

International Intelligence

U.S. team briefs Europe on beam defense policy

A team of U.S. defense and intelligence experts and scientists is touring Western Europe on behalf of the Reagan administration to brief Western European governments in detail on President Reagan's beam weapons defense policy. According to a report in the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, the experts presented "a three-layered anti-missile defense system capable of intercepting 95% of all enemy missiles in case of war" at a special seminar in Brussels the week of Feb. 16.

According to the *Rundschau* report, "the system shall, among other things, consist of ground- and space-based laser and particle beam weapons and reconnaissance facilities. The aim is to locate and destroy missiles-in-flight either shortly after the launching, during their flight in space, or at the re-entry into the terrestrial atmosphere."

The U.S. experts made efforts to defuse "European scepticism" about Reagan's beam defense policy. Presidential Science Adviser George Keyworth "believes that the small area of Europe can be defended from ballistic missiles easier than the huge territory of the United States," the *Rundschau* reported. Such a missile defense system will not violate the 1972 ABM treaty signed by the United States and the U.S.S.R., the experts asserted.

On Feb. 25 and 26, representatives of the West German Christian Democratic Party and Christian Social Union held a joint meeting to review breakthroughs in the laser technology area.

In April, the French cabinet will hold a special seminar on the implications of beam-weapon defense for the French nuclear force, the *force de frappe*, and for European security and U.S.-European relations, to be followed by a full-scale discussion in the National Assembly in May. According to Paris sources close to the Mitterrand government, the President's 180 degree turn on the question of beam defense since the fall was based on French intelligence's conclusion that both the United States and the Soviets are irreversibly committed to a laser- and particle-

beam-centered ABM program and that France must adapt to that reality.

In addition, a conference of the seven heads of the Western European Union military delegations (the defense ministers of seven continental European nations plus Britain) is currently planned for October in Rome. The meeting will focus on beam weapons development.

Europeans propose space station collaboration

The European Space Agency (ESA) has made known its willingness to collaborate with the United States in the development of a manned space station. President Reagan reiterated his commitment to such a permanent manned space laboratory in his State of the Union speech early this year.

Testifying at hearings on European plans for space development March 1 before the Senate Science, Technology and Space subcommittee, Ian Pryke, the Washington representative of the ESA, stated that the agency would consider investing as much as \$1 billion in the coming U.S. space station. This level of funding would be comparable to the contribution ESA made to the Space Shuttle program in the form of Spacelab.

At hearings held Feb. 27 before the House Committee on Science and Technology Pryke stated, "after the success of Spacelab, Europe is considering very favorably further involvement in manned space systems."

On March 1, Pryke stated that NASA administrator James Beggs would meet with European government representatives in Britain, West Germany, Italy, and France the week of March 6, and on March 9 will address a meeting of ESA members in Paris. Following Beggs's visit, Pryke said, ESA director Erik Quistgaard will start a new round of discussions with ESA members to decide what kind of hardware the Europeans will contribute to the space station.

ESA has announced that the hardware they would consider would be derivative of the Spacelab technology they developed. Spacelab, which performed perfectly on its

maiden trip inside the Space Shuttle last November, is the first technology ESA has ever produced for use on a manned space flight. Pryke explained that the basic Spacelab manned module could possibly be "customized" to provide special capabilities for the space station.

PAN Sonora rally a 'national failure'

A vigorous campaign by the Partido Laboral Mexicano (PLM) reduced a proclaimed "monster rally" by the PAN party, self-proclaimed followers of the policies of Adolf Hitler, to a dismal failure. Only 500 people attended.

The PAN had claimed that its planned rally in Hermosillo, Sonora, Feb. 25 would draw 10,000. The miniscule attendance in this city, a center of PAN activity, constituted "a national failure for the PAN," Mexico's leading political commentary column *Frentes Políticos* stated in the Mexico City daily *Excelsior* Feb. 28. PAN leader José Angel Conchello was reportedly enraged at Hermosillo mayor Casimiro Navarro's "ineptness" in organizing the rally. Navarro attended the rally blind drunk.

Frentes Políticos is the "column of record" in Mexican political circles. The PAN's fiasco in Hermosillo is now being directly attributed to the PLM's organizing in the region.

Le Figaro cites EIR's terror exposé

A column by anti-terrorism specialist Jean Charles Reix in the March 2 issue of the French daily *Le Figaro*, warns of a new "red alert" on terrorism because of the recent arrival in Paris of a new Iranian terrorist commando. Reix, who obtained much of his intelligence from an *EIR*-sponsored seminar on terrorism held in Paris Feb. 15, wrote that an international Islamic seminar is now going on in Benghazi, and, "according to *EIR*, Ahmed Ben Bella and one of his Swiss

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friends known to lead a PFLP-connected network, will attend just such a seminar, where the most extreme ideas—including calls for a new jihad, or holy war—will be discussed.

"EIR is an information agency financed by American congressmen [sic] and has a listening-post in Wiesbaden, West Germany, not far from the famous West German Criminal Office, the BKA, considered the best European anti-terrorist agency.

"EIR reports that the new Islamic fanaticism uses mercenaries and former Nazis converted to Islam for its terrorist operations. Alois Brunner, who was an officer of the Gestapo in 1940, is now one of the 'advisers' of the Syrian Special Services.

Reix warns that the level of terrorist threat in Paris has been considered high enough for French President François Mitterrand's special adviser François de Grossouvre to fly discreetly to Damascus in an effort to appease the Syrians and the Iranians. Intertwined networks of Islamic fundamentalists working with the French-based terrorist group Action Directe and the Red Brigades are ready to operate in France, he concludes. This is the coalition which claimed responsibility for the assassination of U.S. diplomat Leamon Hunt on Feb. 15.

Alexander King: cut Asian population

Alexander King, the co-founder of the Club of Rome who recently returned from an international Conference on Population in India, praised Feb. 27 the role of former West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in mobilizing Asian countries to carry out International Monetary Fund policy and cut their populations.

"Helmut Schmidt's keynote address at the conference," King told a reporter, "was magnificent, just magnificent. Schmidt situated the entire population question in the context of the general world political-economic situation. . . . He said that the Asian countries have no time to wait for the general development and well-being of their people to reduce their population. There just

is not enough time for that." Asked about Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's role in this context, King burst out: "Gandhi may be personally very much involved in this question . . . but she's impossible to work with. She's a megalomaniac. . . . She listens to all but she does what she wants."

King considered the "most significant" sign at the conference to be the "softening" of Indian-Chinese relations. He pointed to the presence of a large, high-ranking Chinese delegation at the conference. Chinese population control policy includes forced abortion up to the ninth month of pregnancy and killing of newborn infants.

Pugwash warns members of EIR exposé

Pugwash Conference newsletter editor M. M. Kaplan is privately circulating a warning to members about EIR's exposés about the organization—a long-term conduit of "back channel" negotiations between Western disarmers and Moscow.

"Perhaps it is a mark of Pugwash success [sic] on the international scene that we have become the target of calumny and disinformation spread by extreme right-wing groups," the letter claims. "Our first overt experience of this was in Venice when members of the Energy Fusion [sic] group, headed by the notorious Lyndon LaRouche from the U.S., plastered posters around the streets of Venice and wormed their way into press conferences spouting lies.

"Now the *Executive Intelligence Review*, a high-cost subscription journal for Western business executives has begun spreading false rumors about Pugwash through telephone calls and written distortions.

"Although lies and distortions are seldom overtaken, we want our members to be aware of the above moves, since some of our participants have already suffered villification from these groups."

Insiders report that Pugwash has relocated its annual international meeting this July from Stockholm to a remote hotel in Swedish Lapland above the Arctic Circle.

● **CHARLES HERNU**, the French minister of defense, was invited to visit the United States by U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, the last week of February. Hernu will also meet with Secretary of State Georges Schultz.

● **GEORGES MARCHAIS**, head of the French Communist Party, met with East German leader Erich Honecker in East Germany the last week of February. The two issued a joint statement calling for "trade unions, youth, women's and professional organizations, the religious community, and all people with a sense of reality to increase their activities in the battle for peace."

● **DMITRII USTINOV**, Soviet defense minister, will visit India March 4.

● **HAFEZ ASSAD'S** Jesuit training is the key to his belief in creating a "Greater Syria," Turkish sources report. The Greater Syria idea was first made popular by Jesuit Orientalist Henri Lammens in the late 19th century.

● **PRINCE JOHANNES** von Thurn und Taxis of Regensburg, West Germany has filed a DM 200,000 lawsuit against EIR correspondent Umberto Pascali. Pascali published an article in the German-language publication *Krieg dem Rauschgift* stating that Thurn and Taxis works with circles responsible for assassination attempts against Pope John Paul II.