

International Intelligence

China boosts satellite launch capability

China is on course to become a major space power, according to a report in the London *Times* published July 30. In fact, following the recent disasters which have grounded the whole Western satellite launch fleet—the U.S. Space Shuttle, the Delta, Titan, Atlas, and Ariane rockets—commercial satellite business is turning increasingly to China. “At the moment,” the *Times* writes, “the Chinese and the Russians are the only organizations that can offer a launch date before the 1990s.”

The Ariane will be operating again shortly, but is booked solid for several years. The Space Shuttle, once it resumes operation, will mostly service military satellites.

The *Times* reports that the Chinese are expanding the launches of Long March-3 rockets from 3 to 12 per year, and are expanding the launch payload from 1.4 tons to 2.5 tons, by using strap-on solid launch boosters. The Chinese can also offer to launch 30 months after a contract has been signed—a capability only the Soviets can now match.

China is now estimated to be spending \$2.8 billion per year on its space program, which employs 12,000 people. They are also spending heavily on space medicine, and are training an astronaut corps. They expect to launch a small, re-usable shuttle by the mid-1990s.

Panamanians rally to support General Noriega

Three hundred thousand Panamanians took to the streets on “Loyalty Day,” Aug. 12, to demonstrate their support for Gen. Manuel Noriega. The general, who heads the Panamanian Defense Forces, is an opponent of the International Monetary Fund, and has been targeted for ouster by the U.S. State Department and Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.).

“We are going to see a union between uniformed and civilian Panamanians, to demonstrate the unity between the people and the Defense Forces,” an organizer of the demonstration told the press.

Panamanian President Eric Delvalle told the rally, “We want to demonstrate to the world that we Panamanians have, and will always have, a religion which unites us: The defense of the Canal and the defense of our sovereignty. This people is not Haiti, nor the Philippines.”

General Noriega, in his speech to the crowd, stressed that “traditionally we have been friends of the North American people. But we won’t allow colonialist leaders . . . to smear our conquests.” He denounced the campaign against him as a “dirty war” designed to prevent Panama from taking over the Canal as scheduled in the year 2000, as provided in the 1978 Canal Treaties. “This commander doesn’t surrender, and he doesn’t back down,” Noriega stated, vowing to make sure “these treaties are honored from their first to their last letter.”

Peru recalls ambassador from East Germany

Peruvian President Alan García withdrew his ambassador from East Germany on Aug. 12, charging that the East German government had failed to account for its role in the “illicit arms traffic.”

Three weeks before, Peru had requested information from East Berlin on a shipment of 250 tons of military equipment found aboard the Danish ship *Pia Vesta* in June. The equipment was unloaded in East Germany, and is believed to have been intended to supply Peru’s Shining Path narco-terrorists. The Peruvian government demanded clarification of the final destination of the weapons shipment, copies of the shipping and trade documents involved, and an explanation of the role of East German state trade companies in shipping the weapons. No reply was forthcoming from the East Germans.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Alan Wagner, in his diplomatic note recalling the ambassador, said: “In accordance with international law, I must express the Peruvian government’s strong protest for not having received . . . documented information which would allow us to clarify the participation of your country’s state firms in what shapes up to be a case of illicit arms traffic.” Those behind the shipment, he said, “have put in risk the security of Peru and the sovereignty of the country.”

Asked in a radio interview whether the move pointed to a possible break in diplomatic relations, Wagner replied: “This is a decision that the government will have to weigh at the proper moment.”

New Zealand expelled from ANZUS treaty

The United States formally ended its defense ties with New Zealand, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz announced Aug. 11 at a news conference in San Francisco. At issue was the refusal of New Zealand’s Labour government to allow U.S. nuclear-powered ships to dock in the nation’s ports.

Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden supported the U.S. move to suspend New Zealand from the ANZUS (Australia-New Zealand-U.S.) treaty organization, but added that Australia would maintain its bilateral military ties with New Zealand.

New Zealand’s Prime Minister David Lange declared that the break only made official the state of affairs that had existed anyway for the past two years. “We regret the United States has felt the need to announce the suspension of its security obligations to New Zealand under the ANZUS treaty,” he said on Aug. 12. “The New Zealand government faced a clear choice and has remained determined to honor its election pledge and the wishes of the overwhelming majority of New Zealanders, to keep nuclear weapons out of New Zealand.”

The prime minister, who had dashed back at dawn from a South Pacific Forum meeting

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in Fiji in order to deal with the ANZUS issue and to refuse the resignation of his finance minister, told reporters: "It's been a busy week. On the whole, I'd rather be snorkeling in Fiji."

Editorials in New Zealand's major newspapers bitterly denounced Lange. The *New Zealand Herald* said the Labour government had "created a wholly unnecessary dispute with the U.S. and . . . taken this traditionally internationalist country into virtually defenseless, ignominious neutralism." The *Christchurch Press* said that New Zealand is now "close to isolation from all its former friends and allies in the Western world."

Will the French support Reagan's war on drugs?

Taking to task liberal French opponents of President Reagan's war on drugs, columnist Annie Kriegel asks in the Aug. 14 issue of *Le Figaro* newspaper whether they would rather see a war on drugs à la Lyndon LaRouche.

Kriegel, a former Communist, now finds herself on the "conservative" side of the French political spectrum.

Her column, titled "Drugs: End of a Hypocrisy," reports President Reagan's new commitment to "mobilize society against drug abuse." This has created consternation in France, where the advocates of "soft drug legalization" attempt to differentiate "soft drugs" from "hard drugs," claiming that "soft drugs" are no more dangerous than alcohol and tobacco. Leading French papers like *Libération* and *Le Monde* have editorialized against the President's plan.

"Would one rather," she asks, "that parties, movements, and sects seize upon this drama, and exploit to their profit the disarray and despair of a population that is unable to come to the aid of its children, as the La Rouch [sic] group in the United States is trying to do?"

Borrowing liberally from *EIR*'s best-selling book *Dope, Inc.*—without crediting

the source—Kriegel proceeds to document the "very nasty role of the English Empire," which, "in the name of free trade, developed the opium trade," and created the preconditions for the Opium Wars against China. Because the Chinese nationalists were impotent to stop the drug traffickers residing in the "foreign concessions" area, she writes, drugs in China were only stopped when the Communists came to power.

The Chernobyl aftermath: More Soviet heads roll

In the latest round of purges of industry officials, accused of negligence in the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on Aug. 14 expelled two party officials and disciplined four others.

Ye. V. Kulikov, expelled from the party, was a department chief in the Ministry for Medium Machine Building, whose first deputy minister, A. G. Meshkov, was already fired from his job in the post-Chernobyl sweep and is one of those reprimanded by the party in this second round. The Ministry for Medium Machine Building is a key defense-industry organization, responsible for warhead-production as well as fuel-cycle operations in civilian and military nuclear plants.

Also thrown out of the party was G. V. Veretennikov, head of the atomic division of the Ministry for Power Engineering. Among the other disciplined officials was V. A. Sidorenko, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Safe Conduct of Work in the Nuclear Power Industry. His former boss (and former official of the Ministry of Medium Machine Building), Yevgenii Kulov, was already "removed from his post for major mistakes and shortcomings." Sidorenko was the only official from the shadowy, defense-linked "safety" committee to speak up in the weeks immediately following the Chernobyl accident: He first told reporters about the "experiments," as yet not fully described by the Soviets, that led to the explosion.

● **KING HASSAN** of Morocco announced on Aug. 7 that if he were a Palestinian, he would negotiate directly with Israel. The King was speaking in a "background briefing" to international journalists. Reviewing the recent Ifrane summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Hassan stressed that he has received the "tacit approval of several Arab countries" and expects that Morocco will go on acting as a mediator.

● **SYRIA IS DEVELOPING** chemical warheads for its surface-to-surface medium-range missiles, revealed Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Aug. 7, during a speech at the National Institute of Strategic Studies. Peres subsequently warned that Syria is "the most important center of international terrorism" in the region, and accused Damascus of responsibility for recent attacks against El Al airline.

● **WEST GERMANY** is the number-two country in the world in terms of terrorist incidents, second only to Lebanon, according to the annual report on international terrorism of the Jaffee Institute for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv.

● **'THE FAILURE** of the international community to fully recognize terrorism as criminal behavior and low-intensity warfare, has encouraged the growth of terrorist activity," writes Hebrew University's Yonah Alexander in the Aug. 8 *Jerusalem Post* magazine. "Soviet strategic thinking calls for the manipulation of terrorism as a suitable substitute for traditional warfare."

● **IGOR ROGACHEV** is the latest of several new Soviet deputy foreign ministers to be named, on Aug. 14. In keeping with Mikhail Gorbachov's diplomatic offensive toward Asia, Rogachev has headed both the Soviet foreign ministry's Southeast Asia Department and, since 1983, the First Far Eastern Department (covering China, the Koreas, and Mongolia).