Brazil tries to expel subversive priest

The president of Brazil has ordered the expulsion of an Italian priest who refused to say mass on Brazil’s Independence Day on the grounds that the poor people of Brazil are “still dependent.” His expulsion was the first in a crackdown on the foreign “Liberation Theology” priests who aim to replicate Khomeini’s theological chaos in Brazil.

The government fears these priests will set off insurrections that will cause a disaster, rather than alleviating the suffering of the poor they claim to lead.

As Father Vito Miracapillo was being taken to the airport on Oct. 17, however, a Supreme Court justice issued an injunction to block Miracapillo’s deportation until further hearings.

The Theolib crowd is prepared to go berserk if the priest is “martyred” by being expelled. On the other hand, if the Supreme Court decides to overturn the president’s order [something it has never done], they will read it as a sign that the government is impotent to stop their subversion.

Radicals move against moderate Arab axis

Damascus has become a center for numerous Arab communist and leftist parties to plot a takeover of the regime of Iraq’s Saddam Hussein, according to Le Monde journalist Eric Rouleau. Along with the leftists, the extremist clandestine Muslim Brotherhood is involved, as well as the wing of Soviet intelligence associated with British triple agent Kim Philby.

Earlier this week, Ayatollah Mohammed Hakim, an Iraqi Shi’ite fanatic, appeared in Teheran to announce his bid to overthrow Hussein by waging an Islamic revolution in Iraq. Simultaneously, the head of the Iraqi communist party, Mohammed Aziz, visited Damascus to confer with Syrian president Assad. The Iraqi communist party was recently purged from Iraq for its insurrectionary activities, including aid to insurgent ethnic minorities like the Kurds. Earlier this month the Iraqi and Iranian communist party leaders met to condemn Saddam Hussein, after Iraq invaded Iran in a bid to overthrow the theocratic Khomeini regime.

Syria, a longstanding enemy of Iraq, has allied itself with both Libya and Iran to challenge the moderate Arab axis of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. The London Daily Telegraph reports that Syria has hatched a plot to send assassins and saboteurs against Jordan and Iraq, using Iraqi exiles.

New India-Soviet energy package

India and the Soviet Union are working on a solid development package centered on the energy sector, according to informed sources in New Delhi. Since an acute energy crisis has hit India’s development plan, experts here are drawing up a project list to be considered at the upcoming Indo-Soviet trade talks.

Indian planning minister N. E. Tiwari left for Moscow on Oct. 22. An expert team is working out details on various sectors of the economy. It is highly likely that the deal will be inked when Soviet president Brezhnev visits India in late November or December of this year.

New Polish crisis in the works

Lech Walesa, the Polish shipyard strike leader who now heads the independent trade union federation “Solidarity,” has toured southern Poland to rally support for his organization. In the course of his trip, he dropped all pretense of being “not political,” as he had always insisted. Walesa declared dramatically that he was “ready to accept any responsibilities” the Polish people would give him. Sources in France and West Germany believe that, although the dispatch of Warsaw Pact troops into Poland is a “last resort” for Moscow, such a decision could come soon after the Nov. 4 U.S. elections.

The London Daily Telegraph, often a platform for British-based circles who give orders to Polish dissidents, stated editorially Oct. 17 that Poland was safe from Soviet invasion until Nov. 4 because the Russians “do not want to give certain victory to Mr. Reagan.” But the Telegraph projected that Poland would
slip "out of effective Communist control," suggesting that the U.S.S.R. would inevitably make its move.

While international attention was focused on Walesa working the crowds in Krakow, the new Polish regime was elaborating a program which, in the assessment of one source from a Soviet-allied country, would take Poland "away from socialism." The program of the Stanislaw Kania regime has not been revealed in its entirety, but its outlines emerged at the Oct. 4-6 meeting of the ruling party's Central Committee. Kania's report there focused on Walesa working the crowds in heavy industry but the overall power of the consumer, too.

Advocates of a consumer-tilted approach to running the Polish economy that would eventually undercut not only the consumer, too.

According to well-informed Greek sources, NATO commander Gen. Bernard Rogers, helped along by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. David Jones, U.S. ambassador to Athens McCloskey, and a host of other top NATO and U.S. officials, descended on Greece to blackmail Athens into submission. The main weapon used was the threat that the Persian Gulf crisis would erupt into a larger war, in which Greece would find itself defenseless in the face of the Soviet Union. Helping to put the screws on the Greek government were the top echelons of the Greek military.

French 'Boy Scout' announces candidacy

A French favorite of Zbigniew Brzezinski, Socialist Michel Rocard, has declared his candidacy for the April 1981 presidential elections. Perennial Socialist candidate Francois Mitterrand has not yet declared whether he will run.

From a Gaullist point of view, “all the forces, left and right, who want the disintegration of the French nation are behind Rocard,” commented a well-informed source from French president Giscard's electoral team. The only way, the source added, that Rocard could win the elections would be if the international situation further deteriorated, combined with terrorist operations at home.

These sources are delighted that Rocard declared so early, because additional weeks of campaigning can only destroy what little credibility he has with the French population, they believe. "This French Jimmy Carter has the mentality of a Boy Scout—he wants to please everybody, his identity is as weak as that of an 18-year-old. He hates all forms of power, all forms of responsibility. He even hates his own potential power. He wants to organize debates on everything; if there occurred a situation where the use of atomic weapons had to be decided, he would take three months to organize a referendum."

Greece blackmailed into rejoining NATO

The sudden Greek decision to rejoin NATO is "part three of the Turkish coup," said a Greek intelligence source this week. "Part one was the Turkish coup itself, which put into power the Turkish generals, who are doing everything they can to accommodate NATO in its drive to militarize the Middle East and the Mediterranean. Part two was the Persian Gulf crisis itself and the sudden increased likelihood of U.S. military action in the region. Part three is the Greek-NATO consolidation, which has suddenly catapulted the hard-line, pro-NATO military once again into a position of real power in the country."

A secret clause of the agreement to rejoin NATO is reportedly the activation of a 1966 British proposal for the establishment of a Mediterranean naval task force for coordinated NATO operations in the region.

Having pulled out of NATO's military branch in 1974 in protest of the alliance's role in the Cyprus crisis, the government of Greece had charted an increasingly independent course.

Briefly

- PHILIPPINES defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile accused the U.S. government in a nationwide television interview in Manila on Oct. 10 of harboring terrorists responsible for recent indiscriminate bombings in Manila. Washington has thus far refused to extradite the suspects.

- THE SANDINISTAS may have joined Fidel Castro in endorsing Carter's reelection. The Oct. 23 Wall Street Journal denounced the administration for allowing Castro a free hand in the Caribbean, and charged editorially that the administration has suppressed information about Sandinista activity in Latin America because the $75 million aid package granted to Nicaragua last week depended on certification by Carter that no such activity was occurring. The Journal also charges Carter with suppressing intelligence reports on Cuban maneuvers abroad.

- MUAMMAR QADDAFI this week called upon Muslim pilgrims making the annual pilgrimage to Mecca to rise up and overthrow the royal family of Saudi Arabia. Since the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war, Qaddafi has repeatedly waged a verbal assault on the Saudis because of their quiet support for Iraq. Libya has been a close ally of the Ayatollah Khomeini and has been supplying Iran with arms. Because of the threats to internal security, the Saudi regime has tried to cut short the pilgrimage this month.

- ARGENTINE industrial and agricultural organizations met Oct. 18 to issue an declaration that Friedmanite economic policies must be halted before their enterprises go under. Representatives of 376 groups demanded debt relief for stricken producers, reductions in tax pressure, cuts in nonproductive government spending, restored trade protection for industry, and the upvaluation of the peso to its market value.