

International Intelligence

East Europe celebrates American Independence

Eastern European and Soviet political dissidents and activists held a conference in Prague, Czechoslovakia July 4-6, to commemorate the American Declaration of Independence, and issued an impassioned appeal to the West *not* to help Gorbachov.

"Unable to govern and concerned only about preserving their own power," the appeal states, "Gorbachov and his colleagues in the leadership are willingly or unwillingly dragging the country toward the abyss of civil war. We appeal to the public and the governments of the West not to support Gorbachov and his 'perestroika' which is pushing the country to the brink of destruction. Your support is needed by the democratic forces opposing the communist regime."

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, who was a political prisoner during the communist regime, welcomed the conference with the words, "You are dissidents; this means you are people who are waging your struggle on the basis of the ideal of human rights." He stressed, "the indivisibility of freedom and justice. If they are threatened anywhere, they are threatened everywhere."

Italian spy chief charges foul play with Qaddafi

Admiral Fulvio Martini, the head of Italy's military counterespionage service (SISMI), charged on June 27 that a coverup has been perpetrated concerning relations between certain NATO secret services and Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi. Admiral Martini was testifying before a parliamentary commission charged with investigating the shooting down of an Italian civilian airliner over the Mediterranean Sea, killing 81 people in June 1980.

The past 10 years' investigations never arrived at the truth, he charged, because of a systematic coverup of the involvement of several NATO secret services. According to

a report in the daily *Corriere della Sera*, Martini said that there is evidence that a French or American airplane and radar-guided missile may have shot down the airline, not a Libyan MiG, as has been assumed by many in the West. The crash occurred too far from Libyan airfields, he said.

As an example of the hypocrisy of NATO countries concerning Qaddafi, Martini cited Italian, French, and British verbal attacks on Libya, which never prevented the same nations from supplying Qaddafi with military aid. As for the United States, he pointed out that Qaddafi's money helped get George Bush elected. Qaddafi always maintained punctual payments of royalties to the small Texas oil companies. It was through such petrodollars that Bush's campaign was in part financed.

Peace Now leader calls Shamir peace plan a hoax

The "Shamir peace plan" is a hoax, the aim of which is to treat Jordan as "the Palestinian state," and to prevent an independent Palestinian state from coming into existence, charges Israeli Peace Now leader Gen. Matti Peled, in an article in the latest issue of the West German Jewish magazine *Semit*.

The main point of the plan, stresses Peled, is that a Palestinian state must never be allowed on the West Bank, since such a state already exists—namely, Jordan—and that there is, therefore, no place for a second Palestinian state. The plan foresees peace with Jordan, but the "Jordan" that it is referring to, is not the same Jordan recognized by the international community, nor is this the same Jordan that the Jordanians define themselves as, but, rather, "Jordan-as-Palestine."

The plan is a comprehensive denial of any possibility of Palestinian national sovereignty, as it upholds the Israeli authorities' control of all important aspects of life on the West Bank. In fact, Shamir and company never intended that anybody take the plan seriously, and were surprised when the U.S. and Egypt responded positively to it, as a

possible basis for discussions in the Middle East.

Plans move ahead for all-German elections

All-German parliamentary elections will be held in separate but parallel voting rounds in both Germanys, in order to balance the different weight of the two constituencies (42 million voters in the West, 10 million in the East), it was announced on July 5. The most likely date for the election is Dec. 2.

Preparations are under way in Bonn to refurbish the parliamentary building there to hold 150 additional deputies from the East. Also in Berlin, changes are being made at the old Reichstag plenary hall, which is going to be restored for some sessions of the new all-German parliament.

The West German law that bans membership in parliament to parties gaining less than 5% of the vote, will be extended to the East as well. It is expected that all smaller parties except the communist PDS, and maybe the conservative DSU (one of three government coalition parties in East Germany now), will enter the new parliament with deputies.

Malaysian press scores critics on refugee issue

The Malaysian media have angrily denounced the United States and Britain over the issue of who is to help Vietnamese refugees. "The so-called critics and defenders of the boat people seem to be blind to the fact that little or nothing at all is done by their own countries," charged Kuala Lumpur International Service June 29. The broadcast noted that Malaysia has been "severely affected by the massive influx of boat people"—250,000 over the last 15 years, with more than 17,000 still in the country.

"We have been patiently waiting for the Western governments to come out with a solution to the refugee problem. These

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countries have been promising that they will deal with the problem. Also they promised to provide temporary shelter for these people. . . .

"The reality is that nothing has been done at all. As a result of their action, first asylum countries such as Malaysia and Thailand found themselves huddled with thousands of boat people. . . . No third country is interested in accepting the Vietnamese boat people, who for so long have been deprived of a decent livelihood. For all their big talk about human rights, Western nations—with the exception of France—have shown the least interest in absorbing the refugees."

Support declared for Baltic States' freedom

Support for the independence battle of the Baltic States was declared at a conference of the social democratic parties of Eastern and Central Europe, which was held in the Hungarian capital of Budapest early in July. Participants were the social democratic parties of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Slovenia. The social democratic parties of Ukraine and Romania, which were not present at the conference, are expected to endorse this stand.

Their resolution contradicts the position of the pro-Moscow Western social democracies.

The resolution called for:

1) Support for the three Baltic states in their struggle for independence. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia should also become full members of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

2) Support for the July 2 declaration of sovereignty by the Slovenian parliament.

3) Support for the application of the Baltic and Slovenian social democracies to become full members of the Socialist International.

4) Former communist parties are not allowed to transform themselves into or call themselves social democratic, although individual members of communist parties

might join the social democracies, if they abide by their principles.

A high-level Slovenian source stressed that all of the social democratic parties of Eastern Europe are strongly anti-communist. All of them have been persecuted by the communist regimes, including for their opposition to so-called reform communism of the Bukharin type. The Slovenian social democrats themselves are in a bitter fight with much of the Western social democracy, above all, West Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD), which clings to its policy of preferring the communists over their party colleagues.

Yugoslavia hit with crisis on every front

Simultaneous separatist crises have erupted in Yugoslavia, in the biggest challenge to the communist government to date. The federal presidency was forced to demand that the republic of Slovenia rescind its declaration of sovereignty, which was issued on July 2. An unofficial declaration of independence by ethnic Albanian deputies in Kosovo's parliament provoked a crackdown there by communist authorities, who locked the deputies out of the main parliament chamber. Serbian authorities subsequently dissolved the Kosovo parliament, and silenced the province's Albanian-language television and radio broadcasts.

In its July 2 statement, Slovenia declared itself "completely independent" from the Yugoslav Center in all questions of foreign policy, economic policy, and law, and demanded the removal of all non-Slovenian troops and security forces from its territory, to be replaced by a Slovenian territorial militia. The vote followed recent elections which brought to power the republic's first non-communist government since World War II.

It is only a question of time, measured in days or weeks, before Slovenia's sister western republic, Croatia, where recent elections also brought an anti-communist government to power, follows Slovenia's lead and declares its sovereignty.

● **PHILIPPINE** Defense Minister Fidel Ramos proposed on June 28 that Southeast Asian nations jointly produce weapons and create a defense bloc to repel foreign invaders. He said that ASEAN (Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei) should draw up policies that would allow it to produce and sell defense materials "by complementation, collaboration, or competition."

● **GREECE** and the U.S. signed a defense treaty on July 9 allowing two U.S. military bases to remain in the country for at least eight years. The treaty guarantees the defense of Greece's territory against any hostile country.

● **YITZHAK RABIN**, the Israeli Labor Party "hawk," was in New York City early in July for meetings with, among other people, CBS owner Lawrence Tisch; Lally Weymouth, the daughter of the *Washington Post's* Katharine Graham; and Bush public relations adviser Roger Aisles. Aisles reportedly gave President Bush a briefing on the talk with Rabin. Rabin has called for a meeting of the Labor Party's executive committee to discuss the future leadership of the party.

● **THAILAND'S** former defense minister, Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, has been asked by one of the warring Cambodian factions to arrange peace talks among the factions. Chavalit resigned from the Thai government on June 11.

● **THE PHILIPPINES** Senate Foreign Relations Committee has endorsed a resolution urging that U.S. special negotiator Richard Armitage and U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager be declared *persona non grata*, following Armitage's remark in May that the "U.S. does not conduct cash-register diplomacy." The resolution was introduced by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile.