

International Intelligence

Opposition leaders forced to leave Uzbekistan

Abdurakhim Pulatov, co-chairman of the opposition Birluk party in Uzbekistan, and Mirolym Adylov were beaten in Tashkent by 10 men with iron rods, Pulatov charged in an interview July 29. After receiving some treatment at one hospital, they were denied further treatment by the authorities and were ultimately forced to leave Uzbekistan secretly. The attacks occurred after Birluk had announced a rally for July 2 in Tashkent, the opening day of the Uzbeki Parliament.

According to Pulatov, Birluk's differences with Parliament and President Islam Karimov center around the fact that the Parliament is 90% communist. Pulatov noted, "Karimov is concerned that the winds of change can sweep through Uzbekistan," which is why "he is seeking to consolidate his grip on power by Uzbekistan's active participation in the CIS [Community of Independent States] and the use of CIS military structures."

Pulatov, who favors closer relations with Azerbaijan, said that "Karimov's state counselor Oman Movchan said at a recent meeting . . . that the . . . attempt on Birluk leaders had allegedly been staged by Russian democrats to destabilize the situation in Uzbekistan." He added that Birluk was "concerned that the Russian leadership with Yeltsin at the head, is inching closer to ugly regimes in the Central Asian republics."

An interview with Anvar Usmanov, a Birluk representative, appeared in *EIR* on July 17.

Poland's Suchocka wants power to rule by decree

Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka wants special powers to rule by decree, and seems confident that a two-thirds parliamentary majority will back such measures. She is expected to present her initiative for a formal vote in the Sejm shortly.

Suchocka has repeatedly declared that she will not discuss a change in economic austerity policies and the government's loy-

alty to the agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)—the two issues at the top of the workers' agenda.

The support of Labor Minister Jacek Kuron for Suchocka's initiative has been crucial. Kuron is a longstanding asset of Anglo-American interests in Poland and a leading figure in the Solidarnosc movement which has backed the austerity. Kuron has been one of the first in the new Polish cabinet to insist that no concessions be made to labor demands. Suchocka has also received the blessing of President Lech Walesa for special powers.

Faced with government rejection of their demands for talks with the 39,000 striking copper miners in southern Poland, workers at the big mine at Lignice began a hunger strike on July 30 to escalate their protest.

Khmer Rouge want war, says Cambodia minister

Cambodia Foreign Minister Hor Namhong warned that the Khmer Rouge want war and asked for U.N. help to fight them. "The Khmer Rouge have never changed their main objective—to take over by any means," he said, Reuters reported Aug. 1. Even if the Maoists returned to the U.N.-backed peace process, he said, this would only delay the resumption of the guerrilla war.

The foreign minister called for "economic sanctions, international efforts, and changing the role of UNTAC soldiers from peacekeepers to peace-enforcers." He also said that Phnom Penh's Army was willing to do the fighting but would like technical assistance and supplies from the U.N. He called on the two other factions, the royalist Sihanoukists and the anti-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), who were allied with the Khmer Rouge through the civil war, to ally themselves with Phnom Penh. "It would be suicide for these two factions to rejoin the Khmer Rouge," he said.

Australian Sen. Chris Schacht, chairman of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade, called on the U.N. to wage war in Cambodia, in remarks in Bangkok on July 30. "I don't believe that

the U.N. or the rest of the world should be held to ransom by the Khmer Rouge. I think that their tactics are partly bluff and the bluff ought to be called," he said. If the group continued in its refusal, he said that the U.N. would have to order its troops into Khmer Rouge zones.

Indonesia ups defense in face of Chinese threat

Indonesia has upgraded the defense of its South China Sea islands in the face of Chinese aggression. "We should strengthen the Natuna Islands, which have more oil and gas resources than any other Indonesian islands," President Suharto's secretary for development control, Solihin Gautama, told the Indonesian news agency Antara on Aug. 1.

The Natuna Islands are not contested, but they lie just south of the vast area over which China has begun to aggressively assert its claim.

The government would increase its naval and air presence and try to improve the local economy, Gautama said. "We must never let the Natunas be powerless because the territory is very important to our security and defense strategies."

Indonesia is still negotiating with Exxon Corp. to develop the natural gas reserves in the area. Proven gas reserves are 150 trillion cubic feet (4.2 million cubic meters), but 70% is carbon dioxide.

Beijing Review: Africa is 'force-fed' pluralism

The July 27 issue of the official Chinese journal *Beijing Review* charged that the West has forced changes on Africa which have hurt the continent economically and socially, rather than helped, Reuters reported July 31.

"In a clamorous sea change of political systems, country after country has swung from one-party or military rule to multi-party politics over the past three years. Even Tanzania, a country reputed as a 'land of tranquility,' failed to abstain from this temptation," the article read. "A broad-based

Briefly

urge to escape from the current sorry state of things by whatever means has led many African nations to rashly adopt drastic measures for change. This trend has made it much easier for the developed nations to force-feed their former colonies with western-fashioned values and models, both economic and political."

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were named as culprits in this process. "Many African countries, including Benin, the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Cameroon, and Kenya, were forced to bow to this pressure, although some did so reluctantly. . . . Almost without exception, boycotts, demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins, and violence have accompanied political change in those countries agitating for pluralism. These setbacks have ruptured the social fabric and sidelined economic reconstruction," it read.

"On the economic front, the introduction of pluralism and economic liberalization hasn't worked wonders in delivering bread and butter to the hungry. On the contrary, life is getting even harder for the average person."

China may offer 'autonomy' to Tibet

Pro-independence Tibetans in India said on July 29 that Beijing had offered to hold talks on autonomy with their representatives, Reuters reported. A 46-member Tibetan parliament-in-exile in India began discussions on July 28 on the latest Chinese offer but there was no word that any decision has been reached.

The Chinese move came after Beijing officials received Gyalo Dondrup, a brother of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, in June. The Dalai Lama's chief spiritual adviser, Thupten Ngodub, said Dondrup's talks had led to "substantive progress" toward a China-Tibet settlement. Ngodub said the Dalai Lama would agree to hold autonomy talks with the Chinese "if the Tibetan people would agree to such a solution."

"We are fighting for complete independence from China which the Chinese are not going to give. Clearly, there has to be a

compromise," Ngodub said.

However, Tibetan deputy Karma Gyatsho said the gesture was apparently motivated by fears that the Tibetan independence movement could spread to other provinces. "They have been under considerable pressure from a pro-independence struggle in Mongolia and Xinjiang provinces. Both have sought our assistance," he said. Gyatsho warned that the incipient movements could be greatly harmed if the Tibetans held talks with Beijing.

Tibetan officials said the Dalai Lama had met several dissident leaders from Xinjiang and Mongolia in recent months. "They have sought the help of His Holiness [the Dalai Lama] in organizing and leading them in their struggle for independence. Unlike us, these movements are small and disorganized," said Migyur Dorjee, the Dalai Lama's representative in New Delhi.

Pope urges 'rediscovery' of Christian roots

Pope John Paul II called on Europe to "rediscover" its "Christian roots" in order to "play its noble role in the world," in his "Intentions" for August 1992. The Pope recommended that all Christians pray during the month of August for Europe's reawakening, the July 31 *Arlington (Va.) Catholic Herald* reported.

"The Pope's intent here is not the good of Europe alone, but Europe's call to 'be open to the world's problems everywhere,'" the paper reported.

"The Christian roots he summons are not solely interior, but are embodied in Europe's culture, science, and art, which it has the mission to spread. 'The stakes,' he says, 'are the destiny of the church and the world at this end of the 20th century.'"

The article concluded, "But the culture of Europe has since been sickened by a turning from God that makes a subjective wasteland of values. These divide rather than unite people, and turn culture itself into a wasteland. Europe needs a new Christian awakening to recover itself and play its noble role in the world."

● **THE GREEK** Parliament ratified the Maastricht Treaty for European Union on July 31, with 286 of the 300 members voting in favor, Reuters reported. There was little public debate on the treaty, which would set up a nationless free trade bureaucracy. Polls showed that 57% of Greeks thought it would be beneficial, while only 12% considered it negative.

● **YITZHAK RABIN**, the newly elected prime minister of Israel, will attend a meeting of the Socialist International on Mideast problems in Bonn in September, on the personal invitation of former German Chancellor Willy Brandt. Talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other cabinet members are also scheduled.

● **THE FIRST** Soviet-built SU-27 jet fighters have been deployed in eastern China, reported CNA in Taipei. The former Soviet Union agreed to sell 24 SU-27 fighters to Beijing when Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin visited Moscow in May 1991.

● **SOME GOVERNMENTS**, mostly western, developed countries, have stated they intend to try to get Unicef to start distributing contraceptives, said John Klink, of the Vatican U.N. mission, the July 30 Catholic News Service reported. If such a policy is adopted, "We would have to totally reassess our entire relationship" with Unicef, he warned.

● **BOSNIAN** Eyup Ganic, special envoy of President Alija Izetbegovic, asked Turkey to send troops for its struggle against the Serbs, in talks with Turkish Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel in Ankara on July 27. Mesut Yilmaz, speaker of the opposition in the Turkish parliament and foreign minister in the past government, endorsed military intervention.

● **K.R. NARAYANAN**, a former diplomat who places great importance on science and technology to tackle India's problems, will be the candidate of India's ruling Congress party in next month's vice presidential elections.