

International Intelligence

Rapid Deployment Force reported near Sicily

According to reports circulating in Italy, U.S. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) units held maneuvers in the Trapai Sea off Sicily's West coast at the end of May.

Similar maneuvers have been held before, but this time they were carried out in strict secrecy, at the same time that what Italian sources identified as a "frantic" U.S. military buildup was underway on the island between Sicily and Libya. American personnel are said to be hastily constructing airfields and missile installations on Panatelleria Island, southeast of Sicily. Civilian preparedness maneuvers were held in Sicily for the second time in May.

The RDF is central to the new emphasis on a conventional arms buildup for use against less-developed countries. The doctrine, advanced by the "peace" movement associated with former Governor Averell Harriman, envisions increasingly likely confrontations between the West and its former colonies.

Mubarak targeted by Muslim Brotherhood

According to intelligence sources, the word is out that an attempt on the life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will be made some time in June or early July. The assassination is to be run through the same networks that eight months ago murdered Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat. The talk of Mubarak's assassination coincides with reports that the Muslim Brotherhood extremists in Egypt have regrouped following Mubarak's clampdown in the wake of the Sadat assassination, and have positioned themselves to carry out the hit.

The plot against Mubarak is part of a larger operation to squeeze Egypt into going well beyond Camp David, by cooperating with Haig's out-of-area deployment schemes for the region at the

expense of the Egyptian economy and genuine progress on the peace front. The House Armed Forces Committee upped the ante on Mubarak June 2 when it voted against an allocation of \$100 million for renovating Egypt's Ras Banas military base, citing Egypt's lack of assurances that the base could be used by the Americans in the event of a regional emergency.

Mubarak's adviser Mamdouh Salem recently visited China, whose representatives have been working the Gulf to win new friends. According to wire reports, Mubarak himself may soon visit China.

Spain in NATO, but not in Britain's pocket

Although Spain on May 30 officially joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, after all 15 NATO countries had ratified its entry, the action remains hotly contested domestically, not least within the army. Opposition to entry into NATO surfaced in the context of the British invasion of the Malvinas Islands. Spain is the only Western European country to support Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the islands.

Spain had been expected to enter formally at a ceremony in Brussels at NATO headquarters on June 5, but instead the government hurried through the move, announcing it just a few hours before the Spanish chargé d'affaires in Washington handed a letter of confirmation to the U.S. State Department. The Socialist Party has denounced entry as "an historic mistake that we will have to pay for," and a party spokesman said the purpose of the sudden move was to avoid further public discussion of the NATO issue.

Spanish Foreign Minister Llorca on May 31 emphasized "Spain is allied to England in the context of defending democracy. It is absolutely not allied to England in the Malvinas."

Spain's observer at the May NATO

foreign ministers' meeting stressed that his country's entry into NATO would not mean allowing NATO forces to be based on Spanish territory for out-of-area deployments. An editorial in the Spanish magazine *ABC* at the end of May pointed out that Spain's good relations with Arab countries and North Africa should not be jeopardized, "all the more so since during the 1973 Egyptian-Israeli war, the military equipment Israel lost in the first phase of the conflict was moved from NATO bases in Europe." The United States must realize, stated *ABC*, that if the British do not give Gibraltar back to Spain "we cannot have a foreign policy at all."

West Germany debates defense policies

The recent proposal by former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara et al. for NATO to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons has triggered a debate in West Germany. The Bonn government has rejected the no-first-use concept, which was proposed early this spring in an article in *Foreign Affairs*, the magazine of the New York Council on Foreign Relations. West German Defense Minister Hans Apel commented in an interview with Deutsche Welle radio May 17 that the West must preserve the option of using nuclear weapons first "to give the Soviet Union no chance to find out how we would react if it attacked us."

Other Bonn politicians from both Apel's Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU) have called for a debate within NATO on military policy. After a mid-May visit to Washington, Horst Ehmke, a leading SPD parliamentarian, called for the formation of a "working group" in NATO to investigate the possibility of removing some nuclear weapons from Europe. Ehmke discussed this with Sen. Sam Nunn, and was reportedly impressed with Nunn's proposal that the United States could withdraw several

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thousand nuclear weapons from Central Europe and renounce the first use of nuclear weapons provided the conventional forces of the West were improved.

Egon Bahr, the SPD architect of former Chancellor Willy Brandt's *Ostpolitik*, has endorsed the CFR's no-first-use proposal and the idea of a conventional arms buildup. In Bahr's view, these policies would make it possible to avoid deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. Bahr is a member of the Palme Commission on disarmament.

Manfred Woerner, CDU defense policy spokesman, suggested May 21 that antiquated American nuclear weapons with a range of between only 15 and 30 kilometers, could be withdrawn from Europe and replaced by precision weapons with conventional warheads, with no harm to NATO security.

Woerner came under fire from his own party, however, which officially disassociated itself from his position. Friedrich Zimmerman, the deputy chairman of the Christian Social Union (CSU—the Christian Democrats' Bavarian coalition partner), stressed that even withdrawal of short-range nuclear weapons would create an "unacceptable risk."

Sweden tries to close a controversial newspaper

Sweden's Supreme Administrative Court (Regirungstraetten) ruled on May 4 that *Ny Solidaritet*, published biweekly in Sweden, is not a newspaper, and thus does not qualify for exemption from Sweden's Value-Added Tax (VAT). If enforced, the effect of the ruling would be to repress the paper, since taxes in the range of tens of thousands of dollars would be due.

Ny Solidaritet is a sister publication of *EIR*; its English-language counterpart is published by New Solidarity International Press Service, which is also the publisher of *EIR*. Olof Palme, the former Socialist Prime Minister of Sweden who

is now trying to make a comeback, has been often attacked in the pages of all three publications as an international spokesman for fascist economic policies.

This could become a hot political scandal, because Palme went on national Swedish television to attack the European Labor Party, whose leader, Kerstin Tegin-Gaddy, is editor of *Ny Solidaritet*, on April 14 while the court was still considering the case.

The court's decision is not appealable, and under Swedish law no explanation need be given. The court stated that there was a precedent for the decision but that it could not be revealed!

From the United States, various Swedish journalists, the PEN international writers' organization, and the Swedish Embassy have agreed to make inquiries in Sweden concerning the case. The Swedish Embassy press attaché, however, told a caller on June 2: "Nobody knows who funds [the European Labor Party] . . . The CIA? The communists?"

Peking pokes U.S. interest-rate sore spot

The official Chinese media has named U.S. high interest rates, not Japanese protectionism, as responsible for trade frictions stemming from the inability of U.S. goods to compete with Japanese manufactures.

The May 30 issue of the *People's Daily*, the official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, said that high U.S. interest rates stifle large capital investment in plant and equipment crucial for increased productivity of U.S. industry. The newspaper added that high interest rates are also responsible for an artificially undervalued yen, making Japanese goods more attractive to foreign buyers.

The *People's Daily* article is the latest in a series of Chinese media commentaries noting fundamental weaknesses in the United States while defending countries like Japan against U.S. attacks.

● **HUGH FOOT**, a senior British intelligence spokesman, also known as Lord Caradon, told a Washington audience on May 28 that the problem of Jerusalem initiative to create two cities: one Arab and the other Jewish. This was the British post-colonial "keep the natives killing each other" method applied so successfully in the creation of Israel.

● **PHILIP AGEE**, the former CIA agent whose Counterspy group in the U.S. has set up U.S. intelligence agents for assassination, is currently working on a more ambitious project in West Germany. Agee has been training members of the Kommunistische Bund Nord left-terrorist coalition in order to deploy against the BKA (German Federal Police), CIA, and other enforcement bodies.

● **ROLAND VOGT**, an Executive Board member of West Germany's environmentalist Green Party, was kicked out of the related BBU federally funded citizens' initiative group at the beginning of June, because it became widely known that he had met with Libyan dictator and sponsor of international terrorism Muammar Qaddafi. Qaddafi has offered to finance the "peace" movement in West Europe, and Vogt advocated taking the Colonel's money. Vogt met with leaders of Barry Commoner's misnamed Citizens Party in the U.S. the weekend of May 29.

● **GENSUIKEN**, a Japanese peace organization run by the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), can send its members to the U.S. for a rally during the U.N.'s Special Session on disarmament. The okay was provided by Alexander Haig's State Department despite the fact that JSP activists have been strongly linked to the Japanese Red Army terrorist group and violent antinuclear protests.