

International Intelligence

'Heavy metal' is once again a weapon of war

U.S. forces installed gigantic loudspeakers on the Iraqi border with Saudi Arabia prior to the start of the ground war, blasting satanic heavy metal music around the clock as loud as the bombings, in order "to break the Iraqi soldiers' eardrums," according to the Paris daily *France Soir* of Feb. 22. The same psychological warfare tactic was used by the U.S. forces during the invasion of Panama in December 1989, in the attempt to oust Gen. Manuel Noriega from the Vatican nunciature where he had taken asylum.

The lyrics most often played are from Black Sabbath, the newspaper reports: "He is the devil, he is not here to deliver you but to make the law." The American psywarriors are playing on the Arabs' image of them as the "Big Satan." The violence of the music, according to a psychiatrist, is supposed to convince the soldiers they will be treated just as violently and satanically by the Americans. The "music" is interspersed with appeals for desertion. The psychiatrist says that "heavy metal in high doses deprives man of coherent reasoning and that very quickly influences his free will and his critical sense."

Coup in Thailand ousts pro-Bush government

The Thai government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan was forcibly removed by a bloodless military coup on the morning of Feb. 23. Chatichai was arrested.

"We don't want to become like the Philippines," stated Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon, the chief of the Army, in a press conference on Feb. 24. The statement came in answer to a question: "What is the U.S. response to the coup?" Suchinda said Thailand must deal with the U.S. response, whatever it may be, but Thailand cannot become another Philippines. There, corruption ran rampant, and the country is now in a state of collapse.

The coup was caused by military dissatisfaction with the wanton corruption of the government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan, which operated under the slogan "free trade," and worked closely with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Richard Solomon. The military was united in the coup, across all branches, which accounts for its extremely quiet and bloodless nature.

The military has set up a national peace council for administrative purposes and pledged to announce a new government within a week, with new general elections to be called in six months. There will be no changes in Thai foreign policy, Suchinda said.

Although the U.S. State Department has refused comment, Cable News Network reports that the U.S. was stopping all aid to Thailand because of displeasure over the coup.

U.N. would give half of El Salvador to rebels

A formerly secret United Nations document presented to the El Salvadoran government and the Marxist FMLN rebels there proposes to divide El Salvador into Army and guerrilla zones, along the lines of the "Lebanon model" that ruined that country. The El Salvadoran government has reportedly expressed total opposition to the proposal.

The U.N. document, which was disavowed by U.N.-appointed negotiator Alvaro de Soto as soon as news of it hit the press, essentially backs the FMLN claim that it is a parallel power in the country. Sources close to the rebels say the proposal would give them far-reaching political control over the areas allotted to them.

According to the document recommendations, separate guerrilla and Army zones would be set up for an open-ended "transition period," during which 8,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops would be deployed to patrol demilitarized zones. Reuters quotes one analyst saying that on the basis of de facto control, "The FMLN could probably

claim half the country." On Feb. 17, the *New York Times* reported that the FMLN is demanding as a condition for ceasefire that the government recognize rebel control over "a broad northern swath" of the country.

A "sticking point" in negotiations, says the *Times*, is the FMLN demand for dissolution of the El Salvador Armed Forces, a proposal backed by U.N. negotiator De Soto. According to a Feb. 26 interview in the *Christian Science Monitor* with rebel spokesman Ruben Zamora, "Neither side in the war believes it can achieve military victory," and thus demilitarization is the order of the day. This could be facilitated, says Zamora, by "a defeat of the government at the polls [which would] have an important psychological impact at the negotiating table."

Israeli parliamentarian wants Palestinian state

Israeli Knesset member Moshe Sahal called for the creation of a Palestinian state, speaking at the Labor Party Bureau meeting on Feb. 21. "I say openly that I'll be damned if I can understand the basis for the concept that maintained saying no to a Palestinian state," he said. "I definitely say yes to it. If it leads to a peace agreement between us and the Palestinians and the Arab countries, then there is a chance," he said.

Sahal amplified his remarks for IDF radio in Tel Aviv. "As time passes and in the absence of a political arrangement to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, time works against us, so that what we could have gotten yesterday we will be unable to get today or tomorrow.

"I therefore presented a sober, realistic plan, at whose center are two elements: the solution of the Palestinian problem involving recognition of the Palestinian entity, linked with Jordan in some form—including a Palestinian state—provided that the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist and that the permanent arrangements clearly stipulate that there are no additional demands, including the right of return. The

Briefly

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** convened a meeting in Rome March 4-5 of all the bishops of the countries involved directly or indirectly in the Gulf war. The meeting, described as "unprecedented" by Vatican press spokesman Antonio Navarro Valls, was attended by the patriarchs of the Middle East Catholic churches, the presidents of the Bishops' conferences of the U.S.A., Great Britain, France, Italy, and Northern Africa, and by the president of the European Bishops' Conferences.

● **THE U.S. REFUSAL** to dissolve NATO is destabilizing the military balance of forces between the Western alliance and the Soviet Union, the Soviet Communist party daily *Pravda* charged Feb. 19, in an editorial reporting on the recent formal dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

● **CZECHOSLOVAK** President Vaclav Havel announced on Feb. 16 that Czechoslovakia has agreed in principle to open a "Special Interest Office" in Lithuania, as well as several other of the Soviet republics, as part of bilateral trade and economic cooperation agreements. Havel's announcement followed a meeting with Polish President Lech Walesa and Hungarian President Jozsef Antall.

● **TURKEY'S** President Turgut Özal fired his defense minister, Hosnu Dogan, on Feb. 22. The reshuffle reflects increasing tensions within the military over Özal's support for the U.S. war against Iraq. Dogan himself replaced Defense Minister Sefa Giray only four months before.

● **RED CHINA** is escalating anti-American and anti-British education, *The Perspective Monthly* of Hong Kong reported Dec. 18, 1990. Beijing is "presenting themselves as warm while secretly grasping the knife." Beijing has issued a new book on "imperialism," which begins with the words: "The U.S. and Britain are the same invader. They used opium as a tool to attack and plunder China."

second element in the plan involves security arrangements including Israel's permanent borders, and regional arrangements with six regional countries including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt."

Soviets in new overture to Vatican

"The Vatican historically played a very positive role in the Middle East," declared Viacheslav Matuzov, counsellor for Middle East Affairs at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, in a statement reported by columnist Maurizio Blondet in the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire* on Feb. 16.

Matuzov arrived in the U.S. four months ago, as the crisis in the Gulf was building toward war, after having been one of the most important Mideast specialists in the Communist Party Central Committee's international office for more than 15 years.

"I can say this about the Vatican," Matuzov added, "because I have followed the situation there personally for a very long time. I cannot but appreciate its role. For example in the case of Lebanon. The Vatican has a great influence on the mind of the people."

Iraqi babies freeze with no heat or electricity

The newest reported horror in Baghdad caused by the genocidal bombing against civilian infrastructure is the phenomenon known as "frozen babies"—infants who are brought to the hospital by their mothers, who have effectively frozen overnight, because of the lack of heat and electricity. This new "appalling drama" was reported by Alfonso Rojo, correspondent in Baghdad for the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*, on Feb. 19. The lack of electricity, he writes, has become "a silent assassin."

Rojo interviews Baghdad Dr. Kohosha Aboona, head of maternity care at the al-Aluia Hospital: "They die from what is technically known as cold injury. Every day,

mothers come along with their children, and when you touch them, they're frozen. It's like putting your hand in a refrigerator. We try to revive them with hot water bottles, but sometimes it isn't enough."

Dr. Aboona, an Assyrian Christian, tells Rojo that the problem is worsened by the lack of power to run incubators: "You can't keep a hospital going without electricity. In the big hospitals, they've had to suspend the treatment of patients with cancer, and much of the kidney dialysis and transplanting. We've got a generator here, but it only works for three hours a day."

Rojo's account lends further credence to a recent report in the Italian magazine *Panorama*, that the slogan written on a bomb that was to be dropped over Iraq was, "For birth control in Iraq."

Bush's religion called 'a freemasonic ritual'

The President of the United States asked God to bless the coalition forces at the beginning of the war with Iraq, but for George Bush, "this is only a masonic ritual," charged the Catholic monthly *30 Giorni* on Feb. 19.

"That 'god' invoked on Jan. 17 seems more a national divinity, a hero of American mythology," the paper charged. It quoted Italian historian Gianni Vannoni, the author of a book titled *Secret Societies from the 1600s to the 1900s*, who writes: "There are two counterposed souls in the American history: that of the 'frontier' and that of freemasonry. If the spirit of the 'frontier' is the spirit of freedom, the masonic spirit is the spirit, or better the spiritualization, of profit."

The article concludes: "Among the Presidents of the U.S., just a couple were not masons. And Bush? 'George Bush is a mason and can be publicly proud of this,' declared Giuliano Di Bernardo, Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Italy.

The newspaper queries whether it is not that "spirit of profit" that motivates President Bush's war against Iraq.