

International Intelligence

Kazakhstan rejects U.S.-Russian deal

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev called the proposals for nuclear cooperation worked out by Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin "unacceptable," in an interview with the Vienna daily *Die Presse*, published on Feb. 6.

Nazarbayev said that the Bush-Yeltsin deal has to be opposed because it is a secret agreement between the United States and Russia, details of which were not made known to the government or military leaders of Kazakhstan and the other republics of the Community of Independent States (CIS).

Nazarbayev declared: "The way these proposals look now, the United States has a big advantage—three against one—over the other side. This is unacceptable. My view is that the CIS should have parity with the U.S.A. in numbers of nuclear warheads. We can't accept any disadvantage. This is a message I will convey to President Bush in Washington, D.C. during our meeting which will take place in the coming months. I will also convey the same message to Yeltsin."

Greek Church calls for break with Vatican

An attack of unprecedented violence has been launched by the Greek Orthodox Church against Pope John Paul II personally, to the point of officially asking the Greek government to break relations with the Vatican.

On Feb. 4 the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Church stated: "The time has come to condemn the deceitful tactic of Rome which aims at upgrading the Pope's position and consolidating his role in world affairs. . . . The role of the Pope has proven to be neither sincere nor fraternal toward the Orthodox churches of the East, but rather has been underhanded and self-interested."

On Feb. 5, the Vatican answered through its official spokesman Joaquín Na-

varro Valls: "These are groundless charges that take no account of facts. . . . Statements like these make one think of prejudices fostered by groups that have placed themselves outside Christian thought."

The Orthodox rage concerns the role of Eastern Rite Catholics, or Uniates, who recognize the authority of the Pope while using Orthodox ritual. The Greek Synod accused the Pope of using the Uniates to expand his authority in former Yugoslavia, Romania, and Ukraine.

The Vatican spokesman said the Holy See was particularly surprised by the remarks concerning these Catholics, describing them as a decimated community that had endured incredible suffering under communist rule. They were driven underground by Stalin, and their churches were handed over to the Russian Orthodox Church. The Uniates suffered a similar fate in Romania.

The Vatican spokesman said that Roman Catholicism would continue its dialogue with the Orthodox churches and remain full of hope.

Orthodox churches boycotted the first synod of Catholic bishops from eastern and western Europe called by the Pope last November.

Egypt denounces 'the old power game'

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa denounced President Bush's new world order as "the old power game," in an address before the German Foreign Policy Association in Bonn, on Feb. 5. He criticized the slow progress of the Mideast peace talks, as losing precious time for stabilizing that region before it would, again, turn into a major crisis hotspot, along with the other crises emerging right now in the Caucasus and the Balkans.

Moussa criticized the United States most of all, but also the other western powers, for not addressing the problem of the Israeli nuclear arsenal. Israel cannot be permitted to cement its status as the only nuclear power in the Middle East, he said. There should,

rather, be nuclear disarmament throughout the region.

The Bush project has to be rejected, the Egyptian foreign minister said, because it is just another one of these "arrangements among a few powers only."

Egypt fully supported the Bush administration when the "new world order" was launched by means of the genocidal war against Iraq last year. Could it be that Cairo has finally realized that the same brutality used against Iraq, will now be used against the rest of the Third World?

Dalai Lama says Tibet will be liberated

Tibet will be liberated "from China's clutches in 5-10 years," and China is destined to meet the same fate as the U.S.S.R., Tibet's Dalai Lama said in India on Jan. 30, the *Hindustan Times* reported.

"The Tibetan problem can be solved through non-violent dialogue and negotiation, and both China and India will benefit from the liberation of Tibet," he said. India will have to play the role of Tibet's "political and cultural guru" after liberation, he said.

The Dalai Lama said that he had already formulated a Constitution for Tibet with an elected body to rule the country until it achieved independence (he himself would take only a religious role). He said that the Chinese occupation was not acceptable to his people, and regretted that India had not politically supported the Tibetans in liberating themselves, as it had the cause of the Palestinians and the blacks of South Africa. Tibet would act as a "buffer state" between India and China, he pointed out, noting that India had had no problems with China until the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1949-50.

Is Russia's Pamyat rehearsing for a coup?

A militant wing of the Russian chauvinist and anti-Semitic group Pamyat is rehearsing a new coup and the assassination of Presi-

dent Boris Yeltsin and other leaders of Russia, investigative journalist Vladimir Ruga reported from Moscow in the German daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* on Feb. 5.

The militants, operating in a group called Russian National Unity, are led by Aleksandr Barkashov, vice chairman since 1986 of the Pamyat organization. For some time, he has charged that the leadership of the organization, and especially its chairman, Dmitri Vasiliyev, lacks the "militant" spirit required to save Russia from the "Jewish-penetrated" power caste that has kept the Russian nation under control since 1917.

Barkashov told Ruga that there are 150 committed fighters around him, organized in cells of seven or eight, which will reach for their weapons when the time comes. "Now that chaos and disintegration of the state's power are determining the situation, we can solve all problems of everyday life: distribution of food, supply of electricity and heating, law and order in the streets. We are committed to working hand in hand with the Soviet Army, which is the one institution among all to take over the most important functions of the state," he said.

González calls for probe of Basque terror

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe González has demanded, under tremendous public pressure, that prosecutors and judges investigate Herri Batasuna (HB), the party which serves as the legal front for the Basque terrorist group ETA. He said this hours after an ETA bomb attack on Feb. 6 caused five deaths in the center of Madrid.

Only three days before, newspapers leaked that officialdom believed that ETA "was practically certain to open a two-month period with no terrorist attacks" in order to "renew dialogue" with the government.

On Feb. 6, the government made known that there had been laid before the Supreme Court documents concerning the involvement of Herri Batasuna in collecting the so-called "revolutionary tax," an extortion

racket which holds the Basque provinces in an iron grip. Were the Supreme Court to remit negative findings to the Constitutional Court, the procedure to outlaw HB would start. Immediately, however, the president of the Constitutional Court, Fco. Tomas y Valiente, said that "to outlaw Herri Batasuna would be a political mistake. From a legal standpoint, it would be hard to attribute to Herri Batasuna crimes committed by individual members of that party." Most of the other Basque political parties said the same.

Dissent emerges again in Communist China

A call for the formation of a political trade union movement in China, along the lines of Poland's Solidarnosc, was mailed out to 2,000 people and institutions, Reuters reported on Feb. 4. The article quoted Chinese sources calling the anti-government manifesto "one of the boldest acts of dissent in nearly three years."

The group is calling itself the China Free Union Preparatory Committee. Its manifesto said in part: "Ten years ago, Poland's Solidarity Union was established. Now it has won a decisive victory. China's Free Union has now been formed and 10 years from now we will also win a decisive victory. . . . The China Free Union will certainly triumph and those who suppress the Free Union are doomed to fall from power. . . . Under the dictatorial rule of the Chinese Communist Party, any kind of so-called reform of economic systems is without doubt empty talk. After every political movement there is a short period of economic recovery, but every economic recovery is smothered by a new political movement. This is the base that the Chinese Communist Party relies upon for its existence. There is nothing accidental about this, it is deliberate."

The sources told Reuters they expect that more than 70% of the letters they sent will be turned over to the police, but they hope that news of their organization will spread. Their goal is to have Free Unions spring up in workplaces around the country, undermining the state's control of workers.

● **EZER WEIZMAN**, the former Israeli defense minister, quit politics on Feb. 3. "After serious consideration I have decided to resign my post in the Knesset and to leave political life," Weizman said. "I am resigning today with concern for the fate and face of Israel in the coming years. Today I cannot stop worrying deeply that the path we are taking is not leading to peace but to a dead end behind which is the horror of war."

● **OFFICERS** for the Rebirth of Russia was founded on Jan. 21, by a sizable group of officers representing 42 Russian military organizations, the *Jerusalem Post* reported on Feb. 3. The group issued a statement saying that it was impossible to divorce the Army from politics, because "we cannot defend our social rights without entering politics."

● **A PALESTINIAN** on trial by Israeli authorities on the West Bank died in prison as a result of torture by his interrogators, according to news reports on Feb. 4. On the day before his death, the victim's lawyer had charged in court that his client and several others were being tortured. The International Red Cross has demanded that the Israeli government comply with international regulations protecting prisoners.

● **A POLICE REPORT** unambiguously implicated Syria in the 1989 bombing of Pan American Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, according to Scots MP Tam Dalyell. The official British position is that there is "no evidence" of countries other than Libya being involved.

● **KUWAIT** and the United Kingdom have signed a joint defense pact, which also provides for billions of dollars of potential weapons orders from Britain. British military personnel will also be involved in rebuilding the Kuwaiti army.