

International Intelligence

Vatican, Jewish leaders to meet

The Vatican has agreed to a "substantive" meeting with American Jewish leaders in Rome. Cardinal Jan Willebrands, head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, issued a formal invitation in a telephone conversation with Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, said Synagogue Council spokesman Gunther Lawrence.

"The meeting will be a substantive one," said Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress, "not just one in which there are two one-way ceremonial statements."

Details of the Rome meeting have yet to be worked out, but Pope John Paul is expected to participate in at least some portions of the meeting, as are Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, and Cardinal Willebrands.

Tensions have run high between the papacy and those "American Jewish leaders" associated with whiskey-peddler Edgar Bronfman. During the month of July, after Bronfman's World Jewish Congress promoted unfounded Soviet-concocted stories of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's "Nazi past," the Pope expressed his displeasure with such favors for the Kremlin by granting a personal audience to Waldheim.

Changes at the top in Afghanistan?

Leadership changes may be afoot in Afghanistan. Moscow's Afghan puppet leader, Najibullah, has been sent to the "southern U.S.S.R. . . . to continue his medical treatment," TASS reported Aug. 4. On July 19, he was talked to Moscow, on sudden notice for calls with Mikhail Gorbachov.

The Soviet press reported his departure from Moscow on July 21, without naming his destination, as is customary.

On Aug. 1, Radio Moscow reported a meeting of the Revolutionary Council in Kabul, with no mention of Najibullah. The TASS statement of Aug. 4 finally clarified the question of his whereabouts.

His deposed predecessor, Babrak Karmal, was also exiled to the Soviet Union for "medical treatment."

Mecca riots were an attempted coup

Ayatollah Khomeini was to be proclaimed "spiritual leader of all Muslims," Iranian leaders succeeding in pulling a coup in Saudi Arabia under cover of the rioting that occurred in Mecca at the end of July.

Involved was a six-point plan in which the Iranian rioting in Mecca were only the first stage, Saudi Arabia's *Okaz* newspaper claimed Aug. 4.

Okaz, which always reflects government opinion, said its report was based on preliminary results of an investigation into the riots. More than 400 died.

The first stage of the coup plan was to block the entrances of Mecca's Grand Mosque during afternoon prayers, at which time Iranian demonstrators—some reports say as many as 15,000 of them were Revolutionary Guards out of uniform—planned to call for proclamation of Khomeini as the "sacred imam of Muslims."

They would then "oblige the pilgrims and the people who had come for prayers to pledge allegiance to the leaders of the demonstration at the scene and to the position of Khomeini."

The fourth point of the plan was to declare Qom, Khomeini's bailiwick in Iran, "a sacred city and pilgrimage place for all Muslims, replacing Mecca and the holy sites" in Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian demonstration leaders also planned to kill the imam of the Grand Mosque and anyone else who opposed them. The final stage of the plan consisted of "burning parts of the Kaaba," the structure in the Grand Mosque's holy-of-holies that Muslims face

when they pray, in order "to make the faithful turn away."

Several leading Iranian terrorists were in Mecca to oversee the coup, according to the Iranian Mujahedeen, who are now allied with Iraq. The coup plotters included Gen. Sayad Shirazi, who is Khomeini's personal representative on the Supreme Defense Council; Sadeq Khalkhali, a parliamentary deputy and top terrorist leader; Fakredeen Hedjazi, a Parliament member close to the Hezbollah of Lebanon, and Ayatollah Mehdi Karrubi, the leader of the Iranian pilgrims.

400,000 AIDS cases in Brazil

There are 400,000 AIDS cases in Brazil, the coordinator of that country's National Program of Control of Transmissible Sexual Diseases has declared. Lair Guerra de Macedo said that over 90% of them do not know they have AIDS, and are continuing to spread the disease among Brazil's population of 130 million.

Officially, there are only 1,835 registered cases, but she estimates there are more than 3,000 terminal cases now in hospitals.

Tuberculosis has risen from the ninth cause of death in 1983 to second in 1986, thanks to collateral infections of AIDS victims.

She advocated building special hospital wings for AIDS patients, since now they are just "sent to solitary rooms where they die without adequate medical assistance."

She said the Health Ministry, which has no budget for testing, had gotten state companies to agree to test all new employees and would get that measure into the employment regulations for the private sector.

The country was shaken when it was reported in the first week of August that a member of Brazil's Senate died of AIDS. The 2,200 employees at the presidential palace will now be tested. Prisoners in Rio state jails will also be tested.

Briefly

Pakistan responds to U.S. aid cutoff

Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan accused the U.S. congressional committee which recommended suspending aid to Pakistan until January, of acting with "undue haste," the BBC reported Aug. 5. There has been "no due process of law," he said, in the case used by the Congress as an excuse to hold back aid.

That case involved a Canadian businessman of Pakistani origins, who was arrested in July for allegedly trying to purchase special steel that could be used in nuclear weapons production. The case has not yet even come to trial.

Yaqub Khan called U.S. pressure on the issue of the alleged Pakistani nuclear bomb, "an affront" to Pakistan and said it was "becoming harmful to Pakistani interests."

He stressed that Pakistan has no intention of stopping its peaceful development of nuclear energy, and said the policy commitment is to reach an agreement with India on nuclear weapons non-proliferation for the subcontinent. Khan said that U.S.-Pakistani relations had plunged to "a low."

A Western diplomatic source said Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost had met with Khan, Prime Minister Junejo and other officials to discuss the possibility of inspecting Pakistan's Kahuta nuclear facility, UPI reported.

German prosecutor moves against terrorists

West German federal prosecutor Kurt Rebmann has begun a nationwide search and seal operation against Kurdish terrorists of the PKK (communist party). Safehouses of the PKK and related Iranian-run Kurdish groups were searched, with several arrests made. The PKK exiles are accused of killing five Turkish politicians on German soil.

In a related development, the Supreme

Federal Court followed Rebmann's recommendation to reject legal appeals by two terrorists. Working for Syrian intelligence, the two bombed the German-Arab Society in West Berlin in March 1986. They were arrested shortly afterward, put on trial, and sentenced to several years in jail.

An East German connection, through the Syrian embassy in East Berlin, was also proven in the case. The terrorists tried to overturn the court ruling by arguing that a "non-Muslim" court cannot judge Muslims or Islamic radicals.

South Korea proposes reopening of talks

The South Korean government has proposed reopening talks with North Korea, possibly toward reaching a non-aggression pact between the two countries, BBC reported Aug. 3. Seoul might want to schedule the talks in New York after the U.N. General Assembly meeting in September.

However, South Korea has rejected North Korea's call for talks on troop reductions that would involve the United States.

On July 23, North Korea had proposed a five-phase troop-reduction plan that would lower strength to less than 100,000 soldiers each—including U.S. forces on the peninsula. It has announced a unilateral 100,000-soldier reduction by the end of 1987. Current North Korean troop strength are 830,000-840,000, while South Korean strength stands at 600,000.

North Korean leader Kim il Sung said July 25 that the North Korean troop-reduction plan would help ensure successful Olympic games next summer, Kyodo press reported from Pyongyang.

The Chinese *People's Daily* said July 25 that the North Korean proposal for big troop cuts holds great promise for relaxing tensions on the Korean peninsula. A newspaper commentary said that the proposal would help break a stalemate on the peninsula and help eliminate the possibility of a military confrontation.

● **DEFENSE MINISTER** Manfred Wörner of West Germany and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger signed an accord in Washington Aug. 3 on a \$2.0 billion joint project to supply the navies of the two countries with 1,900 (Germany) and 4,500 (U.S.) sea-to-air missiles beginning in 1991. The missiles, called Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM), equipped with radar and infrared guidance, are to protect against cruise missiles approaching ships.

● **IRAQ** tested a domestically produced ground-to-ground missile with a 390-mile range Aug. 4. The range is sufficient to reach Teheran, the Iraqis reported.

● **TWO SOVIET SPY** cases have been revealed to the press in Japan. An employee of the Tokyo Aircraft Instrument Co. delivered stolen technical data to Yuri Pokrovsky, the Soviet's vice representative for trade, between 1984 and 1986. On July 20, the Japanese Foreign Ministry asked the Soviet trade office to send Pokrovsky in for questioning for allegedly paying another Japanese citizen for stolen documents on a flight-management system.

● **FRENCH PREMIER** Jacques Chirac attacked West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for his policy toward Iran during a live television interview Aug. 2. Chirac called Genscher's consultations with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati in Bonn July 23 "slightly overblown" and misplaced. The talks occurred after France had broken diplomatic relations with Teheran.

● **THAI ARMY** commander Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudhwill visited Moscow in October, he told an interviewer July 31. "This will be a friendly visit for talks on issues of common interest." He said Moscow extended the invitation quite some time ago. "The Soviet Union is a superpower, we want to show our friendship."