

International Intelligence

Kazakhstan President wants to revive U.S.S.R.

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, following visits to London and Moscow at the end of March, called for the re-creation of the former Soviet Union under a new name.

According to Radio Free Europe and the Russian news agency Interfax, Nazarbayev, after meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on March 29, called for a Eurasian Union, a proposal he first made in London on March 23. Nazarbayev denied that such a union would revive the essential structures of the Soviet Union. But his proposal calls for "structures that would coordinate economic, military, and foreign policies of its members," according to Radio Free Europe. The union would have a single parliament, council of defense ministers, defense complex, and an interstate secretariat appointed by the heads of state, said Nazarbayev.

In a related development, the chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Community of Independent States (CIS), Vladimir Shumeiko, was quoted by Itar-Tass on March 29 as saying the time has come to raise the issue of closer integration. Shumeiko made his remarks after meeting with Nazarbayev in Moscow. Shumeiko said that what may be needed are additional "supranational bodies to turn the Community into "a sort of union." But, he added, the union should not be similar to the Soviet Union, and the sovereignty and freedom of all member-states should be preserved.

Guatemala makes deal with URNG terrorists

The Guatemalan government on March 29 signed a "peace agreement" with the terrorists of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG). The deal, which is being touted as a breakthrough that will bring peace after 33 years of civil war, amounts to a capitulation to the guerrillas' demands. Its principal aim is to undermine the military and the sovereignty of the nation.

The three most important points of the agreement are: 1) immediate establishment of a United Nations verification team inside the country; 2) a government commitment not to pass an amnesty law for the military, as was done in El Salvador; and 3) a government promise to combat alleged death squads, professionalize security forces, and tighten gun ownership laws. The first point entitles the U.N. human rights team to visit any part of the country and demand information at any time from the Army and the government. Richard Nuccio, a top U.S. State Department policy adviser who helped design the accord and ram it through, exuded, "Now we have an agreement that peace will come to Guatemala by the end of 1994. It's a breakthrough for Guatemala because this is one of the most difficult issues Guatemala has had to face: human rights and the opening up to international monitoring."

One of the URNG's priority demands, for a "truth commission" to investigate supposed crimes of the military in its war against subversion, was not agreed to as of yet. Instead, there is an agreement to continue talking about the issue for the next two months, which really means allowing another two months of pressure to wear down government and military resistance to such a commission. Defense Minister Mario René Enrique Morales called the commission "a revenge commission."

Algerian President meets Islamic opposition

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual met with leaders of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) at the end of March, in an effort to head off a civil war. Zeroual "obtained a pledge for an end to violence. Measures of appeasement taken by the government included the release of two of their leaders," government spokesman Mihoubi Mihoub was quoted by the Algerian news agency APS.

In January and February, authorities released more than 150 imprisoned Muslim activists, including two leading FIS members, Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali

Djeddi, who had been serving four-year sentences. According to Mihoub, the two had been mandated by the FIS to negotiate on its behalf.

Zeroual made it known that there will be no exclusions from the country's political dialogue and that the government will not negotiate anything that will violate the country's constitution.

China's Jiang hits corruption in Army

Chinese Communist Party Chairman Jiang Zemin denounced the Armed Forces for corruption and western-style decadence, in a harshly worded address before commanders at a special session of the party's military policy commission in Beijing on March 30. "Don't believe that I don't know what is going on on your side," Jiang said, announcing that he will no longer tolerate theft, prostitution, smuggling, and piracy.

The Armed Forces have turned into a factor of insecurity, because of the depth of corruption among them. Jiang is the most prominent among those who have charged the Army's officers with being more interested in doing business than in the defense of the nation.

Especially in the southern coastal regions, it is an open secret, the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* wrote on March 31, that Chinese Coast Guard vessels are involved in acts of piracy against freighters. Documentation was presented in Hong-kong recently showing that 47 out of 100 attacks on freighters are carried out by Chinese Coast Guard, Customs, and police units. Cars, computers, video players, and other such things are smuggled into China by gangs that usually pay off the Coast Guard and Customs officers.

Army general and Communist Party Politburo member Liu Huaqing is said to have returned "shattered" from a recent inspection tour of the southern coastal regions, reporting large-scale illegal sales of Army stocks by the Armed Forces. The recent Politburo decision to increase the defense bud-

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get by 22% is said to be in recognition of the fact that the Armed Forces feel underpaid. Congressional deputies from Quangdong province called for measures to put the Armed Forces under congressional control, to "enforce the respect for law among the Armed Forces."

Bhutto seeks support in Kashmir crisis

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sought support on March 29 from the Muslim states of Central Asia, asking them to take a "forthright stand" on the Kashmir issue. She called the British-orchestrated separatist revolt against India a "valiant struggle" of the Kashmiris, and accused Indian forces of committing atrocities in the region. "This orgy must be brought to an end," Bhutto said.

Bhutto, who made these remarks during the visit of acting Tajikistan head of state Imamali Rakhmonov to Pakistan, also offered to host a round of peace talks between the Russian-controlled Tajik government and the Islamic rebels.

The first round of talks between the Tajik government and rebel representatives is to be held in Moscow soon, and a possible second round might be held in Teheran, Iran. Pakistan is hoping for the third round of talks to be held in Pakistan's capital Islamabad.

Arafat says 'third force' out to wreck accord

Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat charged on March 29 that a "third force," composed of "elements in the Israeli Army and in the Israeli settler community," was doing everything in its power to create provocations and thereby to sabotage further Israeli-PLO discussions.

Arafat made this declaration as the PLO Executive Committee met in emergency session to discuss whether or not to resume negotiations with Israel, following an inci-

dent in the Gaza Strip on March 28 in which six Palestinians, members of Arafat's Fatah group, were shot dead by Israeli troops. The Israeli Army spokesman claimed that the men were armed, but Palestinian witnesses say they were simply giving out leaflets.

Following the shooting, a top-ranking Israeli official phoned Arafat to discuss the situation.

The Gaza atrocity occurred only hours after Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin had told reporters that Israel and the PLO were about to conclude an agreement for the establishment of a Palestinian police force in Hebron. The Gaza provocation lends credibility to Arafat's charges of the existence of a "third force."

An agreement was signed in Cairo on March 31 to resume peace negotiations between Israel and the PLO. It calls for a foreign Temporary International Presence in Hebron, with no military responsibility or police duties.

'Crime advances on all fronts' in Russia

According to a report in the daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets* of April 4, Moscow police officers report a stark increase in crime in the Russian capital. The newspaper wrote: "In the first three months of the current year, 18,344 crimes were recorded (32.3% more than in the same period of 1993). Of these 4,285 were serious crimes (a 4.7% increase) and 2,012 were economic (a 6.7% increase).

"Tendencies to an increase in murders and attempted murders remain steady (there were 348 such incidents, or 40.9% more than in the first quarter of last year), and there were 439 serious physical injuries (a 12.9% increase). The number of thefts increased 2.7 times, while automobile thefts rose by 19.6%.

"Law enforcement agencies are very concerned about the increase in crimes committed by or with the participation of minors. Juvenile crime rose in seven of the city's administrative districts, especially the North and Northwest (by more than 70%)."

● **HANS MODROW**, who headed the East German communist regime between December 1989 and March 1990, was in Moscow in March, and received briefings at the General Staff and the General Staff Academy. Modrow reported that the memory of the "Great Patriotic War" (against Nazi Germany) is still fresh among many Russian officers, and that they would "not tolerate any falsification of history."

● **KING HUSSEIN** of Jordan said on March 29 that he would suspend peace negotiations with Israel unless a U.S. naval task force operating in the region stops the interception of Jordan-bound vessels. The task force is there to enforce the U.N. embargo against Iraq. The king summoned the ambassadors of the U.N. Permanent Five to give them a piece of his mind.

● **RUSSIA** will provide military backing to North Korea under a 1961 treaty, if it falls victim to "an aggression that it did not provoke," said Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Panov at a news conference on March 29. He criticized U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers as "a path leading to a dead end."

● **MAINLAND CHINA** and Taiwan ended six days of semi-official talks on March 30 with no agreement reached, Japan Economic Newswire reported. This was the fourth round of talks between Beijing's Association for Relations Across the Straits and Taipei's Straits Exchange Foundation. Under discussion were issues of fishing, illegal immigration, and repatriation of hijackers.

● **VLADIMIR ZHIRINOVSKY**, in his keynote address before the national convention of his party on April 2, vowed that all those who have worked with the corrupt West—such as Boris Yeltsin—will be ousted by the people. The convention passed a resolution calling for the creation of a Union of Slavic Nations, with a quasi-parliamentary assembly of its own.