

International Intelligence

West Germany's Kohl government is shaky

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl threatened to resign March 22, during a heated cabinet session on a tax reform bill. The media have been saying that if his tax reform fails, he would have to go, and Baden-Württemberg Minister-President Lothar Späth would be the next chancellor, heading up a multi-party "Grand Coalition" which would oversee a corporatist austerity program.

When the three coalition parties got into a hefty dispute over aspects of the tax bill and the whole package was in danger of being paralyzed, Kohl shouted that he was fed up and might as well file his resignation: "I am not everybody's dancing bear, you may look for someone else, then."

Reportedly, the liberal Free Democratic cabinet ministers (who would not be in a Grand Coalition cabinet) suddenly backed down and agreed to Kohl's tax bill, which was passed promptly.

Kohl's spokesman Friedhelm Ost called the resignation threat a "risky step you only do once."

El Salvador: 'We are not a U.S. colony'

El Salvadorans voted against the Christian Democrats and the U.S. State Department's endless war strategy, in municipal and National Assembly elections March 21. The vote shows the potential for any U.S. military intervention in Panama to backfire throughout Central America, triggering an anti-American explosion.

The Republican National Alliance (ARENA) won a majority in the National Assembly, 13 of the 14 mayoral races in provincial capitals, and 200 of the nation's 264 municipalities.

ARENA campaigned on one theme: The United States and its Christian Democratic puppets lack the will to end eight years of civil war, and are turning the war into a business for corrupt politicians. ARENA

leader retired Col. Sigfredo Ochoa, repeated constantly: "If the United States does not want us to run the war, they should send their own troops and send a governor instead of an ambassador to run the country. They have no right to treat us as a colony."

In a defeat to the Soviet-backed FMLN terrorists, who had called for a boycott of the elections, the voter turnout was a high 70%, despite the fact that the terrorists imposed a ban on inter-city transportation, blew up power lines supplying electricity to 80% of the country the night before, and shut down water supplies for several hours.

Prince Philip touts zero population growth

Britain's Prince Philip called for limits to be placed on the size of families, in a speech before the Royal Society of Arts March 23. He questioned the value of medical advances which had contributed to the "population explosion," and attacked the "obsession" with economic growth which is "putting mankind at risk."

The malthusian prince, who is the head of the World Wildlife Fund, did not say whether he or any other member of the Royal Family were planning to forego the benefits of modern medical science.

"There must be an optimum size [of population] which would ensure that all future generations had a fair share of the planet's limited resources," he stated. "Whatever size that population is judged to be, it will have to be kept at about that figure." Referring to advances medical science has made in cutting mortality rates, he said: "Are we justified in doing good when the foreseeable consequence is evil?"

It is certain, stated the prince, that "whatever happens to the human species, Nature will continue on its way without a backward glance at the self-imposed fate of its most successful and intelligent product. . . . The ultimate irony is that . . . the conflicts between rival societies and economic ideologies have destroyed what pretension Man ever had to being a special creation with special responsibility for the rest

of Creation. They have reduced a creature which thought of itself as semi-divine to the level of the simplest organism whose instincts compel them to struggle for survival even to the point of destroying their own habitats in doing so."

Saudis receive first Chinese missiles

Saudi Arabia received its first shipment of CSS-2 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles from China in January, according to a report in the *Washington Times* March 21. U.S. intelligence officials predict the missiles "may become operational within a month."

In response, Israeli cabinet official Yossi Ben Aharon warned March 20 that Israel would act to prevent the missiles from posing a danger to its security. Ben Aharon also asserted that Israel has called on the United States to persuade Saudi Arabia to dismantle the missiles.

In an allusion to the Israeli attack in 1981 on an Iraqi nuclear reactor, Ben Aharon said that Israel has "proved in the past that it is not in the habit of waiting for a potential danger to become an actual danger."

The Saudi government confirmed March 19 that the Chinese missiles were being introduced, but said they will not carry nuclear warheads.

Kim Philby grants first interview in 25 years

For the first time since his defection to the U. S. S. R., KGB Gen. Kim Philby has given an interview to a Western journalist, speaking to the *Sunday Times* of London's Philip Knightley. In the first installment of the interview, published March 20, Philby claims that the very highest levels of the British political-intelligence establishment allowed him to defect from Beirut to the Soviet Union in 1963, to prevent further embarrassing spy scandals for the already beleaguered Harold Macmillan government.

Philby held several posts in British in-

telligence before his defection, including head of the Soviet Desk of MI6. In what should have been a warning to British intelligence, he was kicked out of his post as liaison to the CIA, on suspicion of being a Soviet agent. In the early 1950s, he worked at the British Middle East Office in Cyprus where his specialty was the cultivation of Armenian agents to penetrate the Soviet Union. At the time of his defection, Philby was working as a "journalist" in Beirut.

Philby also revealed in the interview that he was a conspirator in a Soviet plan to kill Germany's Admiral Canaris in 1943, with the aim of prolonging World War II.

Takeshita: Japan will boost its military power

In what commentators describe as a political bombshell, Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita announced, in a speech March 21, that Japan's military power should match its economic strength. Since World War II, Japan has maintained a very small defense force.

"We cannot cope with a military threat or maintain ties with our allies and gain their trust without defense capabilities commensurate with our national power," Takeshita told graduates of the National Defense Academy in Kanagawa prefecture, west of Tokyo.

"No, it wasn't a slip of the tongue, it was exactly what he wanted to say," said a spokesman for the Liberal Democratic Party which Takeshita heads.

Takeshita added that Japan would use its military power for defensive purposes only, and noted that the build-up would be attained within the framework of the Japan-U.S. mutual security treaty.

On March 23, Tsutomu Kawara, director of Japan's Defense Agency, told a special Diet panel considering defense-related bills, "The latent threat to Japan has increased owing to the remarkable buildup of Soviet forces in the Far East in terms of both quality and quantity and the intensification of related activities."

Kawara referenced a report compiled by

his agency in August 1987, which that said deployment of Soviet Far Eastern ground forces had increased by 12 divisions and 90,000 troops from the year before, to a total of 43 divisions comprising 390,000 troops by mid-1987. The Soviet Far East fleet also grew by 85 vessels to a total of 840 vessels, while the number of combat aircraft rose to 2,390 from 2,030, the report said. It also pointed to an improvement in firepower and mobility with the introduction of T-72 tanks, the Kiev-class aircraft carrier and new high-performance aircraft.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, in Manila March 24, denied that Moscow is expanding its military presence in Southeast Asia.

Thailand, Malaysia meet, plan joint war on drugs

Mohd Ghazali bin Yaacob, deputy director of the Malaysian Criminal Investigation Department, and Chavalit Yodmani, secretary general of the Thai Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), met March 15 as part of their countries' regular consultations on drug control and smuggling suppression, according to an article published in the *Nation* of Bangkok on March 16.

Ghazali said drug smuggling overland from the southern Gulf coast provinces in Thailand into Malaysia has increased recently and more attention is needed for that part of the common frontier. Chavalit said drug traffickers have shifted to smuggling drugs from Narathiwat and Pattani provinces on the eastern coast, where Thais and Malaysians trade fish.

The two countries decided to deploy more law enforcement officers at various checkpoints along the border, after the recent Malaysian seizure of drugs there, they said.

Malaysia's prime minister made a strong speech for a war on drugs at the East Asia and Pacific Regional Narcotics Conference March 15, calling for an international effort aimed at crop eradication and the prevention of replanting.

Briefly

● **CHINA'S** National People's Congress, opening on March 25, is expected to be preoccupied with the question of unrest among China's 55 different minority groups. They comprise about 10% of the population, or 70 million people.

● **FRENCH PREMIER** Jacques Chirac, in an interview in *Active Defense* on March 15, said that talks are now under way between France and Great Britain for joint development of an air-launched ballistic missile of 800- to 1,000-km range. Current ALBMs have a range of only 300 km. The purpose, said Chirac, is to "reinforce Europe's nuclear deterrent and, simultaneously, the European pillar of defense."

● **SOCIALIST** International chairman Willy Brandt will meet with Mikhail Gorbachov and other senior Soviet officials in Moscow April 4-6. Brandt is scheduled to discuss "improved cooperation" on arms control, and a proposed Third World Solidarity Fund for debt bail-out which is to be financed through Western defense budget cuts.

● **THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG** voted in favor of the INF treaty and its inspection agreements March 18. The vote was rammed through by acclamation, without debate, upon a special arrangement between the government and party chairmen. The parliamentarians also called on the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty "as soon as possible."

● **STALIN'S DAUGHTER**, Svetlana, called Gorbachov "a naive person," "a loser," and said, "Glasnost is doomed to failure," in an interview with the West German daily *Die Welt*. For his effort to rehabilitate Bukharin and Trotsky, she said Gorbachov will have to "pay a high price." "If there hadn't been Stalin, Gorbachov wouldn't be on top of one of the most powerful countries of the world. . . . What he is doing is ideological suicide."