International Intelligence

U.S., Soviets hold negotiations on SDI

The United States and the Soviet Union are holding negotiations on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) in Geneva. Entitled the Defense and Space Talks (DST), these negotiations are part of the Nuclear and Space Talks, of which the START talks on strategic offensive weapons are also a part.

The aim of the talks is to come to a joint understanding on if, when, and how, strategic ballistic missile defense will be deployed if SDI research and development proves feasible, said a spokesman for the U.S. Information Service. The U.S. is seeking a separate Defense and Space treaty, while the Soviets are said to want to maintain a narrow interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

Pope to make first visit to Czechoslovakia

Pope John Paul II will visit three cities and celebrate three masses during a 34-hour trip to Czechoslovakia in April, to pay tribute to the country's fledgling democracy, the Vatican said on March 10. It will be the first trip by a Pope to Czechoslovakia and John Paul's first to a Warsaw Pact country besides his native Poland, which he has visited three times.

According to the official program of the April 21-22 trip, reported Reuters, the Pope will hold private talks with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel. He will also meet priests and nuns at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague and celebrate an outdoor Mass on Letna Hill. On Sunday, April 22, he will celebrate Mass at a sanctuary in the historic religious center of Velehrad, burial place of St. Methodius, who brought Christianity to the Slavs. That evening, he celebrates another Mass at the airport in Bratislava, whence he will return to Rome.

In his New Year's address, Havel invited the Pope to make a visit before June

elections to help the country resume its role as a spiritual crossroads of Europe. In February, John Paul II named five bishops to fill the last vacant bishoprics in Czechoslovakia, ending decades of tense church-state relations under communist governments.

KGB headquarters vows to 'protect socialism'

The KGB is circulating a warning that there is a danger of a split in the Soviet Communist Party, and has vowed to act if there is a threat to the country's socialist way of life, according to Soviet press reports.

A new, avowedly "independent," news agency, Postfactum, on March 8 quoted parliamentary deputy Anatoly Sobchak as saying an appeal from the KGB central office had been circulated in the Supreme Soviet. "Cheka collectives say they are perplexed because the leading organs of the country, possessing . . . data on the ripening negative phenomena, clearly lagged behind with vitally important political decisions, are too slow and indecisive," it quoted the appeal as saying. "Gambling on glasnost and pluralism of opinions, loud-mouthed advocates of social interests denigrate the sacred name of Lenin and the notions of Motherland, patriotism, and October [the Bolshevik Revolution] that are so dear to every Soviet person.'

"Soviet Cheka forces act and will act in the interests of the people firmly, consistently and reliably," the statement continued. "They will protect the security of the socialist system, the rights and freedoms of each person and our socialist democracy."

The appeal added that KGB representatives saw a real threat of a split in the Communist Party, which was in danger of losing its influence on cooperation between "sound forces in society."

The KGB appeal was also covered in *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Communist youth newspaper.

Did Syria assassinate Turkish journalist?

A leading Turkish journalist known for his harsh criticism of the Syrian regime and of Islamic fundamentalism, was assassinated in Istanbul on March 7. Cetin Emec, a board member and columnist of the mass-circulation daily *Hurriyet*, was shot seven times by at least two gunmen as he left his home.

Emec had just written an article implicating the Syrian government of Hafez al-Assad in a string of murders of moderate political leaders in Turkey. The article appeared in *Hurriyet* on the day Emec was murdered. It dealt with a rising wave of terrorism in Turkey, citing the killing in February of Ankara Bar Association head Muammer Aksoy and two other prominent opponents of Islamic fundamentalist inroads into Turkey's secular constitution. Emec wrote that the conspiracy behind the murders "seems to reach up into the highest echelons of neighboring governments, especially Syria."

During the late 1970s, an average of 20 people were killed each day in Turkey by terrorists, which triggered the 1980 military coup

U.S. Ambassador to Ankara Morton Abramowitz has been regularly meeting with former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, an opponent of Prime Minister Turgut Özal. Abramowitz ran State Department intelligence during the Reagan-Bush administration, and is known as a coup specialist.

Peru's human rights chief appeals for LaRouche

The executive secretary of Peru's National Human Rights Council, Guillermo A. Palacios Dodero, sent a letter to President Bush on March 5, on behalf of U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, who was imprisoned on Jan. 27, 1989 on "conspiracy" charges, along with six associates.

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"This Council," Palacios Dodero wrote, "whose function it is to preserve and respect human rights, has read and analyzed information regarding this case and considers that the trial of Mr. LaRouche and seven [sic] of his collaborators has violated several basic juridical rules that are common to all known judicial systems."

The letter cites several key points on which the accused were denied a fair trial: the extreme haste with which they were rushed to trial; the fact that defense counsel were not permitted to present exculpatory evidence; the fact that federal bankruptcy Judge Martin V.B. Bostetter, Jr. subsequently ruled that the government acted in bad faith in placing several companies associated with LaRouche into involuntary bankruptcy; and that lawyers from around the world have denounced the government's conduct in the LaRouche

"In this regard, President George Bush, we ask you to guard the constitutional rights of Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, which will positively influence the administration of North American justice," the letter concludes.

Jewish leaders hail German unity prospects

Edgar Bronfman, the Seagram's liquor magnate who also heads the World Jewish Congress (WJC), is leading a campaign to sabotage German reunification efforts, but his bid is by no means universally supported by other Jewish organizations. For the first time since the end of World War II, the WJC will hold a meeting in West Berlin, and Bronfman will deliver a speech there May 8 on "the Jewish perspective on the issue of German unification.'

Said Bronfman, "The process cation cannot be isolated from the historical context which initially gave rise to the division of Germany. I am astonished that the world seems to be treating this issue so lightly and has a loose attitude toward this problem and a very limited memory of the past."

One of fallen East German communist leader Erich Honecker's last acts in office last fall, was to present a medal to Edgar

But prominent Jewish spokesmen in

Great Britain distanced themselves from the anti-German campaign of Bronfman and Margaret Thatcher, at a debate that took place at the beginning of March at the Institute of Jewish Affairs in London.

According to a report in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of March 7, Professor Alderman maintained that there is no reason to hold on to the thesis that a unified Germany always provided a fertile ground for evil doings. "The German unification of 1871," he said, "had nothing to do with the outbreak of World War I, and little to do with the outbreak of World War II."

Alderman said that the rise to power of Hitler rather had a lot to do with the "revengist posture of Western statesmen" after the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, and with the fact that several among the "next generation" of British politicians were admirers of Hitler.

Lord Beloff argued that it is not the German military that is marching across Europe, but rather the German Bundesbank (meant by Beloff, contrary to the views of many in the City of London these days, as an indication of peaceful change).

Chinese CP affirms return to Maoist road

At the end of a four-day meeting of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee in Beijing on March 12, all that was released to the public were calls to return to the ideological purity of Maoism.

According to the official news services, the party revived a 1960s call to unite with the masses, saying it had become separated from the people because of "bureaucracy, subjectivism, formalism, passivism, corruption and other serious phenomena." here to the practice of coming from the masses and going to the masses," said a Xinhua news agency statement, ordering party officials to "go down to the grassroots units and go among the masses." The statement laid out a seven-point plan for the survival of the party, but gave no details.

Party leader Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng made what the agency called "important speeches," but the contents were not made public.

Briefly

- FRENCH DEFENSE Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said, in an interview to the magazine Cosmopolitiques, that he believes Gorbachov will behave toward the Soviet Central Asian republics as Gen. Charles de Gaulle did toward Algeria, and that Russia "would thus be pushed, by a sort of reflex, toward Europe."
- THE TERRORIST M-19 was officially legitimized as a political party in Colombia on March 9. At a ceremony at the presidential palace, President Virgilio Barco signed a peace treaty with the group, in which the M-19 agreed to "quit guerrilla warfare" and become an official political party. M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro ran as a mayoral candidate in the Bogota elections on March 11.
- NIKOLAI RYZHKOV, the Soviet prime minister, is trying to position himself as an alternative to Gorbachov, one of the Bush administration's leading Soviet experts told Reuters in an interview on March 9. He said that Gorbachov must show some signs of economic success quickly. "He's got to begin to deliver something. He doesn't have to deliver a lot."
- MONGOLIA'S ruling Politburo resigned on March 12, along with the secretariat of the Communist Party's Central Committee. Communist leader Zhambyn Batmunkh said he would ask parliament on March 21 to amend the constitution, which describes the party as "the vanguard and the leading power of all state and other mass organizations of working people."
- FRENCH NOBEL laureate Maurice Allais said West German Chancellor Kohl was juridically and politically correct in his much criticized stance on the issue of Poland's western borders with Germany. The crucial French backing came in a fullpage feature in Le Figaro March 12.