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HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW
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SOVIET UNION

-- The decline in dissident activities during late August probably was due more to the fact that dissidents, like other Moscow residents, leave the city for vacation at the end of the summer than to the damage that the regime's recent crackdown on dissent has inflicted on the human rights movement. The only recent initiative taken by Soviet activists was their restatement of support for the Charter 77 dissent movement in Czechoslovakia. The Soviet dissidents' public display of support for their East European counterparts, coming at a time when Polish and Czech dissidents are openly coordinating their activities, doubtless feeds Moscow's chronic apprehension that East European and Soviet dissidents may form a united opposition. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- According to the Western press, in late May a Moscow dissident protesting human rights leader Yuriy Orlov's court sentence tried to commit suicide by self-immolation in Red Square. A member of the Soviet Committee to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Ends reportedly said that the Soviet authorities have confined the protestor, Aleksandr Lyapin, to a psychiatric hospital. (UNCLASSIFIED)

-- Recent developments have served to reinforce the belief of Pentecostal squatters in the US Embassy in Moscow that the Soviet Government will retaliate against them after they depart. The Vaschenkos, one of two families staging the sit-in, received word two weeks ago that a Soviet court may place their young children, who are still at home, in a

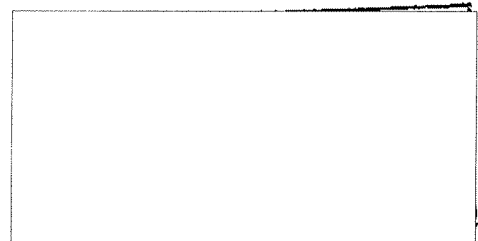
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stage orphanage. Mrs. Chmykhalova of the second family learned that her husband may be tried soon for renouncing his Soviet citizenship. Soviet officials probably know that these actions, if carried out, would complicate the US Embassy's efforts to persuade the Pentecostals to leave on the basis of Soviet assurances that there would be no reprisals against them. (CONFIDENTIAL)

EASTERN EUROPE

-- East German writer Stefan Heym, in trouble with the authorities because of his latest book about young writers in the GDR, has told a US Embassy official that he expects a "tightening up" in East Germany. Heym's prediction may be largely a reaction to his own problems; it has not been evident in any other reporting.

Heym called the sentencing of dissident Rudolf Bahro in late June "a blow against the liberals from which we have not recovered," and fears for his personal safety. Heym said that he has been subjected to close police surveillance since an incident in August, when a West German television station tried to interview him and some of the writers represented in his book and, instead, got footage of the secret police watching him. The authorities have also:

- Abruptly reassigned the East German officials who has handled Heym's literary works for ten years.
- Reversed an earlier decision to publish a new edition of an earlier book.
- Failed thus far to approve Heym's requests for foreign travel this fall.

Heym, an ex-American who emigrated to the GDR in the early 1950s, has been in trouble with the authorities before for some nonconformist work. He has generally stayed within the limits of what the regime tolerates, however, and has generally avoided any public dissent. He apparently fears that the regime views him as an active troublemaker because of the television incident and because some of the young writers anthologized in his book have been dissidents. He has tried to set matters straight in a letter to party leader Honecker. (CONFIDENTIAL)

ASIA

-- Cambodia: A dramatic increase in the numbers of refugees fleeing from northwestern Cambodia in recent weeks apparently stems from an intensified campaign to execute people whose loyalty to the regime is suspect. The refugee flow was sparked by efforts to ferret out and eliminate anyone even remotely associated with the former Lon Nol regime in a district in northern Battambang province. It is not yet clear how widespread the campaign is.

Many Cambodians had attempted to hide their past affiliations, but new lists compiled in this area in early 1978 included even privates in the former Lon Nol army, minor officials, school teachers, village leaders, and persons educated or trained in Vietnam or Thailand, as well as their families.

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Refugees, including some who say they witnessed recent executions, apparently fled in large groups and without preparation when Khmer Rouge cadre began to make arrests in their villages. (SECRET NOFORN)

-- Philippines: Defense Minister Enrile, in his capacity as the "working level" contact within the Philippine Government on the human rights issue, has provided Ambassador Murphy with voluminous data in response to a number of questions.

The Ambassador notes that the documents appear to represent a serious effort by the Marcos regime to provide the US Government with full data on the Philippine human rights situation as perceived by the Philippine leadership. The Ambassador notes that, while many of the "perceptions" expressed in the data do not coincide with those of the political opposition and human rights activists, the documentation constitutes an important improvement in the dialogue with the Philippines on the subject.

Among other matters, the information:

- Indicated that 272 "hardcore" detainees remain in custody, nearly all of them on security-related charges.
- Gave assurance that 2,102 detainees have been released.
- Outlined a report on the phase-out of military tribunals, assuring that all future cases (except arson) will go to civilian courts. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Japan: In granting permanent resident status to a Vietnamese couple on 30 August, the Japanese Government has reversed its previous policy of allowing refugees from Vietnam to stay in Japan only on a transit basis. According to a government official, the couple met the requirements of having permanent employment and appropriate sponsorship. Whether a similar decision will be made for other applicants is open to question. In the past three years, most of the 1,673 Vietnamese refugees who landed in Japan have subsequently left for other countries. (CONFIDENTIAL)

AFRICA

-- South Africa: Three policemen--two white and one black--were recently indicted for the murder of an African, Paulos Cane, who died in July while in police custody. The policemen are out on bail and their trial is set for October in Durban.

Cane and a friend were arrested in early June and charged with the theft of a farmer's truck. There is no indication they were considered security detainees. Local black political sources had not heard of Cane and said that he was not politically involved. After their arrest, Cane and his friend were hung by their wrists and beaten. Cane reportedly was also hung by his neck and repeatedly jerked up and down while being beaten. A description of this mistreatment was included in the indictment.

Savage treatment of prisoners in South Africa is not unprecedented. The indictment of some of those responsible, however, offers some hope that such treatment may have to be accounted for. (CONFIDENTIAL)