

International Intelligence

Mitterrand policy brings peasant riots

Violent demonstrations took place throughout France on Dec. 11 as peasants protested Socialist President Mitterrand's policy of lowering farm subsidies.

Farm revenues have dropped by 10 billion francs (about \$2 billion) this year, twice as much as last year. Three days ago the government decided to grant 5.5 billion francs in agricultural aid, a figure French farmers consider totally inadequate.

In Strasbourg, 3,000 peasants took over the city's center with 1,500 tractors and wrecked everything in sight. The rampage continued for five hours until 800 special police used tear gas to disperse the mob. In Tulles, 200 peasants took over police stations; and in Metz 1,800 rioted.

The FNSEA peasant organization, including 70 percent of French peasants, is reported behind the upsurges and has threatened the government: "When we order our troops to move, then you will see what we can do."

Socialist International diplomatic maneuvers

A meeting of the Defense Committee formed and run by the Socialist International took place the weekend of Dec. 11-13 in Panama City, Panama. Present at the meeting were Felipe González, head of the Spanish Socialist Party; Carlos Andrés Pérez, former Venezuelan President; Francisco Peña Gómez, head of the Dominican Republic's Social Democrats; and Daniel Ortega, member of the Nicaraguan Junta, among others.

According to informed sources, Felipe González left the meeting for 24 hours to meet with Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana. His deployment to Cuba, as well as his current visit to Mexico, represents an effort to get the Social-

ist International in control of Cuban-Mexico-U.S. relations.

Mexico and the Soviets are reportedly making an effort to try to cool the Haig-Castro confrontation show by getting the Castro government to talk with the United States. Should this actually take place, the Socialist International wants to make sure they will be in total control of the situation instead of Mexico or the Brezhnev faction in the U.S.S.R.

EIR holds foreign-policy seminar in Washington

An afternoon seminar Dec. 15 in Washington on "The Middle East Strategic Situation and the Soviet Succession Struggle" drew representatives of 25 embassies, U.S. government and military officials, corporate representatives, and Middle East specialists.

The speakers were Contributing Editor Christopher White and Middle East intelligence director Robert Dreyfuss; questions from the 50 in the audience focused on Libya and the security threat to President Reagan.

Mr. Dreyfuss began the seminar by discussing EIR's role in hampering the capabilities of Islamic fundamentalism and its London-based controllers. The attack on *EIR* in London's *New Scientist* magazine, said Dreyfuss, was provoked after *EIR* exposed the activities of the Rothko Chapel in Houston in promoting Muslim Brotherhood operatives, including those involved in the Sadat assassination and the threat to Reagan.

Dreyfuss reviewed the real story of Col. Qaddafi's Libya, including the Anglo-Venetian banking and oil interests behind it, and the role of Occidental Petroleum's Armand Hammer in supporting Qaddafi. He concluded with a review of new *EIR* material concerning the activities of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Soviet KGB in the Middle East, particularly in conjunction with Israeli intelligence.

Mr. White reviewed the situation in

Poland as it bears on the Soviet internal struggle, outlining how the British and Jesuit intelligence circles initially began the Polish destabilization to disrupt the economic and political negotiations between Soviet President Brezhnev and West German Chancellor Schmidt since 1978, and describing the role of Soviet radical-ideologue factions opposing Brezhnev in using the Polish crisis.

White then described the role of the "systems analysis" current of thinking in the U.S.S.R. as the chief impediment to a common U.S.-Soviet understanding on mutual fostering of industrial growth policies.

In the audience were diplomats from Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Romania, Saudi Arabia, India, many African countries, and other countries. In addition, Standard Oil of Indiana, IBM, Caltex, and Raytheon were among the business representatives.

Although the conference presentations caused considerable controversy and agitation, the only rude behavior came from the British diplomat, who stalked out only 10 minutes after the start of the first address. "Dreyfuss is a lunatic," he fulminated, visibly upset that everyone else seemed so absorbed in the discussion. "I didn't come to listen to a lunatic."

Futurist reorganization planned for Canada

The Governor General of Canada, Edward R. Schreyer, official spokesman for Queen Elizabeth II and the highest-ranking figure in Canada, has mandated creation of a new nationwide organization to plan the federation's post-industrial future.

Schreyer, the honorary patron of the First Global Conference on the Future held in Toronto in 1980, gave a press conference in Ottawa Dec. 15, the first ever to be given by a Governor General in the history of Canada. There he announced the creation of the new organi-

zation, which will rally about 200 top leaders in labor, industry, and government between the ages of 25 and 40 for a period of three consecutive weeks every year.

The first conference, to be held in the spring of 1983, is entitled "Canadians in a Changing Industrial Society." It is to be headed and organized by Paul Demarais, President of Power Corporation, a close collaborator of Charles Bronfman; Socialist International assets Louis Loberge, president of the Quebec Federation of Labor (QFL) and Shirley Carr, vice-president of the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC); William Mulholland, of the Bank of Montreal; and Bill Daniel, Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell of Canada.

Khomeini renews threat to Iraq, Persian Gulf

Iran has relaunched its effort to destabilize the Persian Gulf and accelerated its military operations against Iraq. Stepped-up Iranian activity in mid-December, according to Arab sources, was a complement to Israel's action in annexing the Golan Heights and threatening Lebanon.

In Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, authorities announced the arrest of 65 terrorists, heavily armed and well-financed, who admitted to having been trained in Iran and sent into the Gulf. Many of the arrested Shi'ites were from Iraq's Al-Dawa organization, a pro-Khomeini terrorist group whose activities in Iraq sparked the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war last year.

Some of those arrested claimed to have been responsible for the huge explosion in Beirut this week that killed 30 people and destroyed the Iraqi embassy in Lebanon.

Throughout the Gulf, virtually every Arab state has sent messages to Iraq in solidarity with Baghdad, condemning Iran's shocking executions of captured Iraqi prisoners of war. According to re-

ports from Iran, many Iraqi prisoners have been subject to summary executions, contrary to standards of international law.

Iraqi sources report that during the first half of December Iran launched two "human wave"-style attacks against fixed Iraqi positions, losing thousands of soldiers. Up to one million Iranian troops have allegedly been assembled in the region of the fighting.

Soviets renew Mideast peace offensive

Soviet official Vadim Zagladin announced Dec. 10 that the U.S.S.R. is planning a new Middle East initiative, on whose behalf Moscow has already begun consulting officials in the Mideast and Europe. The recent tour of the Arab world by special Soviet Ambassador Mikhail Sytenko, which closely followed the route of U.S. emissary Philip Habib, is part of the Soviet maneuver.

Israel's *Ha'aretz* newspaper ran a curious Dec. 13 interview with a Soviet diplomat in Washington, in which the Soviet affirmed a new initiative on the Mideast in which through meetings with European officials, Moscow was "comparing its approach" to the European Community's Venice Declaration and also to the Fahd plan.

The Soviet official stresses that should the Soviet initiative in the Mideast succeed, then there could be a new "thaw" in U.S.-Soviet ties.

Since Saudi Prince Fahd issued his peace plan in August, the Soviet response has been consistently divided. On the one hand, the Soviet press has tentatively agreed with the basics of the plan, pending a few modifications. This sentiment has been expressed following the Schmidt-Brezhnev talks.

On the other hand, the Soviet media has expressed the same hard-line rejection of the plan as the so-called rejectionist Arab governments in the Middle East which have opposed the plan.

Briefly

● **U.S. EXPORTS** of some technical items destined for use in the Indian space program, aviation industry, thermal power plants, and nuclear power stations have been blocked, according to the *Financial Times*, by the State and Defense departments on the grounds of possible application to use in the defense industry.

● **LA PRENSA**, one of the key opposition newspapers in Nicaragua, has toned down its attacks on the government, while the Sandinistas are reportedly considering softening the sentences on three businessmen arrested in October.

● **HOLGER BÖRNER**, Governor of the West German state of Hesse, announced Dec. 14 that he will halt felling of trees at the site of the contested Frankfurt Airport runway expansion until courts have ruled on the validity of the "people's referendum" opposing the project. Börner, a Schmidt ally, has previously denounced this referendum move as comparable to the Nazis' anti-constitutional efforts. He made his tactical retreat after his state interior minister, a member of the liberal Free Democratic Party, told him not enough police could be provided to prevent an occupation of the site.

● **VALENTIN SEMYONOV**, the Soviet Ambassador to Bonn, met Dec. 16 with two executive committee members of Die Grünen (The Green Party), the neo-fascist environmentalists. The Soviet embassy issued a statement afterward stressing that the Soviet proposal for a ban on Euromissile deployments during the Geneva arms talks "met with approval by the Green Party and the German peace movement." The meeting had been scheduled to take place just before Leonid Brezhnev's visit to Bonn, but Brezhnev personally called it off. Now the Polish crisis has given Semyonov and other Brezhnev opponents a greater edge.