

International Intelligence

Italian Communists to change label

Achille Occhetto, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, has proposed that a new "constituent" congress be made to change statutes, perspectives, programs, and even the name of the party, since being called "communist" is no longer fashionable. The Central Committee on Nov. 24 approved Occhetto's proposal with by a vote of 219-73, with 34 abstaining. Opposition comes from the "oldies" of the party, like former secretary Natta, "left" leader Ingrao, and "Soviet-oriented" Cossutta, Pajetta, Tortorella, and Chiarante. In Turin and Rome, groups have been formed by party members to defend the tradition and name of the party.

The constituent congress of the new party will be held before the next Italian local administrative elections, which are scheduled for next May.

'Come clean,' Agca tells Gorbachov

In an interview published Nov. 25, Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who is serving a life sentence for the attempted assassination on Pope John OB Paul II, said that the "Soviet KGB asked the Bulgarian secret services to find someone willing" to shoot the Pope.

Agca, 30, was interviewed in a maximum security jail in Ascoli Piceno northeast of Rome by the newspaper *Corriere Della Sera*. "Now Gorbachov is coming to Rome to see the Pope. He who is the champion of *glasnost*, can reveal if his predecessor [Yuri] Andropov made the decision to eliminate the Polish Pope because he had the ability to provoke upheavals in Eastern Europe," he said. "It's time to unmask the misdeeds of the past regime."

Gorbachov met the Pope at the Vatican on Dec. 1, the first encounter ever between a Pontiff and a Kremlin chief.

Agca made similar allegations in a Rome court in 1986, where he testified at the trial of three Turks and three Bulgarians

charged with conspiring with him to try to kill the Pope.

All six were acquitted on grounds of insufficient evidence.

The prosecution at that trial said Moscow hired the Bulgarians to kill the Pope because of his support for Solidarnosc in his native Poland.

Andropov, who later became Soviet Communist Party leader, was head of the KGB security service when Agca shot and wounded the Pope in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

Terror attack foiled in Pakistan

A major terror attack was aborted on Nov. 24 aboard an Islamabad-to-Riyadh passenger plane, when two sticks of dynamite were discovered at the Karachi stopover and two Pakistanis with detonators were arrested.

It is unclear whether this was a planned terror action, or merely blackmail. Leading to the discovery of the bomb was a letter warning that if \$1.5 million was not paid, the plane would be blown up. But the two Pakistanis with the dynamite were aboard the plane, and it is unlikely that they were suicide commandos.

The incident coincides with a renewed wave of Iran-sponsored terrorist attacks against the Saudi Arabians. Bombs have been detonated in Riyadh, including at the Interior Ministry building.

Andreotti moots huge food airlift

"In the east [of Europe] the winter will be hard, extremely hard. . . . Therefore, I propose an airlift, like the one that saved Berlin," declared Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti in an interview published in *Corriere della Sera* on Nov. 26.

The airlift is necessary, Andreotti said, "especially for consumer goods, since if people are freezing and have to eat, you cannot postpone the problem. . . . I thought, an airlift from the U.S.A. to Po-

land? But then emerged the difficulty that to receive this kind of help, you need a complex organization, so it could not be done. We Italians have prepared trains, but they cannot leave yet, due to the fact that the Polish are not ready to receive them. . . . I mention this problem . . . because in the East there is still someone who wants to create difficulties for the renovation process, and it is clear that if the living standards get worse relative to past times, these people would be able to strike back against *perestroika*, against Solidarnosc, and against all those movements that are sending into retirement all the leftovers of conservatism."

In the same interview, Andreotti stated that he sees only two dangers for the reform process ongoing in the East: "One could come from the military people, if they saw that the issues of security started to be dealt with outside the normal forum of the dialogue between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. The other risk could be the issue of borders" in Europe, which, Andreotti insisted, should not be changed.

Europeans back Cambodian regime

The European Parliament voted in November to recognize the Vietnam-backed Heng Semrin government in Cambodia, and to back efforts to remove the Khmer Rouge delegation which holds Cambodia's seat at the United Nations. Australia said it will withdraw support for any transitional government which includes the genocidal Khmer Rouge. On Nov. 27, former Cambodian leader Prince Sihanouk said for the first time, that he would agree to a U.N.-supervised transition government in Cambodia, and acknowledged that there was international disagreement with the four-member Cambodian coalition—whose most powerful member is the Khmer Rouge—taking over Cambodia. Sihanouk, who was speaking from his residence in Beijing, said he had not discussed the matter yet with China or the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile, U.S.-backed guerrillas were preparing to lay siege to a Cambodian provincial capital, with help from the

Briefly

Khmer Rouge, Reuter quoted diplomats and guerrillas as saying Nov. 27. Commanders of the non-communist Khmer People's Liberation Front, the KPNLF, have reportedly begun trying to cut roads east, west and north to Sisophon. The Khmer Rouge were to cut Route 5 and the parallel railway line. "We understand the KPNLF is counting on the Khmer Rouge to cut it," said a diplomat who closely follows resistance activities.

After two months of trying, the KPNLF claimed on Nov. 26 to have overrun Svay Chek, the last major government garrison north of Sisophon, capital of northwestern Banteay Meanchey province.

"This KPNLF victory on the Svay Chek battlefield is a great one and poses a serious threat to Sisophon, Siem Reap, and Battambang towns," non-communist guerrilla radio said.

Norman Bailey is Venezuelan agent

Former U.S. National Security Council (NSC) member Norman Bailey, who initiated the slander that Panama's Gen. Manuel Noriega is involved in illegal drug-trafficking, has just been hired by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, according to the Panamanian daily *Crítica* Nov. 28. Bailey's new company, Caribbean International, based in Washington, D.C., will advise the Venezuelan government on economic and political matters.

During a recent visit to Washington, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo attended a series of meetings set up by Bailey with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft (both former members of Kissinger Associates), and others.

Soviets deny visas to AFL-CIO

The Soviet Union "dashed the hopes" of the six-man AFL-CIO delegation that was to leave for Moscow on a trip from Dec. 1-5 at

the invitation of Nikolai Terekhin, who is a leader of the striking Vorkuta mineworkers and a leader of the Vargovskaya Strike Committee.

Those who were to have led the delegation were American Federation of Teachers president Albert Shanker, Bricklayers president John Joyce, and United Mine Workers secretary-treasurer John Bannovic. The invitation was transmitted by Terekhin via telegram to the Nov. 13 AFL-CIO Convention. A delegation led by Shanker subsequently met with the First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, who gave tentative permission for the delegation to go.

A spokesman for the AFL-CIO today noted that the federation's guidelines have changed, and they will soon begin to extend the same support they gave Solidarnosc to the Hungarian trade unions. Next, he said, they are aiming for trade unions in the U.S.S.R. to encourage the growth of "free trade unionism."

Moscow lashes out at Lithuanians

Leaders of the Lithuanian Communist Party are sponsoring "illegal and anti-democratic" attempts to organize an independent party, and must stop their breakaway effort immediately, according to an unpublished resolution approved unanimously by the Soviet Politburo.

The resolution was read by a Lithuanian party official in the capital city of Vilnius to local journalists. "The Politburo of the Communist Party of Lithuania and First Secretary A. Brazauskas," it reads, "allow hesitations and inconsistencies and deviations from the resolutions of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union." The resolution accuses the Lithuanian party of "nationalist tendencies." "In essence, the separation of Communists according to their ethnic identity is taking place. . . . The number of people leaving the party has grown sharply." The Lithuanian party must "fulfill without delay the party's policy against federalization of the party and for preserving the party as one united whole."

● **NAGORNO-KARABAKH**, the Armenian enclave, will be handed back to Azerbaijan, ending Moscow's emergency direct rule there, according to a Supreme Soviet decision taken on the eve of the Gorbachov-Bush summit meeting.

● **JAPAN** refused to open talks with the Soviet Union on an overall long-term economic cooperation between the two countries. "You are encountering difficulties in *perestroika*, which is at a threshold," deputy Foreign Minister Koji Watanabe told senior Soviet economic officials on Nov. 29.

● **POLAND** has become the second Eastern European country admitted with observer status to the European Transport Ministers Council, which held its biennial meeting in Paris on Nov. 23. Hungary was the first to be admitted.

● **SERBIAN ACTIVISTS** in Yugoslavia called off a mass protest rally scheduled to take place on Dec. 1 in Slovenia, after it became clear that it would have led to bloody clashes between Serbs and Slovenes.

● **MILK, EGGS**, butter, and cooking oil are being rationed in Romania, while flour and corn meal are in very short supply, according to reports in the British press.

● **KURDISH** guerrillas killed 21 Turkish villagers, most of them women and children, in a raid close to the Iraqi border in southeastern Turkey, according to officials and news reports on Nov. 26.

● **THE VIETNAMESE** "boat people" are to be forcibly sent back from Hong Kong to Vietnam in "substantial numbers" before the end of the year, the London *Sunday Telegraph* reported Nov. 26. A Foreign Office minister said the process will be "distasteful."