

International Intelligence

Slovenia breaks from Yugoslav Communists

The Yugoslav republic of Slovenia on Feb. 4 became the first of the country's eight republics and provinces to break away from the League of Communists. "This is the end of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia as we know it," Slovenian party chief Ciril Ribicic told reporters after an emergency party conference, Reuters reports.

Delegates in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana agreed to change the party's name from the League of Communists of Slovenia (LCS) to the LCS Democratic Renewal Party, and no longer answer to central party authorities. The Slovenian party is withdrawing all personnel from the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade.

"We hope that we will be spared experiencing Romanian developments," representatives of the Slovenian government were overheard commenting after the split, according to the West German daily *Die Welt*.

It is expected that Croatia will follow the Slovenian example.

Meanwhile, 300,000 Albanians in the province of Kosovo have signed a petition demanding the withdrawal of the Serbian occupation forces, following recent bloodshed there. The Albanian opposition groups demand free elections (their political leadership was nominated by Serbia), an end to the order to shoot, and an independent inquiry into the massacre by Serbian police forces.

South Africa to free Mandela, legalizes ANC

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha said Feb. 5 that his government wants to make further concessions to the black nationalist movement by scrapping the last vestiges of a state of emergency as soon as possible. According to Reuter, he appealed to the African National Congress (ANC), which was legalized after a 30-year ban, to cooperate.

President F.W. de Klerk on Feb. 2 had

lifted the ban on the ANC and restrictions on media reporting about anti-apartheid leaders. De Klerk said ANC leader Nelson Mandela would be released soon from a life term in jail.

But the ANC said De Klerk had not gone far enough and Mandela was quoted saying he would not leave prison until all state of emergency regulations had been lifted.

Botha said he was heartened by comments made by former ANC Secretary General Walter Sisulu, a close colleague of Mandela's, which indicate the first conciliatory steps by the guerrilla movement toward Pretoria's reform package. Sisulu said in a U.S. television interview that the ANC would try to ensure peace in the country's black townships.

U.S. agrees to give Noriega POW status

The U.S. government agreed on Feb. 2 to treat Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega as a prisoner of war, but then said the designation would not prevent prosecution of him on drug-trafficking charges in a U.S. civilian court.

Noriega's lawyers had argued that Noriega should be declared a prisoner of war and transferred from his Miami jail cell to the custody of a neutral country. They said the case should be turned over to the World Court at the Hague.

In papers filed in federal court in Miami, Justice Department lawyers opposed this, and said that the Geneva Convention permits prisoners of war to be prosecuted for ordinary crimes "as long as the same acts would be prosecutable if committed by a member of the armed forces of the detaining power."

Other international legal experts dispute this interpretation. Queens College (Cambridge University) research fellow Marc Weller, writing in the Feb. 2 issue of the British newspaper the *Independent*, maintained that Noriega is "entitled to the same treatment as the U.S. would wish for its own Chief of Staff, should he be captured by a foreign power."

For the U.S. to reject this, Weller wrote, would erode those principles of humanitarian law on which U.S. soldiers may themselves have to rely. "Assume, for example, that U.S. flyers are shot down after a bombing run on alleged terrorist targets in, say, Libya or Lebanon. . . . If American airmen were not protected by the Geneva principles, they could be tried and executed by the local authorities for common crimes such as murder."

Terrorists attack Israeli tourist bus in Egypt

Terrorists attacked a tour bus carrying 30 Israelis outside of Cairo on Feb. 4, killing at least 8 persons and wounding 17 others. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Organization for the Defense of the Oppressed in Egyptian Prisons, a previously unknown group, and Islamic Jihad.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Middle East peace efforts must continue despite the slaughter, but Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon pounced on the episode to justify his opposition to proposed peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo. "Egypt itself is creating an atmosphere of incitement and hatred against Israel," he said.

Shamir told the Israeli parliament that he was encouraged by a personal telephone call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, expressing shock and regret at the attack, but stressed that Cairo must take responsibility for the security of Israelis visiting Egypt, reported Reuters. Vice Premier Shimon Peres appealed for peace talks with Palestinians to go ahead despite the attack. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the attack was also aimed at Egypt and its efforts to promote dialogue.

Chauvinist editor invokes soul of 'Mother Russia'

"The empire has lost its great spirit, for it is in a crisis. But the soul of the nation is alive, maintained by Mother Russia; only Russia

is eternal." With these remarks, Stanislav Kunyayev, the director of the Russian chauvinist monthly *Nash Sovremennik*, began his interview with the Italian daily *La Repubblica* published Jan. 27.

"We are not nationalist, because nationalism is only for small nations," he said. "We are patriotic, because patriotism has founded the great Russian state. Many peoples joined the empire of the czar to guarantee their existence. Russia was protection, not aggression. This policy allowed Russia to survive for thousands of years, while all the empires of the West, from Charlemagne to the Reich, have collapsed thousands of times. What is sacred is our spirit that is stronger than blood. A spirit capable of unifying and winning like Christianity; indeed, Russia speaks like Christ: Come to me and share my spirit."

"Russia should first take care of herself and then of the others," he said. "It was very enlightening when the mothers of the reservists called for the Caucasus crisis rebelled and protested. The spirit of survival is reemerging, together with a new Russian, natural, and healthy egoism." Kunyayev praised the anti-Semitic Pamyat group as "a somewhat uncultured but very patriotic group which can become very useful."

China to deploy more troops on Soviet border

The Chinese Communist Party has drawn up a secret plan and will begin to deploy an additional 18 divisions of troops along the Sino-Soviet border this spring, the publication *Cheng Ming* wrote in its Feb. 1 issue. The move reflects growing concern in Beijing over the political upheaval in the U.S.S.R. and Eastern Europe, and the possibility of a renewed insurrection in China.

According to the publication: "Information from a military source, which can be rather shocking but not yet proved, says that the CPC has already formulated a plan in secret to deploy forces in terms of 18 divisions along the Sino-Soviet border beginning this spring. A strategic staff group consisting of leading members of the General

Staff Headquarters, the General Logistics Department, and other important departments arrived in secret at an important section on the Sino-Soviet border."

The CPC top leadership has also decided to downgrade the party's relations with its Soviet counterpart, according to the article.

The CPC has also issued several documents dealing with the Soviet bloc crisis: 1) an analysis of the drastic changes in Eastern Europe and the Romanian case; 2) statements that Gorbachov is responsible for the changes in Eastern Europe; 3) the five principles guiding international relations still must be observed as a basis when dealing with Eastern European countries; 4) Eastern European Communist parties are different from the CPC in terms of the way by which they seized power, and therefore the Romanian case and the June 4 Tiananmen Square "incident" cannot be mentioned in the same breath; 5) the CPC insists that the way of handling the June 4 "incident" was correct; 6) if turmoil breaks out again in China, it must be quelled ruthlessly without delay; 7) it is necessary to implement a domestic policy with a view to maintaining stability, including keeping prices under strict control.

Panamanians demand reparations from U.S.

Residents of Chorrillo, the poor and mostly black neighborhood of Panama City that was bombed out by the U.S. invading forces, have organized themselves into an association to press for reparations from the U.S. government.

According to *La Estrella de Panamá* of Jan. 31, the head of the association said that, contrary to propaganda put out by the U.S. government, it was the Americans, not the pro-Noriega Dignity Battalions, who destroyed Chorrillo.

The Endara puppet government has turned a deaf ear to their demands for assistance, they say. When they requested that whatever personal property was salvaged be returned to them, they were told to "read the newspapers in six months" to find out where to pick up their property.

Briefly

● **NATAN SHCHARANSKY**, the Soviet dissident now living in Israel, said Feb. 2 that the biggest exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union, in 500 years is now in process. He said 2,000 Soviet Jews were leaving each day, and that 1 million flights out of the U.S.S.R. have been booked between now and March 1991. He said this was in response not only to the threat from Pamyat, but also because of a broader threat from people who are disillusioned by Gorbachov and are seeking a scapegoat in the Jews.

● **THE PAPAL NUNCIO** in Panama, Juan Sebastian Laboa, charged on Feb. 5 that "we have exchanged one dictatorship for another." He was referring to detention orders against more than 100 officials of the Noriega government. If in Spain, he said, we had started persecuting Franco's military followers after the death of Franco, "there would still be a civil war going on in Spain today."

● **THE RUSSIANS** will activate Baader-Meinhof-style "neo-Nazi" terrorists in East Germany, to carry out attacks on Soviet military installations, in a manner similar to the attacks by the Baader-Meinhof gang against U.S. military installations in the early 1970s, senior military sources in Europe are warning. This is to be done in the period leading up to the March 18 elections in East Germany.

● **CZECHOSLOVAK** President Vaclav Havel told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Feb. 6 that he wants to get Soviet troops out of his country quickly and reduce the size of the Czechoslovak armed forces.

● **RAFAEL CALDERON**, the victor in the Feb. 6 Costa Rican presidential elections, is the former executive director of the Association for the Defense of Democracy and Freedom, an organization which has been financed by the U.S. Republican branch of "Project Democracy."