

# International Intelligence

## **Reagan's foreign policy briefing: 'campaign politics'**

EIR founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. commented after President Reagan's April 5 appearance: "Tonight, the worst side of President Ronald Reagan was exhibited, in a nationally televised, all-network press conference putatively devoted to the subject of 'foreign policy.'

"The thematic opening of the press conference was the announcement that Vice-President George Bush will be dispatched to Geneva, Switzerland, to present what was advertised as a bold, new proposal on comprehensive banning of production and use of chemical weapons of warfare: a legitimate concern, but diplomatically an exercise in futility. As the *Pravda* editorial of March 30, 1984 merely confirms Soviet behavior in practice for the entirety of 1984 to date, the Soviets will turn down flat all arms-control proposals from the Reagan administration at this time. Therefore, the President's announcement is purely an election-campaign gesture. . . .

"Although the 1982 'Reagan Plan' was a viable policy-formula for the Middle East crisis, the President permitted Henry A. Kissinger personally to sabotage the 'Reagan Plan,' and for political reasons permitted the U.S. military role in Lebanon to be reduced in effect to the U.S. Marines posing as targets for Soviet-directed terrorist and artillery attacks. The United States was pushed out of Lebanon in what is fairly described as a 'Saigon II' humiliation, the price of the Reagan administration's capitulation to Kissinger. . . .

"On the issue of the Soviet maneuvers, it is quite probable that the President has no idea of what the significance of or scope of those maneuvers is—another case of a President kept in ignorance by a corrupt 'White House Palace Guard.' This is no ordinary maneuver, but is the largest and most ominous combined land and sea military exercise in history, which the Soviets themselves have admitted to be an escalation to a higher level of global military readiness for

general warfare against the United States.

"For various reasons, the Soviets are dumping Henry A. Kissinger and his crew, as so many 'used-up "useful fools."' The Soviet command sees Kissinger's 'Neville Chamberlain' faction firmly in place among British and U.S. liberals, including the liberals in both U.S. political parties, and the government itself looking very much like the 1936-40 government of the Neville Chamberlain faction in Britain. The Soviets have committed themselves to an escalating show of raw military and political superiority, especially since the humiliation of the United States in the Middle East. Instead of risking losing the election-campaign support of Kissinger and his backers, the President is so far pretending that Kissinger is a 'diplomatic genius,' and refusing to face any facts which might oblige him to dump that used-up Soviet agent of influence."

## **Vietnamese troops clash with Thailand, China**

Tensions between Thailand and Vietnam culminated in an exchange of artillery fire April 2 across the Thai border with Kampuchea. Up to 30 Vietnamese and 5 Thai soldiers died in what has been described by Bangkok sources as the fiercest fighting since Vietnamese forces crossed into Thailand on March 25. Vietnam has officially denied the border intrusion.

But an officer of the Thai Supreme Command has charged that a Vietnamese battalion crossed the border seeking high ground from which to attack Kampuchean rebel forces. Thailand filed an official protest with the United Nations, and a foreign ministry official summoned a meeting of ambassadors from the European Community, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Japan, urging those nations to condemn the Vietnamese action.

The flareup coincides with Chinese charges that Vietnam has staged 30 border attacks in the last month. The official Chinese agency reported April 2 that Chinese gunners had shelled Vietnamese troops at three positions along its border with Vietnam, wrecking a command post and two gun em-

placements. The news agency reports that dozens of Vietnamese soldiers and many Chinese civilians were killed or wounded in the recent artillery exchanges.

## **Spain reverses policy on drug traffic**

Spanish Interior Minister José Barrionuevo has blamed a "reform" of the country's penal code, voted up in June 1983, for the 30% increase in street crime during the past nine months. The reform involved the release of 8,000 preventive detainees and the lowering of penalties for narcotics trafficking.

Barrionuevo held a meeting March 20 with senior police and security officials to discuss the reform's relation to crime and particularly to the drug trade. He then gave new directives to state prosecutors, who were told that soft drugs should now be considered substances "causing grave damage to health." The circular was accompanied by a government report describing the grave physiological and genetic damages caused by cannabis.

The government's reversal has drawn the fire of the Communist Party, whose vice-secretary, Enrique Curiel, issued a statement in favor of decriminalizing traffic in "soft" drugs, and preventing penalties for consumption of all drugs.

## **Muslim Brotherhood hits Palestinian cause**

Ismail Faruqi, a leading U.S.-based spokesman for the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, has declared that the Palestinian nationalist cause is dead and the Palestinians could only become significant again as the "vanguard of a Koranic movement"—i.e., if they abandon their fight for a homeland in favor of a holy war. "History has no place for petty causes," he said.

Faruqi's speech, delivered in December at a conference organized in Pakistan by the London-based "Islamic Council of Europe," was published in the current issue of *Arabia, the Islamic World Review*, unofficial mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood

International movement. The keynote speaker at the meeting was to have been Ahmed Ben Bella, the exiled Algerian leader who operates in league with the Nazi International. Ben Bella did not appear.

Faruqi defined "loyalty to the nation-state as a betrayal of the Islamic *umma* [community]." He praised highly the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hassan 'al-Banna.

### **India's Punjab hit by sectarian violence**

Widespread rioting has erupted in the Indian state of Punjab following the assassination April 2 of a Hindu politician by Sikh terrorists. India's Home Secretary has declared the entire state a "dangerously disturbed region" and has granted special powers to the police to halt terrorist violence.

The special powers include orders to paramilitary and police troops to shoot troublemakers on sight in the Sikh-dominated state of Punjab and the neighboring Hindu-majority state of Haryana. In the capital of New Delhi, the government has banned public assembly of more than four people and hundreds of police are on patrol.

A dozen people were slain in Punjab April 3 when police used machine guns to scatter 20,000 Hindu rioters following the funeral of the assassinated Hindu politician; the enraged crowd responded by lynching two police sergeants. The same day the Hindu opposition boycotted the parliamentary session in protest over the outbreak of Sikh terrorism. The Hindu leaders are pressuring Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to cancel a scheduled diplomatic trip to North Africa at the end of the week. Most businesses in New Delhi and three adjacent states were closed April 4 in a strike called by the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party to protest the terrorism and government failure to quell sectarian violence.

The Dashmesh Regiment, the Sikh extremist group that has taken responsibility for the assassination of the Hindu politician and the recent murder of a moderate Sikh leader, has sent a letter to an English-language newspaper threatening to kill one pol-

itician a day until its demands for the government to lift a ban on a Sikh student organization are lifted.

### **U.S.S.R. tells Palme to quell Swedish protests**

The Soviet Union has pushed the "Finlandization" of Sweden a big step further by issuing direct orders to Prime Minister Olof Palme to silence certain "individuals and political circles" in the country who are unwilling to accept the repeated incursions of Soviet submarines into Swedish waters.

The orders were issued March 27 by top Soviet spokesman Aleksandr Bovin in a guest editorial in the Stockholm liberal daily *Dagens Nyheter*. Bovin, an adviser to the Politburo, is also a foreign-policy commentator for the government newspaper *Izvestia*.

Bovin lavishes praise on Palme for his appeasement policy toward the Soviets as well as for the proposals for assured vulnerability of the West that Palme has publicized in the context of the KGB-controlled Palme Commission on Disarmament, such as European nuclear-free zones. Bovin insists that Palme "develop a corresponding public opinion" in Sweden. "To do that, there are many methods," adds Bovin helpfully.

Bovin identifies the Swedish military as "the main source of all the sensational stories" about Soviet submarines. "As far as I know, the army in Sweden is not 'free.'" Hence, advises Bovin, all you have to do is to give them the orders to keep quiet.

Neither Olof Palme nor anyone else of stature in the Swedish government has yet commented on Bovin's article or protested against the obvious Soviet attempts to give orders to the government. On the contrary, the article was followed by the highest-level visit to Sweden by a Soviet delegation in two and a half years—since the time when the submarine incidents began to gain notoriety. A trade delegation headed by Soviet Vice-Foreign Trade Minister Komarov spent the week in Sweden, signing a special trade agreement which grants Sweden a status in its trade with the Soviet Union previously enjoyed by only three other non-communist countries.

## Briefly

● **MUAMMAR QADDAFI**, speaking in Tobruk March 29, declared, "If we allow another superpower, opposed to the U.S.A., to use the Libyan coasts, then we would make the Comiso base and other NATO and American bases from Crete to Italy useless. . . ." The Libyan dictator was threatening to invite the Soviets to install their missiles in Libya.

● **TWO TURKISH DIPLOMATS** were shot in Teheran by the Damascus-based Armenian Secret Liberation Army. The Khomeini regime is using ASALA terrorism to put pressure on the government of Turkey.

● **MILITARY UNITS** defending Stockholm were put through emergency exercises the night of March 29 under a scenario that the Soviet Union had suddenly demanded military access to the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea.

● **KARSTEN VOIGT**, German Social Democratic spokesman on disarmament, stated April 3 that "if the United States breaks the ABM Treaty and militarizes space, there will be a storm of new mass protests which will make the protest against the stationing of the Euromissiles feel like just a mild breeze." The Soviet news agency TASS, hours before Voigt went to the press, issued virtually the same comment. The statements came during the NATO defense ministers' meeting in Turkey.

● **FATHER BARTOLOMEO SORGE**, editor of the official magazine of the Jesuits, "Civiltà Cattolica," and a declared enemy of the beam-weapons strategy, declared on March 30 that "faced with the prospect of mutual destruction it is a duty not to react to the offense, rather than seek revenge with an act of war that would provoke enormously greater damage."