayati looks to Afghanistan, Kashmir

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Pakistan on July 28 for tripartite talks with Pakistan and the Afghan mujaheddin, on an early political settlement in Afghanistan.

Heavy fighting is continuing between the guerrillas and Afghan government troops, and hundreds of people were reported killed or injured when an arms depot was blown up in the capital of Kabul recently, the Pakistani newspaper the *Nation* reported. The blast was reportedly caused by rockets fired by mujaheddin troops blowing up thousands of missiles, including Scuds.

A declaration issued after the talks called for a "peaceful solution of the Afghan problem under which Afghanistan's Islamic identity and its independent, non-aligned, and sovereign status are restored."

Velayati also addressed the deteriorating Indo-Pakistani border crisis over Kashmir, emphasizing his government's commitment that "the uprising by the people of occupied Kashmir [the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir] to achieve their right to self-determination will be fully supported" Radio Pakistan reported on July 29.

Velayati said that the Kashmiris should be given an opportunity to decide their own future. Earlier, Britain's Lord Avebury, a leading supporter of the World Kashmiri

Freedom Movement, had told a journalist that he had been making overtures to Iran to have it become the main international advocate for Kashmir, because the British cannot "be seen" playing this role.

Group of Seven charged with 'interference'

The declaration issued by the Group of Seven industrial nations at the London summit in July could have "far-reaching consequences" for the Indian subcontinent, a July 22 release by India Abroad News Service reported. "There could be a thin dividing line between what the G-7 may consider the international approach, and what others might consider interference in their affairs. In G-7 language, there could be scope for international action in the subcontinent right now. . . . War in the subcontinent could invite international solutions as the G-7 might see them."

The G-7 declaration talks of world policing through a stronger United Nations, and refers to the "peoples" rather than "people" of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

"Similar issues are potentially explosive within India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka," the Indian report states. In the declaration's exhortations to the U.N. to be ready to carry out other "policing actions" like that against Iraq, "there may be enough here for separatists in the subcontinent to cite."

Germans worry about French missile site

The chairman of the German Christian Democratic parliamentary group, Alfred Dregger, on Aug. 2 denounced the plan of French President François Mitterrand to station the new Hades short-range missile in Alsace-Lorraine, directly bordering on Germany. The missile is scheduled to be placed there on Sept. 1.

"Does France really want," Dregger asked in Bonn, "to force its ally Germany to be struck by such weapons in the defense against an attack that would target France

via German airspace?"

The French stationing of the Hades, which has a range that could reach Würzburg or Prague, comes at a time when the Soviet Union is pulling out its own short-range missiles and nuclear artillery from central and eastern Europe, Dregger pointed out. The decision by Mitterrand is even more ominous, as it scraps all previous agreements, for example the joint NATO-French disarmament initiative of July 6, 1990, as well as discussions with between France and Germany over the past years.

Dropping the diplomatic niceties that are usually observed in a matter as sensitive as Franco-German relations, Dregger charged that Mitterrand is acting "like the duck that comes out of the water, shaking itself off: Everything is gone again, and the German security concerns are no longer part of the game."

Dregger's remarks are one of many signs of friction building up between Paris and Bonn on vital policy issues, and of a realignment of France, under Mitterrand, with the anti-German coalition led by Britain.

Brazilian journalist defends Columbus

Brazilian journalist José Ignacio Werneck wrote on July 29 in the newspaper *Tribuna da Imprensa* that "in the U.S., it's the vogue to attack Christopher Columbus, as the date of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America gets closer." But don't blame Columbus, he says, for the problems we created. Werneck says that those who attack Columbus are still quite happy with their air conditioning, VCRs, and other modern comforts. If, "through an aberration of fate, America hadn't been discovered, we'd all be either in Europe or Africa, and on our continent, the Aztecs would still be tearing the hearts out of their prisoners. It's true that Guanabara Bay wouldn't be as polluted, but let's not blame that on Columbus: That's not an automatic consequence of civilization, but only of our own ineptitude."

● **GERMAN** Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher declared on Aug. 5 that any attempt to change borders by force in Yugoslavia, in order to create a Greater Serbia, is "totally unacceptable." In an interview with German radio, he sharply criticized Serbia's political leadership for having torpedoed European Community diplomatic efforts in Yugoslavia. Genscher said that economic sanctions would now be in order.

● **TURKEY** notified the U.S. State Department at the end of July, of its interest in the outcome of the Yugoslav crisis, expressing particular concern for the situation in Bosnia, where there is a substantial Muslim population and a Turkish minority, reported the London *Independent* on Aug. 6.

● **LITHUANIAN** President Vytautas Landsbergis on July 30 announced the diplomatic recognition of Slovenia and Croatia by Lithuania, in a statement of solidarity with the independence struggle of the two republics against Belgrade. He said that their struggle was as just as the struggle of the Baltic nations against Moscow for sovereignty and independence.

● **THE ARCHBISHOP** of Berlin, Georg Sterzinsky, recently named cardinal by Pope John Paul II, will serve in two important posts in the Vatican hierarchy, the Vatican congregation on religious education and the papal council for dialogue with other religions.

● **THE SOVIET** Communist Party daily *Pravda* lashed out at the Palestinians, in an unusual commentary on July 31. "The Palestinians, after their very bad calculations in supporting Baghdad during the Gulf war, are demonstrating a need for new ideas and a new definition of interests of the different Palestinian groups." The article was published to coincide with the U.S.-Soviet initiative for a joint conference on the Mideast.