

International Intelligence

EUROPE

W. German says Soviet move was "preemptive"

Herbert Wehner, West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) leader and one of the architects of East-West detente, told a March 24 radio audience in that nation that the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan was a "preemptive" strike aimed at "maintaining the sphere of influence they have had there since World War II." The Soviet Union could not simply watch part of their sphere becoming "so to speak, 'independent,'" said Wehner.

The Soviets were also probably motivated by the desire to protect their own Muslim populations from the waves of fundamentalism sweeping the "so-called Islamic world," added the Social Democratic parliamentarian.

Wehner's radio interviewer asked whether detente would be destroyed if the Soviet armies did not withdraw from the western Asian nation. "I do not want to sound ironic," replied Wehner, "but what happened to peace while the Americans did not withdraw from Vietnam?...It took a lot of patience then, and also the Americans' readiness to close that chapter."

Swedes vote antinuclear in "rigged referendum"

Ill-informed Swedish voters recorded what could be a major setback to nuclear power development in their country at the polls March 23. A referendum featuring three propositions on nuclear energy found well over 80 percent of Swedish voters in favor of the two most antinuclear choices. The result of the vote could lead to nationalization of the industry in Sweden, under conditions in which prospective government coalitions

are committed to reducing nuclear energy production dramatically.

The voters, were in any case given no pronuclear choice in the referendum. The three choices offered were: 1) That six nuclear installations now operating be maintained, and six now under construction be completed; 2) That the six under construction be dismantled, and the six operating installations be terminated within a 10 year period. 3) That the 12-reactor battery be completed but that they and the entire energy sector of the Swedish economy be nationalized.

Even proposition 1, critics pointed out, contained no provision for further development of nuclear energy.

Only 18 percent voted for proposition 1. Approximately 38 percent voted for the most antinuclear proposition 2, and 42 percent voted for the proposition 3 whose distinguishing feature is the provision for nationalization.

Suggestive of the fact that the fight to maintain nuclear growth is not finished, during the referendum campaign period, an organization called the Swedish Association for Nuclear Power Development (FKU) gained thousands of new adherents to its proposals for rapid nuclear energy development. The registered dues-paying membership went from 600 in December 1979 to over 5,000 by the time of the March 23 vote. The FKU denounced the referendum as a "rigged set of choices."

Cossiga Cancels EEC meet for Britain

Italian Premier Cossiga, though heading only a minority caretaker government in Italy, used his capacity as chairman of the European Economic Community March 24 to postpone the scheduled March 31 summit of the nine EEC heads of state. The Cossiga proposal, since accepted, came amidst growing speculation that the British government faced a trouncing at the summit that might lead to its forced expulsion from the Community.

The same day, the London *Observer* editorially worried that "A political momentum is developing which may yet take Britain out of the EEC...The fact that nobody in power is talking in terms of eventual withdrawal yet should not lead people to think that the possibility is necessarily remote...The momentum could become irreversible."

In fact, since Helmut Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing, heads of state in Germany and France, respectively, held their third summit of the year last week, British newspapers have been speaking fearfully of a "reverse Waterloo" should Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher go into an EEC summit with a position opposing that of the continental leaders—as she had promised to do on the issue of British contributions to the EEC budget.

The real issue has begun to leak out in some of the leading European newspapers. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, for example, reported that the key to developments is France's determination to reduce Great Britain's international status, ostracizing it from the EEC, because of the "diverging world political activities" of the two powers. The focus of the Franco-British fight has been Giscard's collaboration with West Germany in the formation of the European Monetary System, which recently secured the bulk of the Arab countries' petrodollar surplus to strengthen its position against the British controlled International Monetary Fund.

SOVIET UNION

Pravda charges Kissinger created Mideast crisis

The crisis in the Middle East is the outcome of what Henry Kissinger and James Schlesinger began a decade ago, charged the Soviet Communist Party

newspaper Pravda March 24. Authoritative commentator A. Petrov said that Kissinger's "step-by-step" diplomacy was the intended precursor of the disastrous Camp David pact between Israel and Egypt, while it was Schlesinger whose threats "led to the formation of the 'rapid response corps'." Petrov charged that this Mideast policy was an aspect of a broader U.S. policy to carve the world up into "spheres of vital interest."

Petrov asserted that such a sphere-of-influence policy has "cost the lives of millions of people" during the past century.

Washington has diminishing support in the Persian Gulf itself, the article continues. "It appears that the U.S. doesn't notice the discontent of the countries in and adjacent to this region when Washington attempts to pull them into its military orbit."

MIDDLE EAST

Kissinger preempts U.S.-Iran hostage deal

The ailing Shah of Iran departed his place of exile, Panama, just hours before a deal was to have been finalized between Panamanian president Torrijos and Iranian president Abolhassan Bani Sadr, with the covert blessings of U.S. security chief Zbigniew Brzezinski. According to numerous press accounts the hostages were to have been transferred to the custody of Abolhassan Bani Sadr's government from the militants in exchange for a pledge from Panama to extradite the Shah.

Kissinger, a close confidant of the Shah, intervened and succeeded in getting the Shah to leave Panama. According to the Egyptian daily *Al Ahram*, the Shah was told that the CIA was going to assassinate him through poisoning if

he stayed in Panama. Moreover, Kissinger's colleague David Rockefeller had convinced the Shah that extradition was imminent. As a result of such advice the Shah hastily departed.

Brzezinski was evidently hoping that a deal to take the hostages out of the hands of the militant captors would strengthen his allies Bani Sadr and Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh.

Shortly after the Shah's arrival, an angry Brzezinski told the press that Washington was through with trying to help the ailing Shah. The collapsed deal according to Middle Eastern sources has significantly weakened Ghotbzadeh and Bani Sadr's position inside Iran.

King Hussein cancels trip to U.S.

Jordan's King Hussein angrily cancelled his scheduled visit to Washington next month after learning that the day of his arrival would follow on the heels of the Washington visits of Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin to consolidate the Camp David pact. The King's abrupt cancellation underscored his continuing refusal to be associated with the Camp David process and his reluctance to cooperate with what he and the rest of the Arab world consider the Carter administration's irresponsible Middle East policy.

The invitation to King Hussein was extended by the U.S. ambassador to Jordan at the request of the State Department, which says it did not know that Carter was planning the Sadat-Begin summits—a policy initiative of Zbigniew Brzezinski's National Security Council. King Hussein accepted the invitation, but upon learning that he would arrive in the U.S. at about the same time as Sadat and Begin, angrily cancelled the trip.

Once a frequent visitor to Washington, King Hussein has not visited the United States since 1977.

Briefly

● **YUVAL NE'EMAN**, the father of Israel's nuclear bomb capability, will tour the United States from April 9 to 26 as part of a self-appointed "truth squad" of Israeli hardline leaders committed to putting pressure on the presidential candidates to support Israel. The group will launch a media campaign "designed to encourage candidates to make far-reaching commitments to Israel, for which they will be held accountable later." Accompanying Ne'emman will be such extremists as Geula Cohen of the Knesset, and Rabbi Eliezer Waldman.

● **YASSER ARAFAT** will be arriving in New Delhi soon at the invitation of India's Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Mrs. Gandhi's opening of full diplomatic relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization is the successful outcome of the latest series of talks between the French and Saudi Arabia. There are clear indications that French President Giscard d'Estaing in his recent trip to the Middle East had laid the foundation for an axis around Iraq, Saudi Arabia and India. India's recognition of the PLO tends to confirm this.

● **ZAIL SINGH**, India's Home Minister, told the Indian parliament that recent troubles in Northeast India, centered on the strategic state of Assam where separatist elements have paralyzed the state, are of foreign origin. Singh pointed a finger at the CIA, at U.S. Ambassador Goheen, and at foreign missionaries active in the region promoting anti-Indian movements among the Christianized hill tribe populations. Unnamed but also involved are the Chinese, neighboring Bangladesh, and the Jesuit order.