

International Intelligence

SOVIET UNION

Pravda denounces Carter's state of the union address

In the most authoritative Soviet commentary to date on Carter's State of the Union address, an unsigned lead article in the party daily Pravda Jan. 28 condemned what it termed "the cult of rude force" of the Carter White House which may yet "stake claim" to "the planet's oxygen." The President's message, said *Pravda*, made no mention of disarmament and, overall, was a return to a clear policy of brinkmanship, trying to whip up a "militarist, chauvinistic psychosis" among the American people. This is an attempt to "neutralize" the other candidates, who "will hardly be able to outdo the administration ... because it is impossible to go farther to the right than (Carter)."

The Soviets continue to point out the difference in Western European behavior, particularly that of West Germany. In an interview with *Die Stern*, former Soviet Ambassador to West Germany Falin and central committee member Zagladin noted the balanced and realistic view of West Germany whose "long-term interests can hardly be brought together with embargo considerations in international trade." Zagladin added that "the BRD has played a crucial role in detente from the beginning of that policy ... We are of the opinion that in Europe the chances for detente have not yet been fully exploited."

Brezhnev warns on China-U.S. axis

If the U.S. moves to aid China's nuclear weapons capability, the Soviets will

strike first, and at China. Soviet President Brezhnev delivered that stern warning last week to visiting former premier of France, Chaban-Delmas, according to British reports. According to the Daily Mail Brezhnev pounded his desk and declared: "Believe me, after the destruction of Chinese nuclear sites by our missiles, there won't be much time for the Americans to choose between the defense of their Chinese allies and peaceful coexistence with us."

While the precise quote is not confirmed, high level French sources do confirm that the Soviets place U.S.-China defense links as the primary factor in their recent hardline posture, including Afghanistan. U.S. experts on China's military confirm certain U.S. aid to China's nuclear capability, although the big question is: what did Harold Brown really give to China on his recent visit? One example cited is the publicly disclosed transfer of a ground receiving station for the Landsat satellite system. One expert termed this a "grey area" technology, not directly military (Landsat is supposedly for agricultural survey use) but usable for military purposes. In this case, the expert says, the system will provide "a quantum leap" in Chinese capability for targeting of their nuclear missiles. Similarly oil exploration equipment can be used for anti-submarine warfare. Certainly Moscow knows this.

NORTH AFRICA

France sends navy to support Tunisia

A flotilla of the French navy stationed at Toulon visited the waters off Tunisia in a friendly gesture following an armed attack on a southern Tunisian mining town by a band of well-organized terror-

ists numbering as many as 300 on Jan. 29.

The Tunisian government blamed Libya for the attack, recalled its ambassador in Tripoli, and expelled the Libyan ambassador in Tunisia. The terrorists were reportedly led by Tunisian exiles who were trained in Libyan camps and whose mission was to destabilize the regime of President Habib Bourguiba. According to French sources, Bourguiba, who was supposed to have been in the vicinity at the time of the raid, may have been the actual target.

Only two weeks ago, fanatics of the Muslim Brotherhood secret society rioted in a neighboring region of Algeria close to where the Tunisian attack took place. That attack, like the Tunisian raid, was blamed on Islamic fundamentalists who receive support from elements in the Libyan regime.

The attack was designed to "undermine Tunisian-Algerian relations," according to Tunisian sources. Both Tunisia and Algeria, who are on good terms, have been improving relations with France. Tunisia's Prime Minister Hodi Nouiri warned Libya that Tunisia's "friends"—meaning France—will come to its aid if Libya repeats any action against it.

MIDDLE EAST

Muslim Brotherhood godfather of rebel front in Afghanistan

During the Islamabad Islamic Conference, a new "Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan" was unveiled, a united front of the six major Afghan Islamic rebel groups who had previously been unable to unite. The front immediately went before the Polit-

ical Committee of the conference to appeal for recognition as the representatives of Afghanistan and to receive financial and military aid. Representing the front was a former theology professor from Kabul and leader of the Jamaate Islami, Rabanni.

According to Afghan rebel sources, Rabanni is given the title of coordinator and a deadline of March 1 has been set to create an organizational framework for the front, at which point, aid decisions will be forthcoming. Less known is the fact that the Muslim Brotherhood played the role of godfather to the creation of the front with the head of the Brotherhood's key organization, Salam Azzam of the Islamic Council of Europe, spending 48 hours cajoling the often warring groups into the front on the occasion of the conference.

LATIN AMERICA

Nicaraguan Jesuit gives Khomeini sainthood

Jesuit Ernesto Cardenal, the Education Minister in Nicaragua's Revolutionary Government, emerged from a meeting with the Ayatollah Khomeini "with the feeling that he had met a saint, but a saint who believes in the holy war of the oppressed against the oppressors," according to the Spanish magazine *Interviu*. Cardenal said he made his pilgrimage to Qom to greet Khomeini "in the name of the oppressed and revolutionary Christians of Latin America and pay him homage."

Khomeini told Cardenal: "What has occurred in Iran will occur everywhere. Our revolution is not a revolution only in one country. I am sure the entire

world will be liberated." The Society of Jesus is now engaged in trying to spread Khomeini-style "liberation movements" throughout Central America, with their greatest success so far being the right-left civil war now sweeping El Salvador.

EUROPE

Is Carter really boycotting France?

President Carter's decision to boycott the summer Olympic Games in Moscow will primarily hurt France, according to well-informed sources. It is rumored that in taking such a decision the Washington administration was consciously trying to hurt France and not the U.S.S.R. since the latter does not stand to gain or lose much foreign trade as a result of the Olympics. On the other hand a French company such as Thompson CSF may suffer greatly.

Thompson won the contract to supply the U.S.S.R. with all the cameras and electronic equipment for the retransmission of the Olympics, including the most gigantic transmission grid in the world, a technological feat which played a role in Thompson's interest in the Olympics.

Thompson did not make a lot of money on the deal with the Soviets. Rather the interest of the company lies in the technological challenge represented by the grid and the expected boost in sale of appliances by its parent company Thompson-Brandt as a result of the publicity surrounding the games. The Carter administration was not very pleased with the general entente between the Soviet authorities and Thompson. Thompson played a leading role in the CII-Honeywell Bull contract to sell the \$20 million computer to Tass when the Carter administration prevented an American group Dresser from selling the same computer to the Soviets.

Briefly

● **GENERAL GIAP**, Vietnam's military leader, is rumored to be one of the people who will move up in an imminent reshuffle of the Vietnamese government and party leadership. Giap is rumored to be in line to become Premier, replaced at the Defense Ministry by his Chief of Staff and protégé, Van Tien Dung. Others who will be affected include Vice Premier Le Than Nghi, and Foreign Minister Trinh. The February 3rd celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the VCP should end the rumors.

● **MARGARET THATCHER**, Britain's Prime Minister, has turned her country into "the forward post of the Western offensive against the U.S.S.R.," charged foreign policy commentator Paul Marie de la Gorce in the French daily *Le Figaro* Jan. 31. Any alliance with Britain, like the Joint Franco-British nuclear deterrent or military alliance being proposed by Michel Ponia-towski, would amount to a "renunciation of national independence and interests to the U.S. Atlantic System," said de la Gorce.

● **THE AMBASSADOR** to Iran of a "friendly European country that has been aggressively on our side" met this week with President-elect Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter III announced. He reported that Bani-Sadr is prepared to accept the "package deal" for the hostages' release.

Since most of our European allies are becoming more "aggressively" fed up with the Carter administration, astute observers believe the mystery man to be a servant of the Queen.