

International Intelligence

U.S.S.R. creates new presidential dictatorship

The Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union voted on Feb. 27 to approve strengthened powers for the presidency, in a move that U.S. political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche characterized as giving Gorbachov "personal powers over the Soviet Empire [that] will be greater than those of Adolf Hitler at the height of his dictatorship. This is a very interesting form of democracy, I must say."

The law will give the President the right to issue emergency decrees, and other extraordinary powers.

According to intelligence sources in Europe, the key element in the draft law was its provision for creating a Presidential Council, an executive body replacing the current presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Parliamentary opponents of the law declared in the debates preceding its adoption, that the new Presidential Council will be in reality a "Presidential Politburo," transferring the traditional party-based rule to an executive organ of the state.

While no details have been released on who will be on the new body, it is taken for granted that it will be a mix of civilian, military, and KGB personnel. In short, the form for dictatorial rule will be presidential, but its substance will be an executive dictatorship of the civilian/military Presidential Council.

The law will now be debated and voted on by the Congress of People's Deputies, which will begin an extraordinary session on March 12.

Andean Labor Party leader gets death threat

Colombian political activist Maximiliano Londoño, the secretary general of the Andean Labor Party (PLAN) and candidate for Senate on his party's electoral slate, announced on Feb. 28 that he and his associ-

ates have been threatened with death. "Today, at 5:25 p.m., an anonymous phone call was made to our office, and a female voice warned, 'you have 24 hours left to live, watch yourselves,'" Londoño reported.

The Andean Labor Party has for many years been campaigning against the drug mafias and their "liberal" supporters, and has called for a serious war on drugs by the government. It has firmly backed the policy of waging such a war on narco-terrorism that is now being promoted by President Virgilio Barco.

Londoño added, "We are opposed to ex-President Alfonso López Michelsen's proposal to conduct a dialogue with the drug traffickers; and similarly, we oppose drug lobby favorite Ernesto Samper Pizano's idea of legalizing drugs.

"We have informed the authorities of this new threat to the members of the Andean Labor Party, and we are confident that the government will act appropriately to guarantee the safety of our members as well as our movement's participation in the upcoming elections," Londoño said.

Romanian opposition complains of harassment

"Two of our members were killed last month. We are working under enormous difficulty," declared Corneliu Coposu, president of the biggest opposition group in Romania, the National Peasants Party, on Feb. 22. Coposu said two party workers were beaten to death in the Moldavian city of Bacau on Jan. 29, during a nationwide day of demonstrations to support the ruling National Salvation Front.

The biggest opposition parties say several new parties are mere covers for the National Salvation Front, which took power after the violent December revolution. "There are constant threats and aggression. The day before yesterday gangs of organized hooligans attacked some of our provincial headquarters," said Radu Campeanu, president of the Liberal Party.

The opposition parties have repeated

their accusation that the Front behaves like former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was thrown out and executed in the revolution. "We have strong fears that the elections will not be fair," said Campeanu, one of the interim government's five vice presidents. He added that his party planned to appeal to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France to send "a few hundred" observers to the May elections.

Chinese Army officers under investigation

Between 1,500 and 3,000 People's Liberation Army officers are under investigation for involvement in the Tiananmen Square demonstrations of May-June 1989, China commentator Jonathan Mirsky reported in the *Observer* newspaper of London on Feb. 18.

Gen. Xu Qinxian of the 38th Army, who feigned illness rather than send troops against the demonstrators, is now reportedly serving a long sentence in Qinchen prison. More than 200 high-ranking officers from the Central Military Commission, the General Military and General Logistics Departments, and the Beijing Military Region all advised against using force in Tiananmen Square, along with seven top retired Army officials and China's only two living marshals.

To counter the trouble in the Army, the Communist regime is ordering that military training be 70% political and only 30% military.

A commentary in the *Liberation Army Daily* reported that the developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have shaken the Army. "Success or failure of socialism has become a question of universal concern. . . . Some comrades are still quite confused on such questions as the future of the socialist system." There are problems in the Army's support for the party, the paper said.

President Yang Shangkun, whose 27th Army led the Tiananmen assault, is clearly

Briefly

● **LITHUANIANS** voted up a non-communist majority in the national parliament on Feb. 25. The pro-independence Sajudis candidates won 72 out of 90 seats contested, giving them the majority; the Communist Party won only 29 seats. The election was the first free election in the 70-year history of the Soviet Union, to which Lithuania was forcibly annexed in 1940.

● **THE SOVIETS** are moving more sophisticated weapons into Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay Naval Base, the *Bangkok Nation* reports. Although the Soviet Union has removed its air forces from the base, it has replaced them with ships carrying greater numbers of missiles. Also, the Soviet air forces found in the Far East Military District are now equipped with the latest aircraft with the most sophisticated weapons available.

● **THE BRITISH** Foreign Office has suppressed a 50-year-old memorandum which proposed a campaign of MI-6-inspired destabilization of Soviet republics, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, reports the *Independent* newspaper. The author of the memorandum was Anglo-Soviet double agent Sir Fitzroy Maclean. The issue is said to be "causing a lot of embarrassment" in Great Britain.

● **INDIA** has been offered by the Soviet Union the latest air defense fighter, the SU-27. Soviet Minister of Aviation Industry, A.S. Systov made the offer during a visit to New Delhi at the end of February.

● **CAMBODIAN** peace talks in Jakarta, Indonesia, ended in an impasse at the end of February, after two and a half days of trying to involve the United Nations in a settlement. Diplomats said the next move would be a meeting in the second week of March of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

under pressure in the Army. Mirsky reports that Yang had minimal combat experience, and his career has been political. Army leaders are saying privately that their troops either did not open fire during the Tiananmen crackdown, or the tanks went in with guns covered.

Recruiters for the Beijing garrison this spring were warned not to induct "lawless" elements, those who participated in the demonstrations, or who "nurse grievances" against the socialist system. The leadership of the People's Armed Police, which was founded a few years ago to deal with civil unrest, has been purged and reinforced with 20,000 regular soldiers, after martial law was "lifted" in Beijing.

Lafontaine rejects goal of German unification

Oskar Lafontaine, the ecologist Social Democrat and governor of the Saarland who wants to be chancellor of Germany, pushed the same "go slow" line on German reunification that Britain's Margaret Thatcher and George Bush are peddling, in a speech in Leipzig, East Germany on Feb. 23.

Lafontaine was speaking at a conference of East German Social Democrats (SPD). His address is likely to adversely affect the SPD's chances in the March 18 election, because his views go against those of the overwhelming majority of the East German electorate.

Lafontaine stressed:

- The Social Democrats only support German unity as a subject of an undefined "European unification"; to call for Germany now, rules out progress on European integration;

- The nation-state as an idea is out anyway, because the "global challenges to mankind"—ecology, the ozone hole, the arms race—have rendered the nation obsolete;

- The revolution in the East, was not caused by the belief in the nation-state, but rather, by the fact that there is a "world communication society" that was brought into

being by the Social Democrats, originally;

- A German economic and currency union would be an obstacle to the monetary and economic integration of Europe;

- The German reunification issue should not be discussed at the "two plus four" (the two Germans plus the Four Powers) level, as currently planned, but at a panel involving "all neighbors and concerned parties in Europe."

Soviet military scores 'fascist' detractors

The strongest warning by the Soviet military leadership to date that things in the Soviet Union have gone too far, occurred as a composite of items in the Feb. 17 issue of the Defense Ministry daily *Krasnaya Zvezda*. Leading the charge was a statement signed by retired marshals and generals, including Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, blasting a new film called "Strafniki" ("Shooters"), whose theme is to attack the World War II Soviet military for brutal treatment and murder of Army defectors, deserters and military code offenders.

The statement signed by "We veterans of the Great Patriotic War," condemns director Lev Danilov's "falsification" of the war period: "Even fascist propaganda couldn't have come to such a point. . . . This even exceeds Goebbels." The statement warns that "we are not going to give in to the Vlasovites deserters" (the army of Red Army defectors commanded by General Vlasov), and declares categorically, "Such films have no right to be put on the screen."

The same issue of *Krasnaya Zvezda* contains a lengthy article filled with outrage over the fact that, as result of internal disorders and bloody incidents within the Armed Forces, 59 officers have died in the last year. The paper also publishes a letter attacking liberal media outlets for never saying anything about "fascist thugs" who are trampling on the graves of Soviet soldiers.

Never before have attacks on the liberals or cosmopolitans labeled them as fascists.