

International Intelligence

Occidental offices bombed in Bogota

The headquarters of Occidental Petroleum in Bogota, Colombia were hit by a car bomb at the end of January. The bombing was claimed by the ELN, a guerrilla group that has previously been involved in bombings of Occidental and other pipelines in Colombia.

The Jan. 27 edition of *El Tiempo* reported that the most serious effect of the bombing is that it signals that the ELN is no longer confining its activities to "inhospitable" regions of the country, but is moving its terrorism from the jungles down into the cities.

Police officials also note that the bombing had a professional character not previously associated with ELN. According to the F-2 anti-bomb unit, they were surprised at the effectiveness of the bombing.

The bomb, weighing about 10 kilos, was activated by remote control at a distance of 70 meters. It was placed in precisely the right position to ensure maximum destruction of its target.

The explosion blew out windows, and various eyewitnesses said that when the night-time blast went off, the scene was so bright that it seemed like daytime. No Occidental equipment or machinery was damaged, however.

Mexico creates foreign policy commission

Mexico for the first time will include top officials from the economic ministries, the banks, and the leading public sector companies in the formulation of its foreign policy. The ruling PRI party on Feb. 9 unveiled a new foreign affairs commission weighted far more toward Mexico's economic interests than similar bodies in the past.

The think tank is sponsored by Carlos Salinas de Gortari, architect of Mexico's implementation of International Monetary Fund policies, and the PRI's presidential candidate for 1988.

The commission will have 70 members, including the chairmen of the four major

nationalized banks, trade and foreign investment experts from the public and private sectors, Mr. Angel Gurría, Mexico's chief debt negotiator, and Adrián Lajous Vargas of Pemex, the national oil company.

London's *Financial Times* commented on the announcement that this is recognition that Mexico's ability to exercise national sovereignty is conditioned by external variables like the price of oil, international interest rates, and the U.S. economy.

Navy exploring base site in Argentina

A source close to the U.S. Navy reports the rumor that a USN Site Evaluation Team was recently in Argentina, presumably looking for a site to base a P-3 Orion Marine Patrol Aircraft detachment.

There is reportedly a major buildup under way at the Argentine naval base at Comodoro Rivadavia, supposedly the fastest growing naval base in the world at present.

The source said that the Argentines—according to rumor—are eager to be America's friends and to become "de facto" members of NATO. The source's own evaluation is that the United States and Argentina "intend serious interoperability and comm connectivity at a very sensitive tactical level."

The source reports that "all of the Argentine military are cordially disposed to the U.S.A.," but that there is "resentment in the Air Force" because an arms embargo is delaying a multibillion-dollar shipment of tactical fighter jets from Israel, for which Argentina has already paid.

Malaysia's ruling party judged 'illegal'

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia rejected calls for his resignation at a news conference Feb. 5, after a Malaysian high court one day earlier ruled that his governing UNMO party was an "illegal organization."

The ruling came in response to a suit by party dissidents who wanted to void the April

intra-party elections, which Mahathir won by 43 votes.

The prime minister told a news conference that, after consultations with political lieutenants, he would continue to head the government without a political party for the time being.

The court ruling created confusion among the 1.4 million members of the UMNO, he said, but as far as he was concerned, he is still prime minister and the "government continues as usual."

Justice Harun Hashim of Kuala Lumpur, who made the ruling, dismissed the petition brought by the dissidents, but by declaring UMNO illegal, gave them more than they had sought. Mahathir had attacked the judge last year for being prejudiced in favor of the opposition.

Meanwhile, Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first prime minister and its elder statesman, announced that he intends to form a new Malay party, accusing Mahathir of ruining the party.

Highlight Soviet spetsnaz deployment

Lt. Gen. Gerard Berkhof (ret.) of the Netherlands Army addressed a semi-official closed-door audience in Bonn, West Germany Feb. 9 on the new strategic priority assigned by the Soviet Union to its airborne and special forces operations, particularly if the INF treaty is ratified.

General Berkhof cited documents obtained from the Voroshilov General Staff Academy in Moscow, in which the Soviet military leadership concluded that 15% of key NATO targets, including Pershing II and cruise missiles, could be reliably knocked out by special forces, called *spetsnaz*. Another 10% could be knocked out by airborne forces, and the remaining 75% by SS-20 missiles.

With the Pershing II missiles on Quick Reaction Alert, however, the Soviet command estimated that after SS-20 bombardment and airborne assault, enough Pershing II and cruise missiles would still remain to paralyze a Soviet attack against Western Europe.

Briefly

The Soviet Union "made a good deal on INF," General Berkhof argued, because of their other nuclear capabilities remaining, and because they no longer wanted to rely on SS-20s to knock out targets. If INF is ratified, spetsnaz units will be assigned to destroy far more than 15% of the key targets before open hostilities begin.

With the INF treaty opening the European field to Soviet spetsnaz, General Berkhof said, they would be restructured, and armed with small nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and within the foreseeable future, with electromagnetic-effect weapons.

A representative of the American embassy in Bonn asked General Berkhof why, if the picture for Europe after INF is so dark, there seems to be more resistance in the United States to the treaty than in Europe. Berkhof answered that the American representative could only have that impression if he believes the politicians, who are not strong enough to admit that the NATO "Two Track" decision offering to negotiate the Pershing IIs away was wrong. "But if you just step into the back rooms of these same government offices for a moment, you will hear the concern, and the screams of the people tearing their hair out."

U.S. pushing for Gulf security alliance

The Turkish government has been officially approached by Washington and asked to join a regional alliance for the defense of the Gulf of Arabia, report sources in Ankara. They said that Washington asked the Turks to send some military units to Mecca and Medina to help protect Saudi Arabia.

The recent request was made as it became clear that Egypt had no intention of sending an active military force into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At present, Egypt has only military advisers stationed in Saudi Arabia.

The Turkish government has not formally replied to the request, and the Turkish sources stress that the project is in doubt, given that the presence of Turkish troops in Mecca might well not be welcome by the

Saudis themselves. Saudi Arabia was once occupied by the Ottoman Empire.

Zambia's Kaunda calls for 'crusade' against poverty

Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, speaking in Rome on Jan. 27, called for intensified efforts to fight poverty and hunger, adding, "There is no doubt at all that the natural resources that exist in the developing countries are abundant enough to feed the existing populations a hundred times over."

Kaunda was addressing the 10th anniversary conference of the International Food and Agriculture Organization.

He called for North-South joint ventures in the developing sector. "Where these exist," he said, "they have shown that our human and natural resources can be developed to the mutual benefit of both the developing and the developed world."

Crocker claims Cubans to withdraw

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Chester Crocker, just back from Luanda, Angola, is claiming that an agreement has been reached on the withdrawal of the 40,000 Cuban troops now stationed in Angola. Asked about reports of continued heavy fighting in Angola, including a siege of one city by Dr. Jonas Savimbi's UNITA guerrillas, Crocker said that there was an "element of realism entering in on many sides, including the Cubans."

He also said that there was, intrinsically a "linkage" between the Cubans leaving Angola and the South Africans pulling their forces out of Namibia. He said this linkage was "confirmed as a reality. . . . It is not a legal principle, but a political reality."

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has attacked the Crocker mission, saying it "served no purpose." He said that the United States, because of its attitude toward South Africa, had "lost all influence," and was acting with "unreliability and vindictiveness."

● **BAVARIAN** and East German officials have met to discuss a joint fight against AIDS, and on Feb. 23, an agreement between West German state of Bavaria and East Germany to cooperate on research and treatment of AIDS will be signed in East Berlin.

● **MEXICAN** presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari met for one hour with Henry Kissinger on Feb. 9, after which the press was told only that "they spoke on themes of common interest."

● **KURT WALDHEIM**, the Austrian President, was found "knowledgeable in general terms," but not guilty of war crimes in the final report of the international historians' commission that has been investigating the charges against him. Members of the commission at a press conference in Vienna Feb. 8 said that their investigative work had not yielded any document proving that Waldheim actively participated in war crimes against civilians while serving in the German army during World War II.

● **PROF. JAKOB SEGAL** of East Berlin accused American AIDS scientist Robert Gallo of artificially creating the AIDS virus while working in the U.S. biological warfare program at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Segal delivered an address in Frankfurt at the invitation of the West German Group of Democratic Physicians. "Gallo is lying" in respect to where the virus originated, he said. Gallo's work on viruses was already very advanced in 1974, said Segal, but "oddly enough, suddenly the reports on his work stopped."

● **PORTUGUESE** Prime Minister Cavalão Silva will visit Washington Feb. 24 for an official working session with President Reagan. The agenda is to include U.S. military aid to Portugal and the future of U.S.-leased bases in the Azores.