

International Intelligence

Latin Americans demand U.S. get out of Panama

The Latin American Parliament, meeting in La Paz, Bolivia, adopted a resolution on March 20 demanding that the United States withdraw its troops from Panama and pay compensation to Panama for the losses caused by the invasion.

The regional body of 14 nations, which refused to admit the legislators sent by the puppet government of Guillermo Endara, while allowing a legislator from the former government to speak, also demanded in its resolution that the occupation authorities respect the right of diplomatic asylum, cease persecuting political opponents, end press censorship, and honor the Carter-Torrijos treaties, which require the United States to cede to Panama full ownership of the Panama Canal and all related installations by the year 2000.

Rival factions threaten Poland's government

European intelligence sources have reported to *EIR* that three competing factions have emerged in Poland's Solidarnosc-led government: 1) the social democrats or "bankers' socialists"; 2) a right wing.

Adam Michnik, who is a leader of the social democratic bloc, has stated that a split is rapidly approaching. This maose stance is that the government's austerity policies are unfair to farmers, and they therefore cannot help solve the food shortage.

Former U.S. intelligence officers state that Michnik represents what is known as the "bankers' socialists," the foremost opponents of the Vatican faction epitomized by Lech Walesa. It is the Michniks, these sources say, that are Trojan Horses on behalf of the International Monetary Fund austerity program that is the fundamental threat to the government.

Michnik's name appeared as the principal author of a piece in the *New York Times Magazine* on March 18, whose real author these sources report was staff writer David

Binder. The piece argued that the greatest danger in Eastern Europe is the reemergence of nationalism, which Michnik's article equated with anti-Semitism.

Colombia protests U.S. search of freighter

The Colombian government sent an official protest to the United States on March 16, because the U.S. Coast Guard boarded a vessel in "search for drugs" inside Colombian territorial waters.

Acting Foreign Minister Clemencia Forero said she wanted an explanation of why the vessel, the *Taru*, was searched on March 11, en route between Colombia's city of Barranquilla and the island of San Andrés.

The captain of the freighter said that 10 armed Americans boarded his vessel, which was carrying a load of bricks and cement. He said his 47-member crew members were confined to the ship's dining room while the boarding party spent six hours turning the vessel upside down in its search for cocaine. "We were made prisoners in our own ship," he said.

A U.S. Embassy official in Bogotá said the vessel was "not in Colombian territorial waters."

Carter in Mideast shuttle diplomacy

Former President Jimmy Carter, evidently fancying himself the reincarnation of Henry Kissinger, arrived in Syria on March 14 for talks with President Hafez al-Assad that were expected to include the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon. "It is obvious to me that the Syrian leaders are very eager to see the hostages question resolved and the hostages released, and I am sure they will continue this effort," Carter told reporters at Damascus airport on his arrival from Egypt. "There is no doubt that leaders of Iran have great influence on the future of the hostages."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara, who welcomed Carter and his wife Ro-

salyn, said he was planning to visit Iran to discuss the hostages, but did not say when.

On March 18, Carter arrived in Amman, Jordan, and reported that President Assad had authorized him to say that Damascus was ready for direct Syrian-Israeli talks under the umbrella of an international peace conference. "I think that's a very constructive position and I wouldn't ask him to change that," Carter said.

Carter also called for the formation of a one-party Israeli government rather than a coalition. "In my judgment," he said, "the peace process is probably better if there is a clear definition in the political arena in Israel of which party is responsible, which party is in charge." Carter said it was inappropriate for him to say whether he favored the Likud or the Labor Party, although the Likud is the only party which could possibly form such a government.

Carter's Mideast tour was also scheduled to take him to Tunisia, to meet PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

Afghan coup leader vows to fight on

Afghanistan's recently dismissed defense minister Shahnawaz Tanai met journalists in a cave outside Kabul on March 15, according to Reuters, and predicted the Najibullah government's collapse. "I see a very short life span for the Najib regime," he said. "We will disrupt the regime from within while attacking it from the outside."

Flanked by former Air Force chief Abdul Qadir Agha and two other coup plotters, Tanai told reporters that most members of the Afghan Armed Forces remained loyal to him, including major garrisons in the eastern cities of Jalalabad and Khost. Tanai blamed the failure of the March 6 coup attempt on what he described as aerial bombing by foreign planes and the destruction of his communications by Afghan government missiles. In taped messages he has previously blamed the Soviet Union for sending aircraft to bomb his forces.

Tanai explained his alliance with the Hezb-i-Islami party by saying it was in the national interest of toppling the "despicable

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Najib regime." "Our coming here and joining the Mujahideen and helping each other proves that we have made mistakes and we accept that," he said. But he denied coordinating his coup plot with the Mujahideen guerrillas.

He made clear he still considers himself part of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and saw no problem in being both a Muslim and a member of the party's hardline Khalq faction. "I am a Muslim, my mother and father were Muslims. We are all Muslims. The whole nation are Muslims. Even Najib considers himself a Muslim, he said."

China worried about Islamic fundamentalism

The Beijing government is seeking to curb the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Xinjiang province, according to Agence France Presse. In a province that borders the Soviet republics of Tadjikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, the Chinese government has released a six-point plan which includes a campaign against "hostile foreign forces" engaging in proselytizing and stirring up tension, the news agency reports, quoting the Xinjiang daily paper.

There have been reports of arrests, inflammatory sermons during Friday Muslim prayers, and the distribution of tracts urging faithful Muslims to mobilize, particularly in Kashmgar and Urumqi. The Communists' six-point plan reiterates the "absolute supremacy of the party over religion," the Xinjiang paper said. It also criticizes the "opening of illegal Koranic schools."

Czechoslovakia's Havel stresses moral crisis

Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel emphasized in an interview with a British newspaper the need to overcome the moral crisis in his country, and stressed that, for his own part, he can act according to the truth, because he has no concern with his "popularity."

Havel, who was a political prisoner in

Communist Czechoslovakia just months before becoming President, said in an interview with the *Financial Times* published March 19: "One day in this job is 100 times worse than one day in prison. But I have one incomparable advantage. I don't need the job, so I don't have to care about my popularity. I can say some very unpopular things to the nation—and in the next two years there will be a lot of unpopular things to be said. Only a person who does not long for popularity can do this."

Havel said that the Czechoslovak population itself must accept moral responsibility for the past decades' decay in their country. Czechoslovakia is living in a "decayed moral environment," he said, and "we must accept it as something we have brought on ourselves. . . . We cannot lay all the blame on those who ruled us before, not only because it would not be true, but also because it could detract from the responsibility each of us now faces . . . to act on our own initiative."

Havel's interview appeared on the eve of his visit to Great Britain.

U.K. newspaper says its journalist was not a spy

The *Observer*, the British weekly newspaper that employed journalist Farzad Bazoft, executed by Iraq for espionage, said on March 18 that it had "confirmed" that he was not a spy, as the government in Baghdad had charged.

"Highly placed government sources, who have made exhaustive checks with international intelligence agencies, last night categorically confirmed that *Observer* journalist Farzad Bazoft was not a spy," the newspaper asserted in a front-page report.

Bazoft was hanged in Iraq on March 15 after a Revolutionary Court found him guilty of spying for Britain and Israel.

Curiously, Bazoft was one of the two *Observer* journalists who broke the PanAm 103 story last summer, which charged that Syria and Iran were behind the massacre, and that the story was being covered up by the governments of the United States and Britain.

● **THE VATICAN** has appointed 12 bishops to Romania, seven of them of the Latin Rite and five of the Oriental Rite. According to sources close to the Vatican, this move aims at rebuilding the Church network which had been destroyed during the reign of Nicolae Ceausescu. The most authoritative figure of the opposition in Romania is Corneliu Coposu, a Catholic of the Oriental Rite, who is president of the National Christian Peasants Party.

● **THE FRENCH** press is implicating the U. S. Justice Department in what is dubbed an "AIDS-gate" scandal. The dailies *Le Monde* and *Le Quotidien de Paris* on March 20 reported allegations that U. S. AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo had stolen his findings from France's Pasteur Institute and falsified data. The story was covered up by the Justice Department, according to these reports.

● **THE KREMLIN** and the Vatican will exchange ambassadors, restoring formal diplomatic ties for the first time since 1923, it was announced on March 15. The Holy See's ambassador to Moscow will be Archbishop Francesco Colasuonno, the Pope's envoy for Eastern Europe.

● **THE POLISH GREEN** Party is pushing for the immediate shutdown of the Nowa Huta steel mill in Krakow, which currently employs 28,000 workers, the *Washington Post* reported on March 20. It is being supported by the Environment Ministry.

● **CHINESE** Prime Minister Li Peng spoke of Beijing's concern about a "restive Taiwan," at the opening of an annual parliamentary session on March 20. "Disturbing is the recent agitation in Taiwan on the part of people with ulterior motives for the independence of Taiwan," he said. "The Chinese government will not ignore it."