

International Intelligence

Big shakeup in China's Armed Forces

The leadership of the Chinese People's Liberation Army has just been put through the biggest reorganization since it was founded, with over 300 of the highest-level officers retired, promoted, or transferred to other military districts, the Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reported on Jan. 27.

The shuffle involved the General Staff, its political and logistical departments, the powerful Commission for Science, Technology, and Industry, the commanders of the Navy, Air Force, and Artillery, the leaders of the seven Military Districts, as well as the National Defense University and Academy of Military Science.

The reorganization was carried out in the wake of the demotion of President Yang Shangkun and especially his clansman Yang Baibing after the 14th Communist Party Congress last October, the newspaper reported. All the known Yang followers were systematically retired or demoted, on the initiative of Deng Xiaoping, who wanted the Yangs out in order to reshape China's peasant army into a technologically modern force.

Older officers from areas which are less technologically advanced were also retired, and officers from the more modernized areas were promoted.

Dutch Parliament approves euthanasia

The Dutch parliament on Feb. 9 legalized the same euthanasia policies that the Nazis used to exterminate hundreds of thousands of mentally or physically ill patients deemed to have a life "not worth living."

The Netherlands has condoned killing by doctors, but, it was officially a criminal offense, carrying a maximum 12-year jail sentence, for doctors to perform it without the consent of the victim.

The new law allows doctors to give lethal injections under "tightly controlled conditions." They are guaranteed virtual immu-

nity from prosecution if they follow a 28-point checklist showing that patients are terminally ill, in unbearable pain, and have repeatedly asked to die. These rules don't mean much, however. Under the old law, surveys of doctors found that thousands of patients were killed *without* their consent; thousands more were denied life-saving treatment, even though they checked into hospitals or requested medical treatment; and thousands of other patients were starved to death without their consent. Dutch physicians admitted to making medical decisions that hastened the end of life in 38% of all deaths.

The new law, which takes effect in early 1994, requires doctors to report every case of euthanasia. Justice Minister Ernst Hirsch-Ballin says the law will now bring euthanasia into the open to be "regulated."

Since physician-inflicted death has been accepted by the Dutch courts since 1973, proponents have continually lobbied for killing broader and broader groups of individuals, from chronically ill children to handicapped newborns to mentally ill patients who suffer "mental" pain.

Chinese democratic groups in exile merge

The two largest Chinese democratic groups in exile merged at the end of January, at a conference in Washington. The Chinese Alliance of Democracy (CAD) and the Federation for Democratic China (FDC) decided to unite to continue their fight for human rights in China.

The CAD was the first exile group to be formed, after the 1979 Democracy Wall movement was brought down by the government, while the FDC was primarily organized by students, union leaders, and scholars from the Tiananmen Square protest in the spring of 1989.

Participants at the conference told *EIR* that they were hopeful that the newly elected leadership will work for radical changes in the Chinese political system, despite the fact that the communist government sent agents in to disrupt the conference. The grouping

that was defeated advocated "peaceful evolution" and gradual changes that would leave communist rule intact.

Bangkok paper: U.N. failed in Cambodia

The United Nations should concede that it has failed in Cambodia, editorialized the Bangkok daily *The Nation* on Feb. 4. Titled "Time for the U.N. to Concede Its Khmer Peace Plan Has Failed," the editorial concluded that "the partitioning of Cambodia now seems inevitable."

"Look at what's happened now by virtue of accommodating the Khmer Rouge," the paper wrote. "Firstly, the United Nations has given a certain degree of legitimacy to the existence of the guerrilla group by not forcibly disarming its troops and allowing them to take part in the elections. This by itself is a clear contravention of the Paris Peace Agreement. Secondly, Phnom Penh government troops, by virtue of the fact that one-third of them have been disarmed and put into U.N.-controlled cantonments, are virtually sitting ducks for the Khmer Rouge in its bid to seize as much territory as possible in Cambodia."

The editorial concluded that time is running out for Cambodia and it is time that the U.N. "swallow its pride and accept the fact that the peace accords agreed upon in October 1991 are not working."

Top Serbian general blames Germany, Vatican

General Zhitovota Panic, the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the so-called Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia (S.R.Y.), blamed Germany and the Vatican for the war in the Balkans, in an interview with the newspaper of the Russian military, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, early in February. When asked why the West was supposedly "one-sided" in enforcing sanctions against Serbia, he replied: "If we were to speak about Germany, it has always been an enemy of the united and strong Yugoslavia. And . . .

none other than Germany, jointly with the Vatican, were the initiators of the acute aggravation of nationalism and separatism in Croatia and Slovenia.”

Panic added, “It was in conformity with their scenario that the collapse of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia began.” He also claimed that the United States viewed the collapse of Yugoslavia as the collapse of its communist system and as a state which “failed to become compatible with the new world order.”

“God forbid,” warned Panic, “but if a possible military intervention on the part of the West and of certain Islamic states follows, we will have to regard it as a flagrant act of armed aggression against Serbs and Montenegrins, against Slavs in general. In that case, in line with the decision of the S.R.Y. leaders, the Army will make use of its entire potential. We are prepared to make the greatest possible sacrifices in the interests of the defense of the independence and sovereignty of the S.R.Y., the territory of Serbia and Montenegro.”

War in Balkans 'a western catastrophe'

A commentary in the major Danish daily *Jyllands-Posten* on Feb. 9 attacked the bankruptcy of western policy in the Balkan war, and called for giving immediate air support to Bosnia. Vienna correspondent Per Nyholm's article was titled “Balkans—a Western Catastrophe.”

“The drama in the Balkans which has lasted for almost two years, has been a catastrophe both for the nations directly involved and for the West,” he wrote. “Croatia and Bosnia lie in ruins, smashed to pieces by Serbia, which itself is peering into the abyss of national bankruptcy. At the same time, important western and international institutions are falling apart, because they are not effectively handling the southern Slavic conflict. . . .”

All of the promises made by the West to Bosnia and Croatia “seem like sick reading. Not one of them has been upheld. They were just as empty as the reprisals with which

the western politicians threatened the Serbs, without scaring anyone other than themselves.

“On the western side, people like [Serbian leaders] Milosevic and Karadzic are branded as war criminals, who ought to stand before an international tribunal. At the same time, we negotiate with them as if they were honorable men. . . .”

“One thing for sure is that the Serbians will not behave correctly. They never do. . . . [European negotiator Lord] Owen clutches his abortion of a peace—and threatens the Muslims with Security Council sanctions. This is a capitulation unparalleled since Munich 1938. And as such will they be remembered, Vance and Owen . . . as Munich-politicians.

“Serbia is not Germany before World War II—or the Soviet Union after World War II. Serbia is a nation of 10 million people and an army which has known better days, an impoverished, demoralized, and aggressive nation with no friends worth mentioning, but nonetheless a nation which has chased the West into a mousehole. If our free institutions cannot stop this mixed bag of communists, fascists, war hysterics, and real gangsters who control Belgrade and now threaten to start a war from the Alps to the Aegean Sea, then we are in danger.”

Turkey: 'Back us against Islamic fundamentalism'

The West should support the role of Turkey as a “bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism,” in economic as well as in military terms, declared Turkish Economics Minister Tansu Ciller in a speech in Bonn, Germany on Feb. 8.

The minister portrayed Turkey as a frontline state against the spreading westward of radical and aggressive Islamic currents, as witnessed in the Caucasian tinderbox, and said that the Turkish government had already spent \$2 billion for economic initiatives and cultural programs aiming at the neutralization of this threat. More was required, and the West, especially Germany, should contribute much more to assist the Turks, he said.

● **THE WEST** must make Russia a partner in all important policy decisions, said Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the former German foreign minister, in an interview with the daily *Stuttgarter Zeitung* published Feb. 12. He mentioned specifically the crisis in the Balkans and other problems that affect the security of Europe, the Group of Seven talks on economic matters, and the extension to the east of the European Community,

● **THE ARGENTINE** daily *La Nación* reported a demonstration at the White House on Jan. 27 by supporters of Lyndon LaRouche, under the headline, “A Political Prisoner in the Superpower?” The newspaper, which is linked to the Army, mentioned that among 1,000 dignitaries who had signed a petition to President Clinton demanding LaRouche's freedom, was former Argentine President Arturo Frondizi.

● **JORDANIAN** Prime Minister Shafrif Zeid Bin Shaker called for an end to the embargo against Iraq, and told parliament that Jordan would spare no effort in backing Iraq with diplomacy. “We have to intensify our efforts to break Iraq's isolation and we are sincerely seeking that,” he said on Feb. 7.

● **ALGERIA'S** military junta extended the state of emergency indefinitely. Although the move was expected, the extension of emergency rule underscores the inability of the government to put down the militant Islamic opposition after a year of military rule. The country's economic crisis is a major factor in the continuing unrest.

● **THE IRAQI** newspaper *Al-Iraqi* serialized *EIR's* book *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography*, by Anton Chaitkin and Webster G. Tarpley. The book appeared in 12 installments, ending on U.S. election day, Nov. 3, 1992.