

International Intelligence

Were Strauss, Bisaglia deaths 'accidental'?

The "accidental" deaths of Italian Christian Democratic leader Antonio Bisaglia and the wife of West Germany's Franz-Joseph Strauss during the last week in June appear suspicious to some security experts, seen in their political context.

Bisaglia was an opponent of the current Moscow-leaning tendency in his party, as represented by Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. According to confidential reports, Bisaglia was determined to split the party if necessary in order to oppose Andreotti's alliance with Moscow.

The car accident which killed Marianne Strauss came in the middle of a West German government crisis, with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's grip on power increasingly shaky and the Soviet-backed parties gaining ground. Strauss, who is the chairman of the Christian Social Union, has been mentioned as a possible candidate for a ministerial post should Kohl decide to reshuffle his cabinet.

Mrs. Strauss's fatal accident took place as she was navigating a slight curve in the road, and there were no signs of an attempt to brake. An anonymous call was placed to a West German newspaper from someone claiming to have caused the car crash.

Hijacking bid to destabilize India foiled

Extremists surrendered to Pakistani authorities July 6 and freed more than 260 passengers and flight crew captured when they hijacked an Indian airliner and diverted it to Lahore, Pakistan in a bid to further the terrorist destabilization of India.

Cooperation between the Indian and Pakistani governments defused the effort to incite Indo-Pakistani tensions in the wake of the Indian government's successful crack-down on the Sikh separatist-terrorists in the vital and strategic border state of Punjab.

Pakistani authorities at first refused to grant the hijacked plane permission to land, and did so only on the advice of Indian au-

thorities. Pakistani authorities subsequently "wore out" the hijackers in a night of stand-off negotiations, precipitating the surrender.

According to the *Press Trust* of India, the hijackers are believed to have been members of an extremist Sikh "suicide squad" deployed to avenge the Indian government's action in early June to disarm the terrorist military command center in the Golden Temple Sikh shrine in Amritsar. The nine highjackers reportedly shouted "Long Live Khalistan, Long Live Pakistan" on landing in Lahore. The demand for an autonomous Khalistan is the rallying cry of the separatists who want to break Punjab from India.

Besides breaking up the Indian union, the destabilization operation in Punjab is aimed at precipitating a war between India and Pakistan.

The highjackers had seized the Indian Airlines flight just after its departure from Srinagar, capital of the Indian part of Kashmir state. Kashmir has been the scene of increasing secessionist activity over the past year. According to Indian authorities, the "Khalistan" separatists have been receiving military training in Kashmir.

Italian General Staff to study beam weapons

The General Staff of the Italian Army has decided to offer a special course on laser beam defensive weaponry as one of four courses to be taught next fall and winter at Italy's Center for Military Studies. This information was reported July 2 by Gen. Giulio Macri, a leading defensive weaponry supporter in Italy's military circles, and an associate of U.S. presidential contender Lyndon LaRouche.

General Macri, who was a scheduled speaker on the need for beam weapons at the Washington, D.C. founding conference of the Schiller Institute July 3-4, reported that the directors of the new course have already been named. One of them, he said, is Air Force Gen. Moneta Caglio, who participated in an *EIR*-sponsored conference on defensive weaponry last November in Rome, where LaRouche also spoke.

Soviets launch second Afghan offensive

Once again attempting to consolidate its grip on Afghanistan, the Soviet army moved into the strategic Panjshir Valley the first week of July, reportedly utilizing both chemical weapons and an internationally banned type of bullet which explodes on impact.

The Panjshir Valley is located between Kabul and Pakistan and is surrounded by tall mountains, inhabited by the country's resistance fighters. According to Indian sources, the Afghan resistance has been "hung out to dry" by the West and Pakistan and is receiving few Western military supplies. In spite of this, the resistance fighters are reported to have shot down a Soviet reconnaissance plane and captured 20 soldiers.

The new offensive also coincides with a reported new push to "Sovietize" the Kabul government and other Afghan institutions. One way this is being done is through the Soviets' consolidation of Marxist-Islamic groupings, such as the recent merger of Iranian and Pakistani Baluchistani separatists.

Will Sudan become the new Iran?

The battle over "Islamic fundamentalism" between Sudan's Islamic North and Christian South may be reaching the point of irreversibility in the estimation of Egyptian intelligence sources, who predict that the Sudan will be like Iran by the end of the year. The last civil war between the two sections of the county, a decade and a half ago, was a bloodbath in which the minority Christian population lost heavily.

The sources report that Sudan President Gaafar Numayri, following the lead of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, intends in the coming weeks to change the country's constitution so as to establish himself as "Caliph of the Believers" and "Imam of the Muslims."

The conflict between North and South is reportedly being fueled by both the Chevron Oil Company (which has major oil fields in

the Christian South), and Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, who is encouraging the South to secede. Chevron's adviser on the Sudan is Kissinger Associates, Henry Kissinger's private firm. Only 20% of Sudan's population lives in the South.

IMF "conditionalities" brought all development of the country to a standstill by the end of 1978. The ongoing civil disturbances in the South are now halting all the economic projects that began before that point.

Gromyko meets with Howe to chastize U.S.A.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on July 5 assailed U.S. policy as a "cult of terrorism in all its forms." Speaking in Moscow in the presence of British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, Gromyko recalled for his visitor the "solemn commitment" that the U.S.S.R. and England took as members of the anti-Hitler coalition "to bury war," and insisted that now the United States was the "main threat" to world peace.

Howe, who had gone to Moscow to convey U.S. readiness for discussions on space weapons, described the Russian attitude as "angry and petulant" in a London *Times* article on his Moscow trip. He emerged from discussions with Gromyko describing the Soviet leader as "negative" and "illogical."

A diplomat who accompanied Howe described the chances of dialogue by September between Moscow and the United States as "near zero."

KGB's peace movement sets its sights on Europe

An extraordinary series of high-level conferences involving the KGB's peace movement and other Soviet-backed institutions took place in Western Europe during the first weeks of July.

● A two-day conference against "weapons in outer space" was held July 7-8 at the University of Göttingen in West Germany, featuring U.S. Congressman George Brown

and "peace movement" activists from around the world.

● The period from July 7 through July 16 saw the annual leadership meetings of both the Club of Rome International (July 9-13 in Helsinki, Finland) and the Pugwash conference (July 9-15 in Sweden), both featuring leading KGB operatives from the United States and Western Europe as well as from the U.S.S.R.

● From July 14-16, the Cini Foundation in Venice was the site of the concluding session of the two-year-old Aspen Institute East-West Project.

Brandt's SPD sets ties with East German party

The West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), under chairman Willy Brandt, is in the process of establishing formal ties with the ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED) of East Germany and a "working group" toward that end has been formed. It will be the first such alliance since Germany was split apart in 1946. The "reunification" of Germany and a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe are the carrots the Soviet Union is holding out to West Germany in return for splitting with the United States.

On June 27, the SPD party leadership announced the formation of a special disarmament working group with the SED on a party executive level. The new institution, which held its first meeting in East Berlin on July 2 and 3, is designed to promote communication between the two parties around the issue of creating a "Central European zone free of chemical weapons." Few details about the meeting are available.

The SPD sent three of its main disarmament spokesmen, Egon Bahr, Karsten Voigt (who is heading the working group), and Hermann Scheer. All three known as leaders of the drive to "decouple" West Germany from the United States and as opponents of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative. The SED delegation is headed by Hermann Axen, a party hardliner.

Although there is opposition from inside SPD ranks to Brandt's move, there has been no public protest.

Briefly

● **RUSSIAN** military ships have been allowed to train in Swedish territorial waters for 20 years, Sweden's Social Democratic daily *Aftonbladet* revealed on July 4, and Western sources speculate that Sweden may have already become the Soviet's 16th state. Recently parts of the West German fleet were forced to seek protection against a storm in Sweden's northern harbor Husum, and *Pravda* editorialized on July 4 that it was "scandalous" to see "how little respect NATO has for Swedish neutrality."

● **GREEK** Premier Andreas Papandreou announced in East Berlin on July 4 that he will sign a treaty on "legal assistance" with East German party boss Erich Honecker. The treaty includes "highly alarming passages," according to a West German source, including a commitment to extradite East German refugees who flee to Greece via Bulgaria.

● **COLOMBIA'S** drug trade is "part of the mechanism of Colombian self defense," declared Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Nobel Prize-winning existentialist novelist from Colombia, in an interview with the *Village Voice* the first week in July. "Who knows the level of common crime we would have if it weren't for the breathing space the drug trade provides?" he queried. He insisted that when one determines not to die of hunger, anything goes—"some write novels, some traffic in drugs, some make movies, and others become presidents of the republic."

● **MARTIN BANGEMANN**, who is reported to know nothing about economics, was named West German economics minister on June 28, following the resignation of Otto von Lambsdorff, a leading member of Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democratic Party (FDP). Bagemann is regarded as a "transitional candidate" in a government itself not expected to remain long in power.