

International Intelligence

U.S. and Israel sign SDI contract

The Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative Organization and the Israeli government at the end of March signed a \$35 million contract to jointly build a computer simulation system in Israel which is a key test component of a defense shield against short- and medium-range missile attack. The joint effort, for which the United States is to kick in 72% of the cost, is a followup to an ongoing \$160 million joint anti-ballistic missile defense system, called the Arrow.

The new contract means that Israel has now taken a larger share of the American SDI program than Western Europe.

The *Washington Times* cites growing concern over Arab governments, particularly Iraq, developing both nuclear and chemical weapons as well as intermediate-range missile systems capable of hitting Israel, as a motive for Israel's special interest in the theater defense initiative.

The *Times* also linked the new contract to Israel's September 1988 launch of a fixed orbital satellite, which permits tracking of missile launches and troop movements throughout the region.

'Assad: Satan of the Middle East'

That is the headline in Italy's *La Repubblica* daily April 3, over an interview with Lebanese Interim President Gen. Michel Aoun. Said Aoun, if the West wants to fight against "the nightmare of drugs and terrorism," it has to "help Lebanon" against Syria's Hafez Assad and get Syria out of Lebanon.

Aoun accused Assad of destroying Lebanon. He said: "I want to say clearly, that I never tried to reach a compromise with President Assad. It has always been the Syrian government that is attempting to destabilize the country, organizing attempted assassinations, retaliations, and kidnappings." Lebanon under Syrian domination "has be-

come the base for terrorism and drug-trafficking, but also for destabilizing other areas of the world." He called on the entire world to "help Lebanon put an end to the nightmare of drugs and terrorism financed by the Syrians all over the world."

Asked by the *La Repubblica* correspondent whether he were concerned over the fate of Western hostages held by Syria, Aoun fired back, there are "4 million Lebanese people held hostage by the Syrians. . . . The Syrians host and train all the terrorists. Freeing our national territory from Syrian occupation, we will put an end to the threat to the democracies."

Namibia ceasefire accord on verge of collapse

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha charged that nationalist guerrillas had violated a ceasefire agreement, and threatened to expel a U.N. force which had just started to supervise the transition to independence for the territory, formerly known as South West Africa.

Botha said April 1 that up to 60 guerrillas crossed into Namibia from Angola in defiance of a U.N.-sponsored truce and fought a gun battle with police on the border. He said 38 rebels and two Namibian police officers were killed.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar ordered an immediate investigation of the incident.

Since then, the most extensive fighting in years has been taking place between South African Army forces and guerrillas from the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

A letter from Botha was delivered to Pérez de Cuéllar on April 5, which claimed that armored SWAPO guerrilla units, backed up by Cuban forces, were massing on the Angola-Namibia border. According to Botha, 4,450 SWAPO troops had been deployed since April 1, the first day of implementation of the Angola-Namibia-South Africa accords, into a zone of southern An-

gola in outright violation of the agreements. He charged that the SWAPO violation of the ceasefire agreement had been begun by no later than March 21 when the tank units began moving south to position at bases within 30 miles of the Namibian border.

Meanwhile, representatives of African states have denounced the U.N. for its bungling of the early stages of the independence accords. The African states complained that U.N. administrator Martti Ahtisaari had committed a major blunder by allowing South African regulars to leave their bases in northern Namibia to attack SWAPO forces entering the country from Angola.

Le Figaro attacks U.S. 'New Yalta' plan

"The United States: The Temptation of a New Yalta," is the headline of a feature in France's *Le Figaro* daily April 5. Correspondent Pierre Bocev stresses that the idea of a New Yalta is scarcely new, "it goes back to Henry Kissinger, in the epoch when the White House and the Kremlin converged on their 'special responsibility' for the world. What is new, is that the scenario is very seriously studied at the State Department. In the grand 'strategic reevaluation' which is now going on within the Bush administration, Kissinger's scenario is now being examined, as was just confirmed by James Baker in the *New York Times*."

Even if both Soviet and American spokesmen issue denials that they are seeking to "carve up" Europe or to "make a deal over Europe," "the business is on the order of the day." It is reminiscent of the 15th-century plans by Spain and Portugal to divide up the "New World," but a half-millennium later, it is "the Old World that could find itself on the menu."

The deal is simple, says Bocev: "In sum, Moscow would relax a bit its hold over Eastern Europe, politically and militarily. On the other hand, Washington and the NATO countries would commit themselves to not take advantage of this new 'détente' to ad-

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vance the western position in the European 'glacis' of the Soviet Union. . . ."

He concludes:

"For the United States, a certain liberalization in Eastern Europe, paid for at the price of the guarantee that NATO would not take advantage of this, can have its charms. Accompanied by clear cuts in the military forces of the two alliances which are negotiating now in Vienna, such a scenario would permit the Americans to withdraw partially from Europe. On tiptoe and in good conscience.

"That would be a singular version of the 'common European house' advocated by Moscow: two owners who commit themselves not to raise the rent excessively and agree not to consult the tenants."

Weinberger defends FSX agreement

In a letter to the *Washington Post* published April 3, former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger attacked Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.) for criticizing the U.S.-Japanese FSX fighter jet deal as a "fire sale." The United States is the principal beneficiary of new generation technologies developed by Japan, not to mention significant trade benefits, he said, warning of the consequences of the Bush administration's flip-flopping on the agreement, which was worked out during the closing days of the Reagan administration.

"The FSX deal, as negotiated, is an arrangement of which the seller can be justifiably proud. If Japan scraps its present multibillion-dollar plans to buy AWACS, long-range land-based radars, tanker aircraft, and advanced air defense systems off the shelf from the United States and goes with the Europeans or on its own in the 1990s because the United States cannot be relied upon as a supplier, it might be time for a fire sale. But who will be the customers and who will then step forward and take credit for sinking the FSX deal?"

The Bush administration has sought to revise the agreement in a seeming effort to keep "sensitive American technology" with commercial applications from falling into Japanese hands.

This has led to sharp expressions of irritation and bitterness in Japan, the *New York Times* notes, quoting Japanese officials. "In the short term, this particular issue will be solved. But in the longer term, it will leave a very serious scar in the minds of people who should be cooperating with each other."

Japanese officials complained that the United States seemed to be invoking national security concerns in the case of the FSX simply to gain economic advantage.

London's *Financial Times* was caustic in its comments. "The case against the Bush administration is as follows, that, over the FSX, it is guilty of presumption in the first degree, with grievous sins of vacillation to be taken into account. Almost worse, it has shown itself susceptible to argument based on narrow interest, fear, xenophobia, and—let us not shirk the word—racism."

India prepares new missile test

Indian scientists are preparing to test a long-range ballistic missile that would vastly enhance the country's military and political power, the *New York Times* reported in a front-page article April 4.

"The apparent success of the Indian program comes despite efforts by the U.S. and its allies to restrict the export of technology and goods to countries that might use the technology to buy or develop nuclear missiles. . . . The move is seen as an effort to assert India's military dominance in the region and to show its determination to play a more prominent role in the world.

"If India were successful in developing a ballistic missile with a range of 1,500 miles, it would join a small group of countries—U.S., Soviet Union, Britain, France, China."

● **JAPAN'S** Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita spoke of a "new era" emerging on the Korean peninsula, and of Japan's "deep remorse and regret" for its colonization of the Korean peninsula in the 36 years prior to 1945. Speaking to Japan's parliament March 30, he urged that a direct dialogue with North Korea be established as soon as possible.

● **CHINESE** Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has ruled out Red China's participation in any collective security pact for the region, as proposed by Mikhail Gorbachov. Qian told a press conference in Beijing March 27, "In the Asia-Pacific region, there are vast differences in terms of the level of development, political and social systems, and the cultural and historical backgrounds of the countries involved."

● **VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY**, dissident Soviet writer, said that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was guilty of "spectacular misconceptions" concerning Mikhail Gorbachov. "When the Soviet state wants to change its policies, it changes its personalities—not the other way round. . . ."

● **THE DRUIDS** have a following of more than 100,000 in Great Britain, bigger than that of the Social Democratic Party and the Social Liberal Democratic Party, the *Sunday Times* of London reported April 2. Two leaders of the Mother Earth cult are mounting a legal fight to reverse the decision by English Heritage, not to allow them to celebrate the Summer Solstice at Stonehenge.

● **THE SOVIET UNION** believes there will be a "partial solution" to the Kampuchea conflict by September of this year, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said in Bangkok at the end of March.