

International Intelligence

Moscow sends out 'feelers' to Peking

Soviet Premier Nikolai Tikhonov told the Japanese daily *Asahi Shimbun* Feb. 14 that "there are no problems in Sino-Soviet relations that could not be decided on the basis of equality and in the spirit of mutual understanding," adding that Moscow will not avoid "concrete steps" to improve ties between the two nations.

The Soviet offer, in the context of political changes taking place in China, is based on Moscow's perception that Chinese foreign policy is moving away from the "China Card" relationship with the United States, and may result in a less hostile attitude towards the U.S.S.R. No official response has been made to the Soviet overture, but the Feb. 15 *Washington Post* noted that low-level border talks may resume soon between the Soviets and China.

Peking issued the latest in its series of scathing attacks on U.S. policy in the Third World Feb. 14. The New China News Agency (Xinhua) condemned Washington's repression of "national liberation movements" in Central America and also declared that the United States, having "lost control" of the United Nations, can "no longer order other countries about at the wave of a hand."

Schmidt appeals for strategic sanity

In two interviews released Feb. 16, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt warned that the wrong kind of "moral pressure" or threats of violence are worse than useless in the Polish and Middle East situations.

In an interview published by the London *Guardian*, Schmidt stated that "moral pressure" on Poland or the Soviet Union could encourage "the danger of—I am not going to use too strong a word—re-Stalinization." For Western

nations to complain now that negotiations conducted at Yalta and Teheran during World War II, which had excluded Poland from the East bloc, were now being violated, is only wishful thinking. "There must not be the illusion that the facts after Yalta and Teheran can be altered by moral or political pressure or by force," Schmidt stated, adding, "psychologically mistaken influences are emanating from Western Europe and America" on Poland.

Schmidt criticized French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's statement that the 1978 Venice declaration on the Middle East was now irrelevant, in an interview with the magazine of the Egyptian government party, *Mayo*. In the Venice declaration, European nations agreed that they must play a role in negotiating the Palestinian issue, and that the Palestinians must have representatives at any negotiations held.

This was the first public indication Schmidt has given of distrust of the "independent" Mideast posture French Socialist President Mitterrand is attempting. He also stressed that Israeli Prime Minister Begin's continuous threats of military attack do not correspond to the political reality of the region.

Khmer Rouge still devastating Cambodia

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge is continuing the genocide that slaughtered 3 million people in Cambodia before the Vietnamese liberation in 1978, as reported by the *London Guardian* Feb. 16:

"In contrast to the generally impeccable behaviour of National Liberation Front and North Vietnamese troops towards peasants during their war with America, the Pol Pot forces seem to have lost none of their brutality.

"One way that Khmer Rouge fighters are feeding themselves is by raiding outlying villages. One hamlet was attacked . . . and the inhabitants report that Khmer Rouge troops stripped them of their year's supply of rice, and took away

as many pigs, chickens, and cattle as they could find. Then, before they left, a villager claimed, they burned several houses 'for no reason at all.'

"In any year, a loss like this would be serious: this year, it may well spell disaster for the peasants. The main harvest has been bad all over the country. . . . Much of the rice withered in a drought which began half-way through the growing season. The chances that the Government will be able to make up the stolen rice are dim.

'Final solution' for Palestinians?

The Begin government in Israel is preparing a large-scale massacre of Palestinians in southern Lebanon and the occupied West Bank. According to the plan, whose chief proponent is Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, a flood of refugees out of Lebanon and the occupied territories will result, paving the way for the elimination of Jordan's King Hussein and the transformation—as per Sharon's long-standing design—of Jordan into a Palestinian state. The Begin government has no intention of allowing the West Bank to become the state for the Palestinians.

The massacre process is already under way, as Israel prepares to invade Lebanon and liquidate the Palestine Liberation Organization there. On the West Bank, bloody clashes have broken out as a result of Israeli provocations. Israeli authorities are deliberately whipping up pro-Khomeini Muslim Brotherhood extremists on the West Bank and pitting them against pro-PLO Palestinian nationalists. "Let them kill each other off," said one Israeli source. "It'll save us the trouble."

In addition, Israeli officials are provoking West Bank unrest directly through their decision to close down Bir Zeit University, a stronghold of Palestinian nationalism, for two months.

The closure of Bir Zeit came as a result of a visit to the university Feb. 15

by a representative of Menachem Milson, the Israeli governor of the West Bank who was recently appointed to his post as part of Israel's step-by-step annexation of the occupied territories. Bir Zeit officials warned Milson that a visit by his representative at this time would only inflame tensions. Milson ignored the warning, and his representative visited the campus, provoking clashes between students and the police and the closure of Bir Zeit. Demonstrations have since broken out throughout the West Bank between Israeli troops and the local population. A major clampdown on the West Bank could lead to a full-scale massacre.

Adding to the tensions is Israel's decision to assign the fanatical Meir Kahane, former leader of the terrorist Jewish Defense League, to the West Bank town of Ramallah to do his army reserve service. Kahane, who advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from the West Bank and Israel, was imprisoned several years ago and barred from Ramallah because of his terrorist activities.

Papandreou continues to provoke Turkey

Turkish officials warned in mid-February that the Greek government of Andreas Papandreou is trying to provoke Turkey into a showdown by preparing to extend Greece's territorial waters from 6 to 12 miles into the Aegean, a move that would cut into Turkey's access to international waters from its Aegean ports.

The Socialist International-backed leader is expected to take the action as early as next month after the Law of the Sea Conference endorses a Greek 12-mile territorial claim.

Turkey's Foreign Minister, Ilter Turkmen, last week issued a public warning to Greece and informed Turkey's ambassadors to alert the Atlantic Alliance of the gravity of the situation.

The leader of Papandreou's opposition within Greece, Evangelos Averoff,

has expressed fear that Papandreou may be inviting a disaster from the militarily superior Turkey.

Agha Shahi resignation shows Zia's weakness

Highlighting the growing instability of the regime of Pakistani dictator Ziaul Haq, Foreign Minister Agha Shahi suddenly resigned Feb. 16 on grounds of "ill health." Pakistan announced he would be replaced by General Yaqub Khan, the current ambassador to France and a former ambassador to the United States and Soviet Union.

No immediate policy change will result from the shift. It had been rumored for weeks in Pakistan that Shahi, a weak figure, would be replaced some time this year by General Khan, who is a powerful individual in the Zia junta. However, the rapidity with which the resignation followed Shahi's much-criticized handling of the India-Pakistani "no-war pact" early in February indicates a serious faction fight in the ranks of the Zia junta.

General Khan has been one of the figures pushing for Pakistan to temporarily ease tensions with India in order to free troops to police the Persian Gulf, and wanted to limit direct U.S. presence in the Mideast.

This view was under severe criticism from members of the junta who criticized the talks with India and want a closer direct military relationship with the United States. Leaders of this "right-wing" faction include two generals named by *EIR* as linked to Pakistan's drug mafia, Fazle Haq and Rahamuddin. Both have been rumored as successors to Zia.

It is not known how the Khan appointment affects this faction fight. The Zia junta as a whole is extremely fragile and unpopular, and survives only through the increasing use of such tactics as the recent arrest of 700 opponents. Should Zia himself be removed by one faction, the stage might be set for a sudden downfall of the entire regime.

Briefly

● **EINHEIT**, the newspaper of the West German miners' union, has challenged Horst Ehmke, a hard-core State Department operative within Willy Brandt's faction of the Social Democratic Party. Ehmke had called for excluding nuclear power from a national energy program, to which *Einheit* replies that the union had already cemented an agreement with the SPD to meet national energy needs with nuclear power and coal.

● **SIR MICHAEL PALLISER**, an adviser to British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, stated Feb. 17 that the most serious threat to the Atlantic Alliance is the economic crisis in the West. Speaking at Georgetown University, Palliser told *EIR* that he does not foresee the possibility of a European Defense Community.

● **CANADA** has been asked to officially cooperate in building the Garrison Diversion Project, which would divert Missouri River waters to central and eastern North Dakota, causing some backup of water into Canada. The North Dakota Water Users Association recently passed a resolution terming the project "mutually beneficial." The Canadian Province of Manitoba is holding up construction at present, claiming the backflows would somehow contaminate their water.

● **THREE** out of 10 British adults cannot perform simple arithmetic, according to two surveys released in February by the Cockcroft Committee. Forty-five percent cannot read a railway schedule, and 60 percent do not understand the concept of inflation. Gallup Polls were commissioned to perform another survey after these surprising results, which were reconfirmed. The British journal *Education* reports that so many adults were afraid of mathematics that half of those approached refused to be interviewed at all.