

International Intelligence

Strategic crisis set to flare up in Yugoslavia?

Strategic experts from Austria, Great Britain, West Germany, and Italy have told *EIR* that they anticipate a Soviet-manipulated international crisis over Yugoslavia, perhaps within weeks.

The experts point to the country's severe economic crisis—aggravated by the International Monetary Fund's austerity demands—which exacerbates longstanding ethnic conflicts. Yugoslavia's official inflation rate is about 100%, but the sources say it is much higher. Strikes in the coal industry and elsewhere portend serious labor conflict.

One indicator of the crisis atmosphere, is that the April 28-29 Yugoslav Communist Party plenum, which usually is reserved for discussions on ideology or routine matters of the economy, was exclusively devoted to the situation in Kosovo, where there has been unrest among ethnic Albanians.

Sources say the Soviets may make a strategic thrust into the region encompassing the Balkans, the Aegean, and parts of the Middle East. Said one informed military expert: "Watch for historical conflicts, that go back to the ambitions of old czarist Russia, to be reactivated. In Yugoslavia, many things that have been kept under the carpet, will now rise to the surface."

France's Chirac escapes assassination attempt

A planned assassination attempt against French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was aborted several weeks ago, thanks to close cooperation between French and American intelligence services, revealed Interior Minister Charles Pasqua on May 5. The plot was made known to Chirac during his visit to Washington.

French police have also scored recent successes against Middle Eastern terrorist networks in France. Pasqua, who did not make a direct link between these networks and the operation against Chirac, warned that "if we obtain proof that a state spon-

sored the operation . . . we will take all necessary retaliations."

Gorbachov meets with African front-line states

The foreign affairs ministers of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Mozambique, and the justice minister of Angola, gathered in Moscow on April 28 for a conference with Soviet leaders Mikhail Gorbachov and Anatoly Dobrynin. That extraordinary meeting took place after the five ministers had jointly toured several East bloc countries, to rally support for the "front-line" states against South Africa.

Nothing of substance has leaked out on Gorbachov's speech, except references in the Soviet Communist Party paper *Pravda* to the fact that he praised the "just cause" of the front-line states.

The summit follows more than two months of very active Soviet diplomacy in the region, with at least three high-level Soviet delegations there and a major arms deal between Zimbabwe and the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington rejects the 'zero-option' deal

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington denounced as "absolutely fatal," the Soviet "double-zero" proposal for abolishing both medium-range and short-range missiles in Europe. Carrington warned in Brussels on May 5 that Europeans "for the first time ever face the real possibility of a Soviet proposal likely to lead to denuclearization, and they do not like it at all."

Lord Carrington has been one of the staunchest defenders of a "New Yalta" deal with the Soviet Union, including an arms-control component which would cripple the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative program. But he has now joined Henry Kissinger and other "New Yalta" stalwarts, in criticizing the current extreme proposals for nuclear withdrawal from Europe.

Noting that NATO was under pressure to reach a deal before the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections, Carrington warned

against an "agreement at any price." The *Times* of London commented on May 6 that Carrington's statements, coming on the eve of a key West German Cabinet meeting on arms control, will strengthen the position of West German officials who have strong doubts about the double-zero option.

Cuban troops bring AIDS back from Angola

Many of the 300,000 Cuban soldiers who have served a tour of duty in Angola were exposed to AIDS-carrying prostitutes, says Jonathan Mann, the World Health Organization's AIDS director. Mann maintains that 59% of the prostitutes are infected with the disease. According to a report by Cord Meyer published in the *New York Post* on May 6, Cuban wounded received transfusions from African blood banks until the middle of 1986, with as much as 20% of that blood contaminated.

About 15,000 Cuban wounded may have been infected in that manner. Also, the multiple use of syringes for injections is widely practiced in Africa as well as in Cuba itself, creating another route of infection. "Castro's determination . . . to bolster [Angola] against the UNITA guerrillas has forced him to avoid drawing the connection between African service and AIDS," wrote Meyer.

U.S., Soviet to monitor 'nuclear risk' incidents

The United States and the Soviet Union have announced agreement on setting up nuclear-risk-reduction centers in their respective capitals, as proposed during the Geneva summit in 1985. Details of the agreement were not released, pending signing of the agreement by President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov.

The scheme initially put forward called for each country to establish observation centers in the other's capital for round-the-clock monitoring of potential "nuclear incidents." The centers would have hot lines to their respective capitals, to facilitate communications in time of crisis, reported the