

International Intelligence

The Baltic: a Soviet springboard to Scandinavia

In time for the Stockholm Conference on "Confidence-Building Measures," the Baltic World Council, based in Washington D.C. and New York City, published a comprehensive report on the Soviet build-up in the Baltic Military District, including Soviet-occupied Eastern Prussia as well as the Baltic Republics of Estonia, Livonia, and Lithuania, which fell to the Soviets as a result of the Hitler-Stalin Pact. Under the headline "Scandinavia in the Crosshairs of the Soviet Union," the German daily *Die Welt* on Jan. 19 published excerpts from this report.

In 1981, there was a four-month secret military maneuver in Estonia, simulating the occupation of Scandinavia. The kinds and numbers of armaments, as well as the troop strength concentrated in the Baltic, would show that, according to *Die Welt*, "Soviet military planning provides for the occupation of Scandinavia as a whole. They are ready any time to take control of the Danish straits. All troops in this region are part of the second strategic echelon whose task is the occupation of Central Europe."

Thus, of eight Soviet airborne divisions, two are deployed in the Baltic. The Baltic Military District also includes "spetsnaz" and "reydoviky" units. "The tasks of these units are sabotage deployments in the depth of the enemy territory and assassination of leading layers. The airborne divisions and special units do not report to the chief of the Baltic Military District, but to the Moscow Chain of Command directly."

Soviets ready to test powerful booster rocket

According to reconnaissance data, the Soviets are readying a first flight test of a large booster rocket which has been under development for at least the last fifteen years.

Aviation Week reported Oct. 31 that the booster was on the pad at the Tyuratam facility, or Baikonur Cosmodrome, which is used to launch military and civilian payloads. This booster is presumed to be able to place about 300,000 pounds in Earth orbit with a probable thrust over 11 million pounds. The Saturn V rocket which carried man to the Moon delivered about 7 million pounds of thrust. The Space Shuttle can carry 65,000 pounds to Earth orbit.

In December, the Soviets acknowledged that the booster and new, larger space-station elements to be launched by it were under development, and hand-held photographs taken by Shuttle astronaut John Young on the last Shuttle mission showed large areas of new construction at the Cosmodrome.

Under construction is a new runway which will probably be used for the Soviet space shuttle when it has completed its development. There have been three successful tests recently of a scaled-down prototype shuttle.

The Soviet space booster could be used to deploy larger space station modules in Earth orbit, or anti-satellite weapons into geosynchronous orbit, where they could disable U.S. military communications satellites. The *Washington Post* speculated Jan. 19 that a test may take place within a month.

Carrington seeks "identity of purpose" with East

Incoming NATO secretary-general Peter Carrington told the *International Herald Tribune* on Jan. 18 that he "still disliked bellicose statements by leaders either in the East or in the West, and he promised that he would work as hard on disarmament as he would on any subject."

He also stated that it seemed to him "extraordinary, and against the dictates of common sense and the evidence of our own eyes, for anyone to claim that the West, in military terms, is in any danger of sinking to its knees."

Carrington stressed the "mutual distrust between East and West that has caused relations to deteriorate alarmingly, and NATO has to try urgently to remedy that situation." The cause of the trouble is perception, says Carrington, and some manipulation of such perception is his solution.

The geopolitician's closing gem: "Any identity of attitude is impossible because of differing history, geography, and economic interests, but an identity of purposes can be rebuilt if both will stop to think."

Will French move against Qaddafi in Chad?

Soviet-asset Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi is in the process of annexing northern Chad, it was charged on Jan. 16 by General Poli, head of the French forces presently in Chad. Poli's job is to prevent Qaddafi from extending his zone of occupation from northern Chad to the rest of the country. Qaddafi invaded Chad on June 24.

The French belatedly sent troops into Chad on Aug. 10, and now deploy defensively to prevent a further advance by Qaddafi's legions. Some U.S. intelligence sources suggest that Poli's blast is an indication that the French are ready to move against Qaddafi's occupation.

Poli reported the extent of the Libyan military buildup in the North, as well as the way in which the northern part of the country is being integrated into Libya. Schools in the area which are under Libyan control no longer teach French, but use only Arabic.

Craxi grilled on Socialist International

The vice-president of the Christian Democratic group in the Italian Senate, Sen. Vincenzo Carollo, submitted a parliamentary question to Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi on Jan. 17, opposing the meeting of the Brandt and Palme Commissions scheduled to start in Rome on Jan. 20. Four parliamentarians have joined in calling for an

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official inquiry into the Socialist International conference, after scandals exposing the International's chairman Willy Brandt as an agent of Soviet intelligence broke into the Italian press (see *EIR*, Jan. 24).

Craxi, who gave the welcoming speech to the conference, must respond to the following question:

"Whereas the Italian government, through statements released by the prime minister's office and through the offices of the ministry for foreign affairs, welcomes and is organizing in Rome for the session of the Brandt and Palme joint Commissions of the Socialist International; and given that the two authoritative representatives of German and Swedish socialism are pushing a policy of unilateral disarmament in accordance with the Soviet proposal, which contrasts with the goals of the European people and governments that want real peace through general disarmament of the two blocs and not of only one of them.

"Considering that among the participants to the above mentioned session of the joint commissions of the Socialist International there are two authoritative representatives of the Communist International and of the KGB, [Georgii] Arbatov and [Mikhail] Milshtein, I request the Prime Minister to promptly inform the Italian Parliament about the result of the work of the commissions. . . ."

Clues to the Soviets' foreign policy guidelines

EIR has just received a startling tape, allegedly of two unidentified Soviet officials recorded by covert bugs placed in a high-level Kremlin office. The officials are identified here as **A** and **B**:

B: Boris, I think there must be something wrong with you this morning. Drinking again?

A: No, comrade minister. I admit I'm distracted by a minor family disturbance.

B: Your wife still having sex with the woman in the next apartment, Boris?

A: Not that, comrade minister. It's my daughter. She killed her baby brother with

an axe last night.

B: Why does this disturb you?

A: She said, "He made me do it." She said he cried too much, and that left her no choice but to kill him.

B: Did she warn him she'd kill him if he didn't stop?

A: She said she did.

B: Then it was his fault, Boris—don't you see? That's your problem, Boris; you could never make it to the top.

Rumors mount of U.S.S.R.'s Iran invasion plan

Six months of heavy Soviet military buildup in Afghanistan appears to be aimed at an eventual Soviet invasion of eastern Iran.

Aside from estimates that Soviet troop strength there has nearly doubled to 200,000, the Soviets have also begun sending in equipment like SAM-3 missiles and more sophisticated aircraft—hardly the kind of equipment used to fight anti-Soviet Muslim rebels.

A source at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies remarked to *EIR* that the recent negative turn in Soviet-Iranian relations is setting the "pretext" for a Soviet move into Iran. Since they installed Khomeini, Kissinger-linked circles at CSIS have long toyed with the idea that they could eventually partition Iran with the U.S.S.R.

Moscow could move, said the source, on the pretext, as a matter of fact true, that Khomeini is backing the rebel force which is threatening Afghanistan, and which some say is trying to stir up trouble in the Muslim sections of the U.S.S.R.

The *London Telegraph* warned in early January that the Soviet buildup was aimed at Persian Gulf oil flows. Saudi Arabia has begun unprecedented stockpiling of oil, thought to be in preparation for a disruption of Gulf oil. As of now, the Saudis have stored over 50 million barrels of oil and has rented storage facilities in Okinawa and tankers from Japan.

● KING HUSSEIN of Jordan has undertaken two initiatives towards future negotiations with Israel over the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip. On Jan. 9, Hussein changed his cabinet, bringing more Palestinians into the cabinet. Just days before, Hussein resurrected the Jordanian parliament which had represented both the East and West Bank and was made defunct after the 1967 war when Israel seized the West Bank.

● BRUSSELS, the site of NATO headquarters in Europe, will host *EIR*'s fourth conference on beam-weapon anti-missile defense on Feb. 22, following Bonn, Rome, and Oslo. Paris is next in a series of events, which has become a major factor in the calculations of governments East and West.

● GEN. GIULIO MACRI (ret.), of the armored forces of the Italian army and a leading proponent of beam-weapons defense in Europe, recommends strengthening the Atlantic Alliance by immediately shipping some 1,000 neutron bombs from storage in the United States to military depots in Europe. In a Jan. 12 interview, General Macri described the Federal Republic of Germany and the northern European countries as "the soft underbelly of NATO," because they have taken the lead in rejecting President Reagan's project for Mutually Assured Survival based on directed-energy defensive weapons.

● MURIEL MIRAK, co-author of this week's cover story on Israel, was interviewed in the Jan. 3 issue of *Ma'ariv*, Israel's second largest circulation Hebrew-language daily, which describes her as an enthusiastic associate of the "prominent and distinguished American Democrat, Lyndon LaRouche."