

International Intelligence

Pope will receive Austria's Waldheim

Pope John Paul II will receive Austrian President Kurt Waldheim for a state visit at the Vatican on June 25. The announcement was a clear signal that the Vatican opposes the U.S. Justice Department's attempted destabilization of Austria. Austrian Vice-Chancellor Alois Mock emphasized that "this is a very special gesture on the side of the Pope towards Austria and Austrian Catholics."

Waldheim was placed on the Justice Department's "watch list" and was refused entrance to the United States, on the grounds that he participated in Nazi war crimes as a lieutenant in the German Wehrmacht.

"Vienna comes out of its isolation" commented the Italian daily *La Repubblica* on June 18, adding that "accusations against Waldheim are very weak if not inconsistent."

Catholic bishop backs Bavarian AIDS measure

The Bavarian state measures to fight AIDS are "a step in the right direction," the Catholic Archbishop of Munich and Freising, Cardinale Friedrich Wetter stated at a press conference June 14. He asserted that AIDS can be transmitted by means other than sexual contact.

Bavaria's measures are the toughest in the world. They include AIDS testing for all applicants for government jobs, testing of male and female prostitutes every four months, testing of anyone suspected of having the disease, and quarantine of any infected person who does not obey restrictions placed upon them by health authorities.

Archbishop Netter stated that those reacting hysterically to the implemented measures are mostly those who have to change their behavior. The responsibility of the people who are infected with AIDS toward the healthy has to be awakened, especially because the virus can be transmitted without having sexual contact.

Brits to fill 'vacuum in the White House'?

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will fly to Washington on July 17, for talks with President Reagan on arms control and world economic problems. According to the *Daily Telegraph* on June 18, the visit "will also set the tone for Anglo-American relations over the final 18 months" of the Reagan presidency.

An editorial in the London *Financial Times* on June 18 called for "some new grouping," centered around Mrs. Thatcher, to fill the vacuum created by the disorientation of President Reagan. Entitled "Vacuum in the White House," the editorial warned that the U.S. President "seems to have lost all his previous drive, and along with it nearly all of his remarkable charisma."

"Mr. Reagan's political difficulties at home and the extraordinary administrative mess revealed in the Irangate hearings can only devalue his promises and disarm any threats he may make." He was not able to make his policies prevail at the Venice summit, and the European Community shows no ability to pick up the slack.

So, the paper said, "if the vacuum is to be filled, some new grouping will be required, and this should now surely be a major preoccupation of British foreign policy. Mrs. Thatcher is now in a more secure domestic position than any other leader in the industrialized world, and enjoys enhanced international prestige. . . . While this is certainly not an occasion for the visible leadership from the front at which the Prime Minister excels, the situation should be seen as an irresistible challenge to British diplomacy."

American hostages now in Iran?

Some American hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been moved to Iran, according to *Ash Shiraa*, the Lebanese weekly magazine that broke the Irangate scandal. *Ash Shiraa*, quoting sources close to Hussein Ali

Montazeri, Khomeini's hand-picked successor, said Montazeri has been demanding that "the American hostages . . . be brought to trial, especially since some of them have been taken to Iran."

State Department spokesman Pete Martinez said the United States had no information to substantiate the *Ash Shiraa* report, but if true, the United States "would consider it a matter of utmost gravity and would hold the Iranian government directly responsible for the safety and well-being of the hostages."

Ash Shiraa editor Hassan Sabra told Reuter the American hostages "were transferred to Iran some months ago and definitely before the deployment of Syrian troops in West Beirut." He said the hostages were moved "as a means of pressure against the United States."

Socialists shuttle from Moscow to Washington

The International Disarmament Advisory Council of the Socialist International has recently concluded shuttle diplomacy between Washington and Moscow, to promote the Soviet campaign for the zero-option and against the Strategic Defense Initiative.

In Washington from May 26-27, the Council met with Vice-President Bush, Secretary of State Shultz, U.S. arms-control adviser Nitze, arms control agency head Adelman, U.S. arms negotiator Kampelman, and others.

From June 1-2, in Moscow, they met with President Andrei Gromyko, U.S.-Canada Institute head Georgi Arbatov, former Ambassador to the U.S. Anatoli Dobrynin, and Academy of Sciences influential Yevgeni Primaikov.

U.S. pressure delays Central American summit

U.S. pressure has forced a Central American summit meeting to be postponed. The summit of Central American heads of state,

Briefly

was to have discussed the regional peace proposals of Costa Rican president Oscar Arias. Nicaragua was planning to attend.

Arias has proposed that all recognition of the U.S.-backed Contras be withdrawn, and that elections in Nicaragua be held following a negotiated settlement.

Guatemalan President Cereza, who was to have hosted the meeting, said that roving U.S. envoy Phillip Habib had just toured the area and pressured several other governments, including El Salvador, to find excuses for postponing the meeting.

The Contras also organized a seven-member delegation to visit every Central American president and argue against the Arias plan.

ASEAN will not ban nuclear weapons

The ASEAN nations have put into "suspended animation" a plan to ban nuclear weapons from Southeast Asia, because of U.S. opposition and reservations by four of the six ASEAN nations, an official of the association said June 16.

Reportedly, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, and Brunei opposed the plan. The United States opposed the plan because it would weaken the U.S. nuclear deterrent in the region while not restricting the Soviets.

Philippines officials were concerned that the treaty would help opponents of the U.S. bases there.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in the Philippines June 16, said Washington would resist any move to turn Southeast Asia into a nuclear-free zone. He went to Singapore the following day for talks with ASEAN foreign ministers and foreign ministers from Canada, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

Soviets find problems with their civil defense

The Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* reports that in the town of Balakovo, citizens underwent a civil defense test simulating a

"Chernobyl-style" nuclear catastrophe. The article hints that the Civil Defense apparatus must undergo a *perestroika* (transformation), for "everything went wrong": people panicked; evacuation could not take place because of traffic jams; the old and sick were abandoned; family separations were not prevented; and supplies were disrupted.

Only one underground shelter was in order; others were flooded, infested with insects, or lacked food supplies. All the Civil Defense services were "paralyzed." "Only the militia came out on top . . . the party bureaucrats failed." It was a "real disaster," wrote *Literaturnaya Gazeta*.

Party bureaucrats were criticized for "hoarding food supplies"; fire brigades looked like "they were going out for a picnic."

The article hinted that heads will roll: "We do not have the right to make mistakes, because we do not have the right to forget."

Baghwan cultists hail Gorbachov

In an article titled, "Gorbachov and the New Russian Spirit," the German-language newspaper *Die Rajneesh Times*, journal of the Baghwan sex cult, seems bent on proving that the Soviets run the "New Age" operations the Baghwans typify. The leader of the German Baghwans, in the form of a lecture-letter, writes:

"The night in the Soviet Union is coming to an end. The man Gorbachov is perhaps the first in the whole history of the Russian Revolution . . . who is trying his best to make the Soviet Union a really communist democracy, an open society. . . . I predict that Gorbachov is going to succeed in bringing the second and greater revolution to Russia, and his revolution in the Soviet Union is going to affect everything in the whole world.

"Gorbachov has a task which not only can make the Soviet Union an open society . . . but will take away all the power that America has accumulated by creating fear in the world against it [the Soviet Union]. If the fear disappears, the power of America will disappear with it."

● **GRAVESTONES** were overturned by the dozens at Leningrad's Jewish cemetery on April 20—the birthday of Adolf Hitler. On the same day, according to unconfirmed reports from Leningrad residents, a number of youth, wearing black or brown and sporting swastikas and pictures of Hitler, staged a demonstration on the Neva River.

● **DEPOSED KING** Zahir Shah of Afghanistan has turned down an offer by the Soviet-puppet regime in Kabul to enter a coalition government, according to Agence France Press.

● **A SOVIET** delegation to Israel, the highest ranking since the rupture of diplomatic relations in 1967, will arrive in Tel Aviv in the first half of July. The delegation will be headed by Yevgeny Antipov, deputy chief of the department for consulate affairs in the foreign ministry. Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said on June 16 that the purpose of the visit is "to settle problems concerning Soviet citizens living in Israel, and to examine the status of the Soviet real estate holdings in this country," i.e., religious compounds used by the Russian Orthodox Church.

● **A CONVENTION** of the Evangelical Church of West Germany (Lutheran) began June 18. More than 1,300 "guests" from East bloc countries were present. A recent church document called for a "thorough 'de-enemyization' of German-Soviet relations," and criticizes "remnants of old anti-communist prejudices among the West German population."

● **SCOTLAND YARD'S** deputy assistant commissioner, Paul Condon, says the drug mafia is orchestrating racial conflicts in London's inner-city areas, to make it impossible for police to crack down on the drug trade. Mafia barons, said Condon, were encouraging young blacks to attack police officers.