

International Intelligence

Yeltsin calls for cutting Army troops

"The Army should be more active in cutting the number of servicemen, I cannot understand their hesitation," Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared on June 10, in response to demands from the military that the defense budget be increased and that more money be allotted to help servicemen who are in an increasingly desperate economic plight.

Yeltsin insisted that "we cannot, society cannot, today maintain a 3 million-strong Army." This was the figure from Soviet times, but is not necessary in the Russia of today, Yeltsin said. Furthermore, he said it is "necessary to cut orders for military equipment."

Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, former head of the Community of Independent States (CIS) defense structure, issued an article warning that the combination of budget cuts and "regionalization" of Russian military operations could lead to an "explosion which can make the Army unmanageable."

As an indication of how serious things have become, Air Force pilots in the Russia Far East have yet to receive any pay in 1994, according to *Sovetsky Sakhalin* newspaper, as quoted by the *Aerospace Daily*. In protest, the wives of pilots set fires on runways. Air Force representatives sent out to deal with the protesters told them they could supplement their income with prostitution.

Salvadoran daily blasts phony democracy

The Salvadoran newspaper *El Diario de Hoy* devoted an editorial in May to drawing the conclusion that the "pro-democracy" line used to justify U.S. policy toward Haiti is not only immoral and hypocritical, but constitutes support for radical movements across the continent.

The editorial pointed out that the U.S. justification for placing an embargo upon Haiti is to reinstall as President Jean-Ber-

trand Aristide, a man who is "mentally unstable, declares himself a Marxist, pledges to take away the property of the 'wealthy,' threatens to exterminate his opponents, and seeks an alliance with Castro." Military leader Gen. Raoul Cédras is not the ideal statesman, but is clearly the lesser evil, insisted *El Diario*, adding that "more frightening moral incongruences exist in this drama," such as the United States' readiness to smash the Haitian regime, but refusal to take on other dictatorships, ranging from Cuba to Egypt.

"A military attack on Haiti, like the embargo currently ongoing, seems designed to send a message to all of Ibero-America more than anything else. The support for Aristide is a kind of unwritten support for the extremist movements of the continent, not to fear taking power: Washington will back them come what may. . . ."

"Electoral democracy is a means to an end: that of preserving the rule of law. If it does not, democracy becomes a potentially fatal masquerade, since elections become the instrument for destroying essential rights and liberties, as very probably occurred under Aristide. . . . No one should forget that Hitler and the Nazis came to power through free elections; if the German army had overthrown them, the U.S. would have hypothetically come to the Führer's defense. The absurdity is clear."

In memory of France's Gen. Revault d'Allonnes

Gen. Jean-Gabriel Revault d'Allonnes, a companion of Gen. Charles de Gaulle in the wartime Resistance and a friend of Lyndon LaRouche and the political movement associated with him, passed away at the end of May and was buried in a military ceremony in his hometown of Pagny, France.

The general had fought in the Second Armored Division of General LeClerc during World War II. He joined the Resistance in the African campaign and participated later in the Syrian and Fezzan campaigns. He was part of the Normandy landing and

fought for the liberation of Paris. He was later involved in the Alsace and German campaigns. In peacetime, he served as military commander of the Antilles/Guyana military region when de Gaulle started building a military-civilian rocket launch site at Kourou, French Guyana.

The general was among the first military figures in France to recognize the importance of the Strategic Defense Initiative and to support LaRouche's SDI concept. At a time when most French military figures rejected the SDI in favor of a dogmatic defense of a nuclear deterrent policy, General Revault d'Allonnes showed them that Gaullism had nothing to do with clinging to old doctrines. On the contrary, Gaullism meant revolutionizing human practice according to new demands placed on it.

When Lyndon LaRouche was thrown in jail as a political prisoner of the Bush administration, the general agreed to head up the International Commission on Human Rights Violations in the United States.

Ibero-American leaders avoid pro-life resolution

Argentine President Carlos Menem's proposal for a joint statement calling for the defense of human life from the moment of conception, "divided the 21 Ibero-American rulers assembled in Cartagena, Colombia at the Fourth Ibero-American Summit" which concluded on June 15, according to an AFP report published by the Dominican Republic daily *Hoy*. Menem's proposal was a response to the malthusian draft document of the U.N.'s Cairo '94 depopulation conference.

Menem had wanted the statement to be part of the Cartagena declaration. But, "the proposal was rejected by Spain's Prime Minister Felipe González, on the basis that the laws of his country forbade him from backing the statement." He was joined by Cuba's Fidel Castro, "who said that although none of the Presidents is opposed to the right to life, he could not support the declaration condemning abortion because it

is legal in his country, although he affirmed that his government strives to avoid it."

Taking the prize for cowardice, Portugal's Prime Minister Mario Soares urged that the subject "be left in the hands of the foreign ministers, for them to deal with it at the upcoming Cairo conference." Colombia's President César Gaviria, the host of the summit and incoming secretary general of the Organization of American States, came up with a compromise plan for drafting a separate document, so that those against abortion could sign it, without embarrassing the others.

China's Jiang names 19 new generals

The Chinese Communist Party's Central Military Commission, chaired by head of state and Communist Party chief Jiang Zeming, has raised 19 officers to the rank of general, in the biggest promotion since the People's Liberation Army restored military ranks in 1988. The number of generals rose from 23 to 42.

The move shows "the political determination to bind the Army to the Communist Party, and that would indicate that Deng Xiaoping is not very well," said a European military expert in Beijing quoted by AFP.

In his speech, Jiang called on Army leaders to study the thought of Deng Xiaoping and "apply and uphold the party line to the letter." Jiang, Deng's successor apparently, recently made a statement justifying the Army's crushing of the 1989 pro-democracy movement.

Seven commanders of military regions and eight political commissars from four of the same regions are among the new generals, which makes the promotion more remarkable in terms of the posts held, than the total number of men promoted.

According to a new report by the London International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), China's total military expenditure is now the third largest in the world, if both unofficial and official figures are counted. Official Chinese military spending has

grown sharply in the past three years, and rose 25% to 52 billion yuan last year.

However, with the devaluation of the yuan, in international terms that means that official Chinese military spending is only \$6 billion—the same as it was in 1992 in dollar terms. That compares with official figures that year of \$300 billion for the United States, with less than one-quarter of the Chinese population; \$275 billion for the Community of Independent States; and \$30 billion for Japan, which does not officially have an army but only "self-defense" forces. China's Army has 3 million soldiers, meaning that expenditure per soldier is minuscule. However, expensive areas, including research and development and pensions, are not included in the official expenditure figures.

Arafat closes PLO offices in Tunis

The beginning of a new era: Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered the formal closing of PLO headquarters in Tunis. The move is seen as preparation for his return to Jericho and the formal establishment of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The move coincides with the announcement that international donors will release \$42 million to the Palestinian Authority for the payment of startup costs and operating expenses of the self-governing authority.

This announcement was made in Paris, where the donors' committee, chaired by Jan Egeland, Norway's deputy foreign minister, met with the PLO. Nebil Shaath, who headed the PLO delegation, said the outcome was "better than expected" and that he hoped to see another \$35 million released in July. Uris Savir, a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official who was also on hand, told the press that Israel "believes the Palestinian side has created the necessary conditions for progress." He added, "We need the economic ingredient to make the Palestinian Authority a success."

● **TEN ASIAN** countries agreed at a secret meeting in May not to interfere in each other's problems with separatist groups, said José Almonte, head of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in the Philippines, according to Reuters. He said they also talked about creating a regional common market. The countries are Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Burma, Laos, and Cambodia.

● **FORMER U.N.** Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar has declared that he will be a presidential candidate in Peru's 1995 elections. In a private meeting in Paris, he determined the composition of his presidential and parliamentary slates, whose members come from the ranks of the human rights lobby, drug legalization advocates, and narco-terrorist sympathizers.

● **SWEDEN** on June 7 became the third Scandinavian nation to legalize marriage between homosexual couples. The Swedish Riksdag (parliament) voted 171-141, with five abstentions, to accept the Registered Partnership Laws. Denmark legalized homosexual marriages in 1989, and Norway did so in 1993.

● **IRAQ**, "being one of the most potent Arab countries, must be reintegrated into the world community," said Hans Stercken, chairman of the German parliament's foreign relations committee, in a radio interview on June 9 after returning from talks in Baghdad. Stercken met with Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders.

● **TAJIKISTAN'S** Deputy Defense Minister Ramazan Radjabov was assassinated on June 15, along with five soldiers travelling with him, when their car was ambushed by Islamist guerrillas.