

International Intelligence

Romanians renew effort to oust communists

A new alliance was formed by Romania's opposition parties Dec. 15-16, and issued a joint platform demanding the resignation of the communist government of Prime Minister Petre Roman and its replacement with a coalition "government of national unity." The new government would have a non-party prime minister.

At the same time, an alliance of non-parliamentary opposition forces was formed in Bucharest, electing as its chairman Marian Munteanu, leader of the student opposition to the regime of Roman and President Ion Iliescu. The students had been on strike for a week, along with truckers and parts of the industrial work force. Anti-government demonstrations have swept Romania's cities.

On Dec. 18, mass protests occurred in the Bucharest too, for the first time in the latest wave. Anger in the population is extremely high, with the dismal economic situation—food and energy shortages that are as bad or worse than they were under the hated regime of deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, combined with rising unemployment—and the fact that the regime remains a communist one, underlining the fact that Ceausescu's ouster last December was no real revolution.

Israel says Germany should keep out Jews

In a decision which could only be classed as anti-Semitic, the Israeli government at the end of December officially protested against Germany's admission of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union. The note of protest delivered to Bonn attacked what was called "the open door policy of the German government," as occurring against the interests of the state of Israel, the "true home for all Jews."

The Jewish Holocaust Survivors Committee also mailed a note of protest to the

World Jewish Congress, attacking the support of Jewish organizations, especially in Germany, for immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union. The committee declared that Germany is no country for Jews to live in, after the Nazi Holocaust.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Council of Jews in Germany, came out in defense of immigrants from the Soviet Union, however, declaring on Dec. 29 that Germany, which had more than 500,000 Jews before the war, has all the right to build a strong Jewish community again. Galinski said he does not agree with the view of the Israeli government.

Meanwhile, it has been reported from Berlin that among the close to 200 Jewish refugees arriving there every day, more and more are coming from Israel, who had gone there first from the Soviet Union, but didn't like it there.

Some Israelis want negotiations with PLO

Shlomo Lahat, the mayor of Tel Aviv, proposed on Dec. 17 that Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat should come to Israel and negotiate the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories. Israelis have to accept that "the Palestinians are a fact, and Arafat is their leader—even if that is something I don't like," he said, according to a report in the German daily *Die Welt* on Dec. 18. Lahat's remarks caused an angry response from the executive of the Likud party, of which he is a member.

Die Welt also reports a proposal by the former head of the Israeli military intelligence agency, Professor Harkabi, that Israel pull out of all the occupied territories, because peace could not be achieved otherwise. In a recent study, Harkabi said that in view of the resurgence of the Intifada, "there is no choice between good and bad options. There is only a choice between bad and worse options."

From the opposition Labor Party, Yossi Beilin, a protégé of former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, called on Dec. 10 for the

creation of a fully sovereign Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip at first, which could then be joined by the Palestinians of the West Bank, if they so desire. Beilin, speaking in the name of the Labor Party's Mashov Circle, said that such a state would be demilitarized, but there would be no other limitation placed on it. It would be entitled to full membership in the United Nations, would send ambassadors to other countries, and would function in every way as a separate country.

The Dec. 12 *Jerusalem Post* noted that the Beilin proposal has provoked an uproar within the Labor Party. Peres himself has not associated himself with the plan, even though Beilin has been a senior Peres aide for years.

Environmental Nazis kill people to save elephants

Alleged "poachers" are being shot on sight in Kenya's national parks by environmental police, in an effort to stop elephant poaching, the *Washington Times* reported on Dec. 19. More people than elephants have been killed in recent months, thanks to this environmental vigilante squad.

Anthropologist Richard Leakey has created a formidable paramilitary environmental police that shoots trespassers on sight. According to the *Times*, Leakey has "directed a small war that killed more than 50 poachers in the first six months alone. He organized a revitalized anti-poaching force of 300 men, armed with 300 NATO-issue G-3 automatic carbines, 100,000 rounds of ammunition, plus a license, as he puts it, to 'get on and fight.'"

Said Leakey when his campaign began, "It is my hope that within the next few weeks the press will not ask permission to film dead elephants but dead poachers."

Leakey's crack environmental police is part of the Kenya Wildlife Service, which, the *Washington Times* relates, "is a state within a state. Mr. Leakey can shoot people, has his own intelligence service and money to spend on it, and can prosecute whom he likes. His kingdom is vast. The Tsavo game

Briefly

park alone is the size of Connecticut." Leakey has also received help and weaponry from international environmental groups. The World Wildlife Fund has provided helicopters so that intruders can be shot from the air. They use anti-personnel mines, grenade launchers, and other heavy weaponry against suspected poachers. Although there are no precise figures, Leakey's paramilitary squads have killed several hundred suspects.

In Kenya, elephants trample the crops, eat the food, and destroy entire villages. People are forced to kill them just to preserve their own food supply, and to earn a bit of income from the ivory.

Peruvian general escalates war on drugs

Three Air Force bombers were deployed to the airport in the jungle town of Tarapoto, Peru in December, assigned to enforce a new anti-narcotics policy announced by the Political-Military Command of the San Martín department on Dec. 19. Under the new policy, any airplane flying over the department which refuses to identify itself, will be captured or destroyed.

The policy was announced one day after Army Gen. Mario Britto returned to duty as head of military operations in the Upper Huallaga Valley, the center of narcotics trafficking in the country, where terrorist groups have established strongholds. The general had spent the last three months recuperating from grave wounds received on Oct. 19, 1990, when terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) had attempted to kill him. The MRTA, which brags that it finances its operations through the drug trade, has established an alliance with coca-growers in the Upper Huallaga Valley.

Unlike his predecessor as commander of military operations in the region, General Britto has refused to adopt the suicidal strategy pushed by Washington and his own government of separating the war against drugs from the war against terrorism. General Britto has combined tough military actions

against drugs and terrorists alike, with a campaign to develop the economic infrastructure in the valley. Just before the MRTA attack upon him, Britto reached an agreement with the Tarapoto Chamber of Commerce on the construction of a highway connecting Tarapoto with the town of Yurimaguas, to break the isolation which makes both towns vulnerable to the narco-terrorists.

Haiti's new President is headed for trouble

Before his election as President of Haiti on Dec. 16, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide had focused his campaign on purging the country of the Tontons-Macoutes, the goon squads of the Duvalier family dictatorship.

Roger Lafontant, the leader of the Macoutes, now vows to "fight against Aristide's victory. The election was a farce. We will fight to take power by legal and not violent means." He claimed that Aristide was "a communist, a terrorist with a psychotic disorder, and is not qualified, has no experience or ability." The Macoutes have made several assassination attempts against Aristide in the past.

Aristide has gained widespread support among the masses of slum dwellers with his liberation theology and attacks on the rich. A businessman calls him "a cross between Ayatollah Khomeini and Fidel Castro."

The Tonton-Macoutes were restrained from preventing the elections by an army of foreign observers led by Jimmy Carter who, along with the U.S. State Department, ensured the quick recognition of Aristide's victory. Carter is now pressuring Aristide to appoint his main opponent in the elections, former World Bank official Marc L. Bazin, as his prime minister.

But World Bank policies are guaranteed to worsen Haiti's economic crisis, and could even lead to civil war. Even the runaway shops, which came to Haiti for cheap labor, have been fleeing the corruption and disorder, and *Newsweek* commented on Dec. 17 that "Haiti's only healthy industry is cocaine smuggling."

● **ANDRE GIRAUD**, the former French defense minister, declared in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo on Dec. 16 that all talk of an Iraqi nuclear bomb capability, whether imminent or five years away, is a "total lie." He warned that any war in the Gulf would be a "protracted" conflict, and it would be a "grave error to underestimate Iraqi ground troops."

● **THE GULF CRISIS** is over the issue of oil, nothing else, wrote Herbert Kremp, chief editor of the German daily *Die Welt*, on Dec. 20. When the West talks about "international law," he wrote, "it is praying into its own pious ears. The U.S.A., the EC, the Japanese all think about nothing else but oil, the modern-day cotton, and about the balance of powers that guarantee its flow. Every other commentary is hypocrisy."

● **FIDEL CASTRO** warned Dec. 21 that the Soviet Union was facing civil war, and that Western-backed internal forces want to "sweep away socialism" and undermine Soviet relations with Cuba. Speaking to the Cuban Students Federation, Castro charged that "there are forces which want to dismantle the Soviet Union and wipe it off the map."

● **TAIWAN** President Lee Teng-hui announced that the state of war between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic on the mainland will be ended by May 1991, BBC reported Dec. 25. This move will lead to the "peaceful" reunification of China, Lee said.

● **THE POPE** announced a new encyclical on the social problems of the 20th century, during a mass at St. Peter's Basilica on New Year's Day. He also proclaimed 1991 the Year of the Social Teaching of the Church, and urged Catholics to become more familiar with the Church's social doctrine.