

International Intelligence

U.S. pressure places Kohl in a trap

U.S. pressure for West Germany to agree to a modernization of NATO nuclear arsenals could lead to the fall of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government, speculates that country's *Süddeutsche Zeitung* daily Feb. 15. The article covered Secretary of State James Baker's trip to Bonn.

Kohl is caught in a trap, the paper writes: Baker demanded that the Lance short-range missile modernization be decided before the U.S. Congress convenes in late spring 1989 to haggle over the next U.S. fiscal budget. Without German agreement, Congress would be likely to stop funding for the modernization, which would mean no Lance follow-ons for the mid-1990s.

But it is politically necessary for Kohl to try to avoid a clear affirmation. He wants the NATO summit in May to postpone the decision into 1991-92, because Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his liberal Free Democrats, Kohl's minority coalition partner, want to leave the "option open for either a yes or a no" for some time into the early 1990s.

Forcing the FDP into a decision for a "yes" now, Kohl told Baker, would split the governing coalition in Bonn, and likely lead to a less "pro-American coalition in power."

Baker told him, as he told Kohl's chancery secretary, Wolfgang Schaeuble, in the United States a week earlier, that a German "no" at this point would risk setting a "very bad precedent on defense budget decisions" for the 1990s.

Hapsburg hailed on return to Hungary

Glasnost just might mean monarchism in the case of Hungary.

Otto von Hapsburg, former pretender to the Austro-Hungarian throne, is to arrive in Budapest, Hungary in late February, for his first official visit, and will become a full-fledged member of a reconstituted Hungarian political party, the Christian Democrats,

the Feb. 14 *Times* of London reported.

At the same time, the paper notes, a Monarchist Party will be formed, which hopes to campaign for Hapsburg's return to political life in Hungary.

Reporter Richard Bassett writes from Budapest: "In an unprecedented step by a Communist government, the ubiquitous symbol of Communist rule throughout the world, the five-pointed red star, is to be removed from the country's escutcheon, flag and public buildings. It will be replaced by the Crown of St. Stephen, last worn by Dr. Hapsburg's father. . . . For the thousands of Hungarians who file past the crown—which is housed in the National Museum—each day, the crown is a potent symbol. When Dr. Hapsburg pays his official visit to the museum next week, there will be many present who will see the symbol of Hungary in its historical context."

Philippines asks U.S. withdrawal of bases

Philippines Vice President Salvador Laurel Feb. 13 called for a phased withdrawal of U.S. military bases in the Philippines over a 10-year period. He urged President Corazon Aquino to open immediate talks on this proposal with Washington, according to a Reuters report.

His statements mark the first time that the government of the Philippines has formally endorsed the "New Yalta" process, under which the State Department, by abandoning these bases, is effectively ceding Asia to a Russian-Chinese condominium.

In a speech to Philippines diplomats, Laurel said, "We cannot forever keep our options open in the naive hope that some well-meaning nation or group of nations will make the decision for us." He said that if Washington regarded the bases as vital for regional security, it should review with Manila "the role of the U.S. bases in the light of the converging bipolar forces toward global peace and nuclear disarmament."

Laurel also called for a meeting of allies within the former Southeast Asian Treaty Organization (SEATO) to discuss regional security. SEATO, dissolved in 1977, was

made up of Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and the United States.

Bush to keep arming Afghans—against whom?

President George Bush has decided to keep arming the Afghan resistance so long as the Soviets continue to back the Najibullah government in Kabul. An administration official said the decision was taken because the Soviets have left so much military hardware behind as they withdraw.

"We said all along that we would support the mujahideen as long as they are supporting the Kabul regime," the aide told Reuters Feb. 11.

The question is, is the Bush administration arming the mujahideen against the Soviets, or against themselves?

A few weeks ago, U.S. State Department director of Afghanistan affairs Robert Flaten stated that the new Afghan government will be "different from any other government anywhere in the world. . . . It probably will be a rather extensively federalized system, in which substantial powers will remain in the provinces and various regions."

London *Guardian* writer Tariq Ali said that this suggested "that Washington would accept a *de facto* segmentation of the country" between Najibullah's Soviet-puppet forces and various warring mujahideen factions.

Salvador military threatens coup

El Salvador's defense minister, Gen. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, told reporters gathered for the Central American Presidents meeting Feb. 13 that if the government postponed presidential elections as per a deal proposed by the FMLN guerrillas, the military would have no choice but to carry out a coup.

"If the President stays one day over his term in the presidency outside of the consti-

tutional order, the armed forces would have the obligation to remove him," said Vides Casanova. "The political parties can talk about what they want. The constitution gives very clear responsibilities" to the military.

The FMLN proposed in January that the government postpone elections from March 19 to Sept. 15, in return for which, the FMLN will participate in those elections, as long as they had guarantees that the leftists could participate freely and fairly and the military pledged to remain in their barracks.

The Duarte government itself is reportedly chary of the offer, but the U.S. State Department is urging the government to "consider" it.

Tokyo rally demands return of the Kuriles

At a rally in Tokyo Feb. 7, representatives of citizens' groups announced that they have collected 47 million signatures on a petition calling for the return of the Soviet-held northern territories of Japan. The Russians have occupied the Kurile Island chain, stretching northward from Japan's Hokkaido Island to the Kamchatka Peninsula, Soviet territory, since the end of World War II.

The islands' occupation has been an immediate cause of bad relations between the Japanese and the Soviets for 40 years. The Tokyo rally made clear that this shall continue to be the case.

Acting Japanese Prime Minister Kichiro Tazawa spoke at the rally, and echoed other speakers in denunciation of the Soviet stance, which "remains as uncompromising as ever. It is extremely regrettable that some 40 years after the close of the war [the Kuriles] remain under Soviet occupation."

The audience consisted of citizens' groups, former Kurile Island residents, government officials, political party representatives, and reporters, including those from three Soviet news agencies.

The rally, and similar rallies at the regional level, is but one sign of resurgent Japanese nationalism. The Japanese Education Ministry recently ordered that, by

1990, all schools must raise the Rising Sun flag and sing an anthem honoring the Emperor. Such observances, which ministry spokesmen said will instill a sense of national pride in young Japanese, are now voluntary.

The Japanese Teachers' Union opposes these measures, which it calls "symbols of those who hope to march in military boots again." The anthem, the Kimigayo, was banned by the occupying Allies after 1945.

Another controversial measure is the Education Ministry's directive that students should learn about 42 national heroes, one of whom is the 1904 Russo-Japanese War hero Adm. Heihachiro Togo. All military leaders were expunged from Japanese textbooks after 1945.

Largest Jewish group ever visits Moscow

Whiskey magnate and grain-for-Jews trader Edgar Bronfman was at the head of a group of 100 Western Jewish leaders who arrived in Moscow Feb. 12. It was the largest delegation of Jewish leaders ever to visit the U.S.S.R., there to attend the opening of a Jewish Cultural Center.

Among them was Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel, who proclaimed the ceremony to be the beginning of a "Jewish reawakening in the Soviet Union," and who praised Gorbachov. Bronfman was also effusive in praise for Gorbachov.

Another attendee was Yuri Lyubimov, the Dostoevskian kook theater director, who had previously "defected" to Israel.

Despite the euphoria of Bronfman et al., various Soviet Jewish "refusenik" groups expressed anger over the event, saying it legitimized Soviet state policy.

Isi Leibler, Australia-based vice president of the World Jewish Congress, dismissed the threat that the extreme anti-Semitic Pamyat Society poses to Jews in the Soviet Union. "A bit of Pamyat hooliganism doesn't worry me," he said. "I'm much more concerned by government and state-supported anti-Semitism."

Who said Pamyat wasn't state supported?

Briefly

● **JAPAN'S** ruling party lost a special election to the Japanese Socialist Party by a landslide Feb. 12, leading to worldwide speculation that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's 15-month-old government is in serious trouble.

● **SRI LANKA** held its first general elections in 12 years Feb. 15, and President Ranasinghe Premadasa claimed victory. More than 400 people were killed in ethnic violence in the four-week campaign period, most by the Sinhala chauvinist JVP organization. Pledging to restore order, Premadasa said, "Those outside the democratic mainstream should now fully realize that people have totally rejected the path of violence."

● **SINGAPORE** Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has called on his people to continue having children. Alarmed by a collapsing birth rate two years ago, authorities reversed their birth control policy and introduced such measures as a \$10,000 tax rebate for families having more than two children. The birth rate jumped 14% in 1987 and 21% in 1988.

● **KAMPUCHEAN** Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Feb. 12 that he had resumed the presidency of the three-faction resistance coalition, the CGDK, in order to give new impetus to regional peace efforts, and because of what he called Thailand's "dangerous policies." Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan recently met with Vietnamese-backed Kampuchean ruler Hun Sen.

● **BENAZIR BHUTTO**, in Beijing during her first trip abroad as prime minister of Pakistan, told a news conference, "There are no Pakistani troops being massed on the border with Afghanistan. We've got enough problems of national integration. We don't need foreign adventures."