Khmer Rouge violates accords in Cambodia

The head of the United Nations forces in Cambodia expressed "growing frustration" with Khmer Rouge obstruction of the peace accord signed in Paris last year, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported on April 9. The Khmer Rouge killed an estimated 3 million Cambodians during its 1975-79 reign. Now it is refusing the U.N. access to territory under its control, and is continually violating the cease-fire, U.N. representative Yasuki Akashi said, adding that he would take his grievances to the U.N. Security Council if necessary.

Khmer Rouge head Khieu Samphan is adamant that the U.N. must first establish control—an issue Akashi holds should not be allowed to stop the U.N. agreement.

Indian newspaper reports abuses against LaRouche

New Delhi's leading Sunday newspaper, the Sunday Mail, on April 5 carried a report on the U.S. government's political targeting and prosecution of Lyndon LaRouche. Titled, "U.S. Presidential Election: LaRouche—a Maverick Politician," the article concentrates on the illegitimately by the government cited in the motion by the defense for a new trial, filed on Jan. 22, 1992.

The author describes LaRouche's political-economic views in the following way: "The IMF-World Bank combine, he says, is really a continuation of the Versailles Treaty, in that they are instruments by which the big powers seek to carve out geopolitical spheres of influence. They serve to keep the Third World countries pauperized. Since he believes in the right of these nations to development, he carries on a campaign against the environmentalist lobby, which, according to him, stands in the way of their progress. He holds no brief for the "limits to growth" theory propounded by the Club of Rome. Such theories, he says, do not understand the capabilities of science and technology to change economic parameters. This obviously made him very popular in the Third World, especially Latin America."

The author reports that LaRouche's conviction in 1989 "climaxed a sustained effort to discredit him and his political movement." She notes that LaRouche visited India twice and met with Mrs. Indira Gandhi on both occasions. She adds that the victory of two LaRouche supporters in May 1986 in the Illinois Democratic primary "worried the Establishment and a systematic effort to 'Get LaRouche' was launched which climaxed in a frameup resulting in his indictment, trial, and conviction."

Foul play in Arafat airplane crash?

Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat escaped only slightly wounded from a plane crash in the southern Libyan desert on April 7, in which three crewmen died. According to PLO sources, the plane was caught in a sandstorm, and had to make an emergency landing; for 12 hours, Arafat was missing.

While no accusations of foul play have been made, and sandstorms are frequent in the region, it is remarkable that the incident followed close on the heels of an interview given by Arafat to a Russian journalist, in which he cited his concerns for his personal security.

In an April 8 interview with Komsomolskaya Pravda's special correspondent Dmitri Kulik, Arafat said, "I wouldn't call my security system the world's best," Arafat told the journalist, "but I do think that it's up to me, and no one else, to take care of my safety. For example, no person around here knows where exactly I will be sleeping tonight. I will tell the address to my driver when I am inside my car. This is no persecution mania: You may know that nearly all of my best friends and colleagues have been murdered by our enemies. Suffice it to name Abu Idyad, and Jihad..."

"[Israel's Ariel] Sharon personally tried to kill me 13 times, to say nothing of the attempts made by other enemies... You may remember my residence in Tunis was blown up. Any moment I may expect to be poisoned or become the target of a sudden blow—any security system would be helpless in that event. But I am proud nothing of the kind has ever been attempted by the people I trust."

French jurists reject 'right of force'

In the context of threats of military intervention against Libya and Iraq, a group of French jurists called a press conference on March 18 in Paris on "The Rights of Nations versus the Right of Force." Participating were Maitre Coutant-Peyre, Maitre Pernet, Prof. Robert Charvin of Nice, and geneticist Albert Jacquard, a member of the National Committee on Medical Ethics.

Coutant-Peyre explained the reasons behind their decision to found an association: "We are presently witnessing a deformation of the principles of law and the basic texts by whose intention is to use force"—and who are motivated increasingly, as the Gulf war proved, by racist and xenophobic convictions.

"As legal professionals, we are concerned with precision, and hence, with equality before the law," she said. "But, they want to make us swallow a two-speed principle of sovereignty: one, the untouchable, for the sole remaining superpower and its allies in the western world, and the other, contingent and limited, for the nations of the Third World. We are seeing the surfacing of a true international police force, led by the great powers."

Charvin, a specialist in international law who had returned from a mission to Libya, explained that Libya is perfectly right to refuse to extradite two of its nationals accused of terrorism, and to insist upon trying them in its own judicial system. "The Mediterranean is in the process of becoming a new..."
Israeli organized crime reported on the rise

"Will Israel become an Eldorado of the Jewish underworld?" asks the German-language left-liberal Jewish monthly Semit in its February-March issue. It reports that Frankfurt real estate shark and mobster Josef "Joschi" Buchmann, who reportedly was the late organized crime kingpin Meyer Lansky's front-man in Frankfurt, has announced that he will leave Germany for Israel, because he considers public allegations of his ties to organized crime a sign of "increasing anti-Semitic tendencies" in the country.

Since Buchmann's crony Hersh Beker also fled Frankfurt for Israel because of an arrest warrant against him, the paper wonders whether "Israel is becoming an Eldorado for the Jewish underworld from all over the world... Anyway, Meyer Lansky was extradited by the Israeli authorities to the U.S. Will they extradite Jews to Germany too? We will be eager to learn."

German Jewish leader defends Chancellor Kohl

In a commentary published by the Bonn daily Die Welt on April 8, German Jewish philosopher Pinchas Lapide called the World Jewish Congress's protest against Chancellor Helmut Kohl's recent meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim a "tempest in a teapot," as compared to the real problems that are posed in the former U.S.S.R., the Balkans, and the Middle East.

Kohl had every right to meet with Waldheim, Lapide wrote, especially as no hard proof has ever been produced to substantiate the many charges that have been made against Waldheim.

Kohl has done a lot for Israel, but it is useless to argue about that with people like those of the World Jewish Congress, Lapide said, saying that manifestations of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism in Germany are part of a pattern of similar developments in France around Jean-Marie Le Pen and in the United States around David Duke and Pat Buchanan.

"Being a survivor of Nazi camps and a Jewish soldier who had to fight the German Wehrmacht for years in the sands of North Africa," Lapide wrote, "I learned this from my teacher and friend David Ben-Gurion, the founder of the state of Israel: 'There is a new, another Germany, which we can trust.'"

Pope sends envoy to assess Iraqi shortages

Pope John Paul II has sent a delegation to Iraq led by Msgr. Alois Wagner, vice president of the Cor Unum pontifical council. A Vatican release explains that "the mission was decided upon by the Pope to express further his solidarity... with the Iraqi population and with all those who have been hit by the consequences of the Gulf war."

Other members of the mission, which left Vatican City on April 4, are Monsignor Guggerotti, Gerhard Meier (Caritas International), and Father Adeli (Caritas-Jordan).

On April 3, Baghdad Catholic Patriarch Raphael Bidawid had stated on Vatican Radio that the embargo imposed against Iraq is "genocide." "How can a human conscience accept such a situation," he asked, "of malnutrition due to lack of food, insufficient public health care due to lack of medicine, paralyzed hospitals, the elderly, the children who die everyday by the hundreds?" The U.N. embargo, Bidawid charged, "has not hit an army or a regime, but a people, a population that suffers and keeps suffering."

SOUTH AFRICAN President F.W. De Klerk was stoned as he attempted his first campaign rally in one of South Africa's black townships. De Klerk's National Party had announced that it intended to broaden its political base by seeking support among the country's non-white majority.

IRAQI AUTHORITIES agreed on April 7 to allow U.N. inspectors to begin destroying Iraq's alleged nuclear weapons production facility at al-Atheer, 25 miles south of Baghdad. Computers, refrigerators, centrifuges, even buildings were destroyed—every structure except the cafeteria.

THE BAADER MEINHOF terrorist group announced in a letter to Agence France Presse that it is going to stop throwing bombs, since the group's underground supporters no longer support this strategy. The letter says that the group will continue its work with other tactics. Anti-terrorist experts have said that the letter is apparently authentic, but more investigations are ongoing.

THE BEIJING Institute for International Strategic Studies hosted a meeting on Asian security the week of April 6. In attendance were Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, former U.S. secretary of defense Frank Carlucci, former chairman of Japan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Masao Ishii, and Sergei Rogov, deputy director of the Russian Federation Institute of U.S.-Canadian Studies.

UNITED NATIONS Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali on April 14 lauded China, at the annual meeting of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the first held in China since 1949. He cited "China's commitment to the promotion of international cooperation and multilateralism and the role of China in promoting awareness of the problems and needs of the Third World," but said nothing about human rights issues.