

International Intelligence

Vatican opts for active fight against Communists

The Vatican has decided to actively campaign to stop the Communist Party of Italy's (PCI) bid for power. For the first time in many years, the Pope and the bishops decided to intervene in the election campaign with statements demanding the "re-Christianization of Rome." The Italian capital is presently ruled by a Communist-Socialist coalition and has a Communist mayor, Giulio Vetere.

After a meeting between the Pope and the head of the Christian Democracy in the city, Ciriaco De Mita, Christian Democratic candidate for mayor of Rome Angelo Micheli—also a personal friend of the Pope—decided that their main campaign themes will be the re-Christianization of Rome and the fight against euthanasia.

The Bishop of Rome, Cardinal Poletti, publicly criticized the "non-Christian city administration" and called on all Catholics to "vote for a Christian party." His statement was the beginning of a polemic between the Roman bishops and the organ of the PCI, *l'Unità*, which accused the Vatican of interfering with the elections. The bishop issued four releases claiming the Church's right to pronounce itself "on national events," and to do so "in an election period."

Both *l'Unità* and the head of the PCI, Alessandro Natta, accused the Church and the Christian Democracy of "creating a climate like in 1948," when the head of the Christian Democracy's Alcide De Gasperi, after a trip to Washington and speech in front of the U.S. Congress, returned to Italy and defeated PCI leader Palmiro Togliatti in a campaign against a then-threatened Communist takeover.

Japan's Nakasone offers help with U.S. SDI

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone is "firmly hinting" that Japan is willing to help the United States research and con-

struct the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative system, the *Washington Post* reported on Feb. 28.

The *Post* quotes Nakasone telling Japanese legislators earlier this month: "It is a non-nuclear and defensive system which would kill the force of nuclear missiles. Its goal is to wipe away nuclear weapons from the face of the earth."

The *Post* also reports that Vice-President George Bush told visiting Japanese legislators during the last week in February that Japan's support for the SDI was vital to the success of the program.

While the *Post* stresses that Nakasone has come under intense pressure both from Japan's opposition parties and in the Soviet press (including a Feb. 26 commentary by the news agency TASS condemning Japan for forgetting "the tragic past"), the paper omits printing the name of another individual who is going around undercutting Nakasone: Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz made a speech one week before Nakasone's, accusing Japan of ignoring the "global collective security system" and ignoring its "responsibilities" for defense.

Report new Russian anti-Semitic campaign

Anti-Semitism is again on the rise in Russia, according to a two-page article in France's *Figaro* magazine. Since last winter, Soviet propaganda against Israel has returned to blunt anti-Semitism under the sponsorship of the Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee of Ukrainian Academician Lev Korneyev. According to a recent article by Israeli Sovietologist Mikhail Agursky in the *Jerusalem Post*, the campaign is under the direction of Boris Ponomarev, chief of the international department of the Communist Party and his new associate, G. Romanov.

Recently, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres sent a letter via Armand Hammer to the Soviet leadership on the issue of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Peres is reported to have received no answer. Instead, Korneyev was deployed to launch a new series of attacks on Israel,

centering on the issue that Zionism equals Nazism and that Zionists cooperated with the SS. Korneyev gave interviews to TASS and held a press conference in December in the Soviet foreign ministry.

More recently, during a session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, East-bloc delegates used similar arguments when reviewing the Lebanese situation. After a lengthy speech from the Czech delegate who compared "Israeli crimes in Lebanon to those of the Nazis in Czechoslovakia," the Israeli delegate closed the debate by thanking the Czech delegate for not mentioning the very sensitive issue of the "invasion of Czechoslovakia by Israeli tanks in 1968!"

George Shultz helps Dope, Inc. in Israel

A Tel Aviv source reports that a meeting of a group calling itself the "Millionaires' Economic Conference" was held in Israel in mid-February, presided over by Tel Aviv University professor Haim Ben-Shahar, the Israeli manager for the funds of KGB-allied billionaire Armand Hammer. Attendees at the meeting included United Brands' Max Fisher, Anti-Defamation League head Kenneth Bialkin, whose law firm has represented drug-runner Robert Vesco, and a leading member of the Bronfman clan.

While the group is nominally talking about investing money in new factories in Israel, what is actually going on, the Tel Aviv source reports, is a big push in Israel to legalize casino gambling and otherwise pave the way for a takeover by the dope mafia. Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai (former head of the Israeli branch of Revlon Corporation) is privately pushing for the legalization of casino gambling, mainly by transforming the southern Israeli town of Eilat into a "free port." Money is coming into Eilat from Cyril Stein, a leading casino-gambling financier in Britain.

The mafia is being greatly aided by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is demanding that Israel "open" its economy, dismantle its public sector, devalue its cur-

Briefly

rency by 50%, and carry out other measures that will devastate Israel's productive economy. Modai, who is due in the United States in early March, has been responsive to Shultz (while Prime Minister Shimon Peres was out of the country), unilaterally raising prices of subsidized commodities such as food and oil by 10-25%, provoking outraged cries of protest from Israeli trade unionists and industrialists.

Israeli Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon is Shultz's other point man on the scene, calling for Israel to adopt a "free enterprise" economic model and to deal with the "black," or "underground," economy by making it "legal."

New Zealand Greens to block MX test

New Zealand "disarmament activists"—Soviet-backed Greens—announced on Feb. 23 that they will attempt to block U.S. MX missile tests. The MX missile will be fired 8,000 miles into the waters between Australia and New Zealand. The Greens say they will launch a fleet of boats into the missile landing area. "We are sure the United States would not endanger the lives of people in international waters by going ahead with the tests," said spokesman Marie Leadbetter of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Genscher resigns as chairman of the FDP

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, West German foreign minister and one of the most prominent members of the "Neville Chamberlain faction" in West Germany, resigned his position as chairman of the Free Democratic Party on Feb. 23. The continuous loss of votes and support by the FDP led Genscher last May to promise the party's disaffected rank and file that he would resign "in favor of a younger man."

The party convention took place Feb. 23-24 in Saarbrücken. Genscher is being

replaced by the current minister for economic affairs, the lackluster Martin Bangemann.

It appears that Genscher's resignation is at least in part motivated by his desire to leave a sinking ship. The party was unable to reach even the 5% minimum required for seats during last year's elections to the European Parliament, and now faces three state elections between the months of March and May in which it will likely suffer heavy losses—possibly enough to take it below the 5% margin that would leave it unrepresented in the Bundestag.

Mexican labor group blasts PAN 'oligarchs'

The annual meeting of the national council of Mexico's CTM labor federation at the end of February has come out fighting against the oligarchical PAN party. Speaker after speaker blasted the PAN for its treachery and for wanting a return to the days of the Emperor Maximilian.

On Feb. 25, PRI Senator Arturo Romo, a CTM adviser, said: "Which are the forces that compose the conservative reaction? The National Action Party, a small minority of businessmen that represents oligarchical interests foreign to our nation, Clouthier, Coindreau, Basagoiti, and Sandoval, some members of the high clergy, and foreign financial capitals, who attempt to subjugate our economy and make us dependent. . . . Some oligarchs, traitors to the fatherland, to whom President de la Madrid has referred, try to justify their attacks against the system, their withdrawal of investments, their capital flights abroad, by arguing that they have no confidence in the government, and that that is why they don't take risks in the country. Those oligarchs believe that we Mexicans are naive or stupid, that we don't know that it has been precisely revolutionary regimes that have created the material conditions, not only to allow the development of the public sector, but most emphatically, to promote the growth of the private sector. In truth, this unpatriotic attitude of the reactionaries is due to a moral crisis on their part."

● **MIKHAIL GORBACHOV** could be named the next leader of the Soviet Union, say U.S. intelligence sources. If so, it will mean that the British deal is on, although it will have no effect on who is running the show in Russia.

● **COLOMBIAN** pornographic actress Amparo Grisales, contracted by former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen to star in a motion picture based on a novel by him, was arrested in a major drug raid in Brazil.

● **DANNY GRAHAM** told an audience of 200 that he had demanded that his wife turn over to him one-half of all money paid to her by the Soviet KGB for services as a sex operative—in response to a question about Lyndon LaRouche's views on the economic potential of the Strategic Defense Initiative. Apparently, Graham was joking.

● **THE HITLER BOOK**, a publication of the Schiller Institute, has elicited a furious response in the Sion, Switzerland daily newspaper *Le Nouvelliste du Valais*, written by the wartime head of the Swiss military police, Colonel Mutrux. The book documents Swiss political and financial authorities' collaboration with the Nazis.

● **MEXICAN** intelligence agents are reportedly hot on the trail of a new "Colombian Connection," this time involving former Mexico City Mayor Hank Gonzalez.

● **U.S. INTELLIGENCE** sources say that Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou has overreached himself in his tilt toward Moscow. They are looking into the possibility of a coup.