

International Intelligence

Japan prepares to defend itself without the U.S.

In the 1986 *White Paper on Defense*, the Japanese cabinet decided to boost its defenses, declaring that it had failed to keep pace with the Soviet military buildup in Asia, the Reuter wire service reported on Aug. 8. The *White Paper* said that the military had not met a 10-year-old target of becoming strong enough to repel a limited invasion without U.S. help.

"The international military situation in the region surrounding Japan is getting worse," the document concluded, adding that the Soviet Union had deployed up to a third of its total strategic nuclear forces in the Far East over the past decade, including 162 of its SS-20 medium-range missiles.

The total bill for the 1985-86 Japanese defense program is expected to be \$118.7 billion.

Meanwhile, Reuter reported on Aug. 4 that Japan is turning the island of Iwo Jima, the site of one of World War II's bloodiest battles, into its biggest training center for jet fighter pilots. Communication facilities have also been improved. The Japanese Air Force is conducting flight training on F-4 Phantom jets and the Navy is training pilots of P3-C Orion and Neptune anti-submarine planes on the island. As of Sept 25, the level of training will increase.

Germany's Strauss seeks to oust foreign minister

Franz-Josef Strauss, the Bavarian governor and chairman of West Germany's conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) party, broke protocol on Aug. 3 and demanded that Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has held the post since 1974, finally leave or be dumped. Genscher is the leading pro-Moscow appeaser in the Bonn government.

"It is time for a change in the leadership of the West German Foreign Office," Strauss

said, attacking Genscher for his "pseudo-diplomatic special tours"—a reference to the foreign minister's recent trip to the Soviet Union. "He should beware of wanting to play a mediator role between Washington and Moscow," Strauss said, warning that "this eternal travel diplomacy, today in Moscow, tomorrow in Washington, dramatic scenes, generally with the benefit of TV coverage, in order to attain the expected effect," does not serve the aim of the coalition government.

Genscher, a liberal Free Democrat, and Strauss have frequently been at loggerheads within the ruling coalition headed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Strauss has occasionally made a bid in the past to replace his opponent as foreign minister. Rarely have the public polemics been so sharp as this, however.

In a television interview on Aug. 4, Strauss criticized the government's handling of the current crisis over an influx of refugees from East Berlin to the West. "We should do what we can do," he said, "instead of hoping for mercy from the G.D.R. [East Germany] or begging for the blessing of Moscow." Strauss called on Chancellor Kohl to "finally see to it, that the CDU [Christian Democratic Union—Kohl's party] and its officials speak the same language."

U.S. will treat Israel like a NATO member

U.S. President George Bush finalized a deal with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres during his visit to Jerusalem at the end of July, that would give Israel privileges hitherto only accorded members of the NATO alliance, according to reports in the European and Israeli press.

"Israel To Be Put On Par With NATO" heralded the front-page headline in the July 30 *Jerusalem Post*, announcing that Israel was to receive the "most-favored nation" status given only to NATO countries, Australia, and New Zealand. The *Post* reported that Peres had made a request some time ago, to bypass the "effect of the Gramm-

Rudman amendment, which freezes U.S. foreign aid to Israel."

The French daily *Le Figaro* on July 31 quoted sources who called the accord a "natural consequence" of Israel's agreement to cooperate with the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

The Israelis will receive special funds for research and development for SDI contracts, and will be able to buy American-made weapons at a cheaper rate than before, the paper reported.

Queen's elite troops charged with drug crimes

Four British Army Gurkhas, the Queen's elite troops, are currently on trial in London for smuggling heroin and cannabis resin into Britain, the *Times* of London reported on Aug. 6.

The accused men all belong to the second battalion of the King Edward the Seventh Gurkha Rifles. They were arrested returning from leave in Nepal, and were carrying the drugs, valued at £180,000 in secret compartments in their suitcases.

The Gurkhas are recruited from a tribe based in Nepal, and have traditionally been the most loyal of the Empire's troops. They are usually based in the possessions of the Crown, such as Hong Kong. During Britain's 1982 war with Argentina over the Malvinas Islands, the Gurkhas played a prominent role.

Spain, France map anti-terror offensive

The Spanish and French interior ministers agreed on Aug. 6 on a plan to fight drugs and terrorism. A joint communiqué issued after the meeting reported that an agreement had been reached to increase border surveillance, and that cooperation against drug smuggling and terrorists will be "continued and strengthened."

The French government has moved de-

Briefly

● **OLOF PALME**, the Swedish prime minister who was assassinated on Feb. 28, 1986, will be pictured on 2.5 million 10-kopek postage stamps issued by the Soviet postal ministry. This is an honor rarely accorded a foreigner; among the exceptions are Salvador Allende, Patrice Lumumba, and Mahatma Gandhi. Although Palme's death served the Kremlin's aim of destabilizing the North of Europe, its leaders bore him no personal animosity, after his years of loyal service.

● **THE BRITISH** Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Aug. 2 released results of a poll which showed that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has the backing of 70% of the British population, for her refusal to allow economic sanctions against South Africa.

● **BISHOP TUTU** of South Africa said on Aug. 7 that if the West won't help African countries, like Zimbabwe and Zambia, it is "almost natural" that they "will turn to East bloc countries." He added, "My own fear is that the basic instability introduced by apartheid is going to introduce cold war into our region."

● **ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE**, head of the Church of England, will be visiting South Africa soon, nominally to attend the enthronement of Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu as Archbishop of Capetown on Sept. 7.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** was targeted for assassination by the Islamic Jihad terrorist group, on the occasion of the release of the American priest Father Jenco. According to the French newspaper *Le Figaro* on Aug. 4, Islamic Jihad denounced him as an "accomplice" of the United States, "The Great Satan." "The silence of the Pope on the crimes of America and its collaborators, and the Pope's support for their criminal acts, makes of the Pope an accomplice in their crimes," the group's communiqué said.

cisively in the recent period to end France's role as the safehouse of international terrorism. In little more than a week, the government of conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac turned over to Spanish authorities five leading members of the Basque terrorist gang ETA, who were hiding out in France; busted a continent-wide cocaine ring; and rounded up Irish terrorists. The French are also creating specially trained military units to deal with terrorism.

In retaliation, the ETA terrorists on July 25 warned the Spanish government that they would increase their attacks on French targets. Since that date, ETA has carried out a dozen assassinations on Spanish territory.

What's behind those 'art discussions' in Lugano?

The Kremlin has chosen the Lugano, Switzerland estate of Thyssen family heir Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza "for its first experiments in artistic exchanges with the West," the *Times* of London reported Aug. 5, in an article entitled, "Leningrad Comes to Lugano." The baron's Lugano estate is the site of an exhibition entrusted to him by the U.S.S.R. minister of culture, on loan from the Hermitage Museum of Leningrad.

The kinky world of *avant-garde* (and other) art exchanges has provided a cover for intelligence deployments of the East-West oligarchical apparatus known as "The Trust," for example, Armand Hammer's involvement with "Czarist art treasures" in the early days after the Bolshevik Revolution.

This is the second such exchange of exhibitions between Baron Thyssen and the Soviet Union.

The *Times* quotes Baron Thyssen on why the Soviets would come to such an arrangement with him: "It is easier for them to do a deal with an individual. A deal with a country may have strings attached about freeing Jews or old financial squabbles." When he goes to the Soviet Union, he says, "I get a reception worthy of a head of state. There's a delegation of dignitaries to meet me, and flowers, and the largest car they manufac-

ture to sweep me into town."

The *Times* adds: "The second exchange of pictures with Russia, delayed this year, is to go ahead in 1987 and negotiations have begun for an exchange of 20th century avant-garde art which would bring the subversive abstracts of the Constructivist generation out of the cellars of Russian museums for their first airing at the lakeside villa in Lugano."

German terrorists are safehoused in Syria

Three leading members of the Red Army Faction (RAF), the German terror gang, are living in Damascus, enjoying the protection of the Syrian government, the Springer Foreign News Service reported on Aug. 6.

So much for the argument of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and other Foggy Bottom officials, that the United States should improve ties to Syria, since it is not pro-terrorist like Iran or Libya.

The three, Susanne Albrecht, Friederike Krabbe, and Monika Hellberg, are among the 20 most-wanted terrorists in the Federal Republic of Germany. All are sought by police for complicity in the 1977 assassinations of Jürgen Ponto (chairman of Dresdner Bank), Klaus Buback (federal attorney), and Hans-Martin Schleyer (president of the German Entrepreneurs Association), among others.

In a related development, German police on Aug. 3 arrested one of the RAF terrorists believed to have planned and executed the recent assassination of Karl-Heinz Beckurts, a researcher for the Siemens company who was working on high-technology projects related to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative.

The RAF killer, known variously as Eva or Sybille Haule-Frimpong, was observed in a cafe by a West German citizen, who recognized her from a wanted poster and called police. Within minutes, six plainclothes police surprised her and two other terrorists. Haule-Frimpong was carrying a heavy-calibre revolver and ammunition for it.