

Schneider

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INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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RELEASED IN FULL

SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Soviet Union

Rights Update (INR Review and Analysis). Moscow continues its campaign of linking dissidents, treason, and contact with foreigners. TASS announced on April 10 that Leonid Lubman, a 42-year-old resident of Leningrad, was convicted recently of treason for having passed classified documents and recommendations on subversive activities to a "foreign intelligence service." The announcement comes in the wake of recent Soviet press replays of 1976 allegations that a number of American news correspondents engaged in espionage activities while stationed in Moscow.

In other dissident developments, Andrey Sakharov reported that Peter Vins, son of imprisoned Baptist leader Georgy Vins, has been sentenced to a year in prison on charges of parasitism. The trial and conviction of the younger Vins follows the recent sentencing and exile of two fellow members of the Ukrainian branch of the Helsinki Monitoring Group.

In Moscow, Antonia Agapova was reported to be in "extremely serious condition" following an attempted suicide. Along with her daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Agapova had attempted unsuccessfully to flee via Finland to Sweden to join her son, who defected from the Soviet Union in 1974.

The Israeli Embassy has disclosed that 2,038 Soviet Jewish emigrants arrived in Vienna during March, the highest monthly Vienna arrival figure since January 1974. Total Jewish emigration via Vienna for the first three months of this year was 5,611, an increase of 68 percent over the figure for the same period last year. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

Bulgaria

Dissident "Declaration 78" Publicized. The Vienna newspaper, Die Presse, reported on April 4 the emergence of a dissident group in Bulgaria which has published a human rights tract entitled "Declaration 78." The document contains a six-point statement of "protest against forms and methods of government" in Bulgaria which violate "human, civil, and political rights." The document also rebuts Bulgarian media charges of moral corruption in the West by charging that Bulgaria has its own equally corrupt pop culture. (UNCLASSIFIED, New York Times and Washington Post, April 4; CONFIDENTIAL, Sofia 447, March 13)

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INR Comment: We share the Embassy's view that the document's impact is lessened by the fact that it is unsigned. It does not appear to have had any resonance in Bulgaria, and more than a month has now passed without any follow-up action by its authors. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Czechoslovakia

Hajek to Give Up Leading Charter 77 Role. Reuter reports that former Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek, the last of the three original spokesmen of the Charter 77 movement, will resign from his position because of "great nervous strain" and a desire to devote more time to "personal affairs." (UNCLASSIFIED, Reuter, April 10)

INR Comments: At the turn of the year, Hajek was said to be considering resigning because of growing factionalism between moderates and militants in the Charter movement. He felt that his position of adhering strictly to the law in promoting human rights was losing ground to a faction which called for confrontations and extra-legal measures to force the authorities to honor these rights. Hajek's resignation will be a severe blow to the movement, which has been foundering the past several months. (CONFIDENTIAL)

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Cambodia/Canada

Commons Condemns Cambodia "Genocide." The House of Commons unanimously passed a motion on April 7 which

- expressed its "horror" of the "inconceivable blood bath" taking place in Cambodia;
- urged other governments to protest the situation there; and
- called upon the Cambodian authorities to accede to the resolution passed at the recent 34th session of the UN Human Rights Commission which called for an investigation of human rights violations in Cambodia. (UNCLASSIFIED, Ottawa 6976, April 10)

Cambodia/Norway

"Cambodia Tribunal" to be Held in Oslo. Embassy Oslo reports that an "International Cambodia Tribunal Committee," sponsored by some of Norway's most prominent and respected political leaders, will hold public hearings in late April on developments in Cambodia since the Communist takeover.

The Committee has invited a panel of experts to hear testimony from refugees and others.

Panel members invited include John Barron, author of Cambodia--Murder of a Gentle People; Jean Lacouture, a recognized authority on Southeast Asian affairs; Francois Ponchaud, a French Jesuit, long-time resident of Cambodia and author of the recently published book, Cambodia--Annee Zero; David Chandler of the East Asian Research Center at Harvard; Charles Twining, a former Foreign Service Officer, now teaching at Cornell; and Nayan Zhandu of the Far Eastern Economic Review.

The Norwegian organizing committee includes Haakon Lie, former Secretary General of the Norwegian Labor Party, Per Parstensen, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, and leaders of all major political parties. The chairman of the agrarian Center Party will preside. (CONFIDENTIAL, Oslo 1481, March 30; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, State 87518, April 5)

INR Comment: The Tribunal's proceedings should have an impact far beyond the Nordic countries and can be expected to stand in marked contrast to the highly publicized "Russell Tribunals" held in Stockholm and Copenhagen during the war in Vietnam. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Indonesia

Students Released from Detention. Embassy Jakarta reports that the chief of Indonesia's security apparatus told the press on April 3 that all but 60 of the several hundred students arrested on or after the January 21 military crackdown have been released. Most of the 60, plus 40-100 non-students, will be tried soon, reportedly under the Penal Code rather than anti-subversion laws. Many of those released said that, despite rumors to the contrary, they were reasonably well treated during detention. (CONFIDENTIAL, Jakarta 4313, April 4)

INR Comment: The internal situation appears to be returning to normal after the tense period prior to Suharto's re-election as President, and the authorities are relaxing the severe measures taken at that time to forestall dissent. If the trials are held under the Penal Code, the sentences will be lighter than they would be under the anti-subversion laws. The Code, furthermore, is more widely accepted than the harsher anti-subversion laws. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Philippines

Aftermath of the Elections. In the aftermath of President Marcos' New Society Movement's sweeping victory in the April 7 election of representatives to the Interim National Assembly, the Philippine Government has again clamped down on opponents of the martial law regime:

--on April 9 police broke up a large demonstration protesting massive election fraud, arresting six opposition leaders and 571 other Filipinos and charging them with sedition;

--on April 10, the government radio announced that, after a discussion of the situation with the cabinet, President Marcos said he was lifting the "policy of restraint" which had allowed free discussion of political issues during the election campaign;

--on April 11, the government announced that over 500 of those detained on April 9 would be temporarily released pending trial, while the opposition leaders, including four candidates in the election, were to remain in custody; and

--also on April 11, Philippine security forces reportedly raided a Jesuit seminary on the outskirts of Manila and seized large quantities of documents; no arrests were reported but government sources claimed that the seminary was used by protesters prior to the April 9 demonstration. (CONFIDENTIAL, Manila 5618, April 11; UNCLASSIFIED, Press Reports)

INR Comment: Marcos seems worried about the support the opposition party drew during the campaign, and his post-election measures appear to be an effort to check its growth. The release of a large number of protesters indicates, however, that Marcos is sensitive to the implications of a heavy-handed crackdown. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WESTERN EUROPE

Spain

Prison Conditions Criticized. In the wake of the death of a prisoner in Madrid's Carabanchal prison and the terrorist killing of Spain's Director General of Prisons in retaliation, a Spanish Senate investigative commission has released a report saying Spanish prisons do not come up to the minimum standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The commission's report concludes that prison conditions further alienate prisoners from society and make reintegration more difficult once their sentences have been served. The commission also states that prisoners have no channel for bringing their grievances to the attention of penitentiary officials.

The report urges that prison conditions be brought up to minimum international human and civil rights standards agreed to by the Spanish Government as quickly as possible and calls for the enactment of reforms that the Director General of Prisons was working on before he was slain. (UNCLASSIFIED, Madrid newspapers, Informaciones and Diario 16, March 29)

UNITED NATIONS

Egypt Opposes High Commission for Human Rights. During a visit to Cairo by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs George Dalley on April 5, a senior Foreign Ministry official reiterated Egypt's opposition to designating a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. He said that not only would a high commissioner be under heavy pressure from "Zionist lobbies," but because of inherent contradictions in the proposal to create such a position, Africans, Asians, and East Europeans would so circumscribe its responsibilities as to make it meaningless. (UNCLASSIFIED, Cairo 10232, April 6)

LATIN AMERICA

Chile

National Security Prisoner Releases Planned. On April 5, President Pinochet announced his intention to pardon or commute the sentences of all national security prisoners who were convicted before or after the September 1973 coup. Approximately 224 persons stand to benefit immediately.

The government has also announced that expelled citizens may apply for readmission to Chile simply by advising the nearest Chilean Embassy of their desire to return. The government retains the right to accept or reject the request, but an expellee is no longer required to pledge that he will not engage in political activity. (UNCLASSIFIED, Santiago 2550 and 2551, April 6)

INR Comment: There are 80-90 national security prisoners who have not yet been tried, but presumably either pardons or commutations of sentence will be granted to them after their sentences have been handed down. For all intents and purposes, Pinochet's announcement appears to have resolved the thorny prisoner issue. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Haiti

Human Rights League Formed. The "Haitian League for Human Rights" was formed on March 28 with the goal of promoting respect for human rights and essential liberties guaranteed by the Haitian Constitution, Haitian law, and the resolutions of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. In letters to Ambassador Jones in Port au Prince and Ambassador Andrew Young, the League's founders paid tribute to President Carter's human rights policy for making the new organization possible. The founders include a prominent lawyer and jurist, a former government prosecutor who was a political prisoner from 1970 to 1976, and a professor of law known for his outspoken advocacy of free expression.

Embassy Port au Prince comments that the League represents "another welcome advance for human rights in Haiti," and opens a new avenue for pursuit of US human rights concerns. The Embassy notes that the extensive media coverage given to the League's formation indicates the government's tolerance of it. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Port au Prince 1270, April 4)

Uruguay

ABA Completes Successful Mission. Embassy Montevideo considers that the recently completed visit to Uruguay of an American Bar Association (ABA) commission may have helped to advance human rights observance in Uruguay. The two-man mission, composed of William Butler, an American, and Luis Reque, a Bolivian, contacted a wide variety of government and private figures during 28 meetings, maintained a low media profile, and restricted its focus to the status of the rule of law and the treatment of lawyers and the legal profession.

Prior to the mission's departure, the Uruguayan Government agreed to publish a communique containing mission recommendations: that the government should:

- comply with international agreements to which Uruguay is a party, take urgent action to eliminate torture, and punish those who mistreat prisoners;
- release uncharged prisoners, review cases where evidence may be insufficient to warrant existing charges, accelerate prisoner releases, guarantee the right of habeas corpus and freedom from arbitrary arrest, and return subversion cases to civilian courts;
- reconsider recent decrees that impinge on judicial independence, and protect the right of lawyers to practice their profession, including

defending those charged with subversion;
and

--refrain from interfering with and intimidating students and teachers at the University of the Republic's law school.

On April 9, the government published both the ABA memorandum and an official point-by-point response. Butler has told Department officers he believes that a rebuttal was almost mandatory from the Uruguayans' perspective; he is satisfied with the results of his visit and optimistic about the possibility of fruitful contacts in the future.

The government's decision to publish the ABA's recommendation was, in the Embassy's view, a "significant advance." The implicit admission of past abuses was an act totally uncharacteristic of Uruguayan authorities. It may be explained by the fact that the decision to publish was made by army commander Alvarez and other high-ranking military figures without consulting Uruguayan elements known for their obdurate stance on human rights matters. (CONFIDENTIAL, Montevideo 1182, April 8; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Montevideo 1209, April 10)