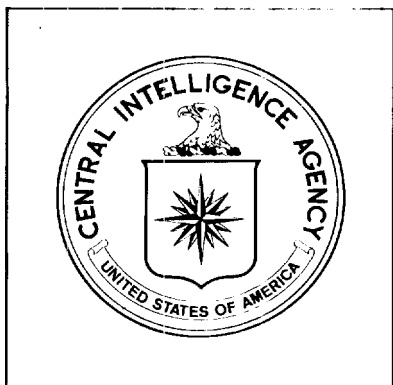


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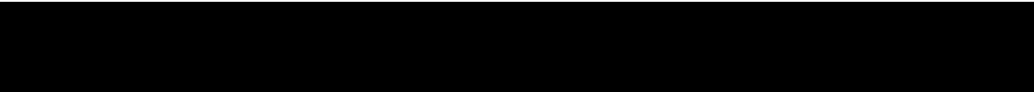
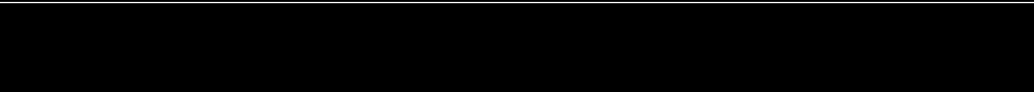
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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Turkish Military Expresses Concerns About
Domestic Situation

For the second time in two weeks Turkish General Staff Chief Sancar has exhorted Prime Minister Demirel's fractious coalition government to face up to the country's pressing domestic and international problems.

The focal point of Sancar's latest expression of concern, on Sunday, was the epidemic of left-right student violence that has--in less than a month of the new academic year--once again threatened to close Turkey's major educational institutions. Several persons have already been killed and classes recessed at some universities. Sancar implied that the military could not tolerate government inaction if the violence leads to additional deaths.

There is no evidence at this time to suggest that Sancar's statement should be construed as anything but a stern warning to the government. There is at least one additional sign, however, that the military leadership is becoming increasingly disenchanted with what it sees as the politicians' penchant for playing politics at the expense of vital national concerns.

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Austrian Leader Defends Former Nazi

Chancellor Kreisky's unswerving defense of Liberal Party leader Friedrich Peter is beginning to cause some of the Chancellor's colleagues in the Socialist Party to question their leader's judgement. Elected by a clear majority of Austrian voters only last month, Kreisky is in no immediate political danger, but a court decision against Peter would tarnish the Chancellor's otherwise impeccable reputation.

Kreisky immediately jumped to Peter's defense when Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal charged late last month that Peter had been a member of an especially notorious SS unit. Peter threatened to sue Wiesenthal and the Chancellor indicated that he would ask to be relieved of his legal immunity in order to testify against Wiesenthal. When Wiesenthal threatened a counter suit, Kreisky, going him one better, claimed to have evidence that the Nazi hunter had operated as an agent of the Third Reich against Austria during World War II.

For Kreisky, a Jew, to defend Peter, a former SS officer but presumably not in a liquidation unit, may--or may not--be sound politically. Kreisky has consistently wooed Peter who, as leader of the third largest party, came very close in the past two elections to becoming the make-weight between the two larger parties. Although Kreisky won another narrow, but clear, majority in October, he may hope for Peter's support in a future election, or if he experiences defections during his current administration.

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Whatever the reason behind Kreisky's defense of Peter, the Israelis were highly critical. Coupled with several other "misunderstood" actions by Kreisky-- such as his closure of the Jewish immigration center at Schoenau in 1973 and his recent remark that there is "scientific evidence that no Jewish people exists"-- the Chancellor may have difficulty smoothing relations with Israel, already wounded over yesterday's UN vote equating Zionism with racism. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Irish Government's Chances in By-Election
Improve

The government's successful handling of the kidnapping of Dutch industrialist Tiede Herrema may be reflected in additional support for its candidate in the West Mayo by-election tomorrow.

If the coalition's candidate wins in West Mayo, the government will retain its narrow majority. While the coalition could continue to govern in either event, a victory would be a vote of confidence in the government and make controversial issues in parliament less crucial.

The outcome of the kidnapping will hurt the Provisional IRA, despite its non-involvement in the scheme. The kidnapers were members of the IRA even though they reportedly acted independently. The government's tough line on the kidnapping may have a positive impact on the populace who often submit to IRA intimidation believing that the authorities are unable to provide protection against the terrorists.

Both factions of the IRA are currently locked in a blood feud in Ulster. Six people have been murdered since the Official and Provisional wings of the IRA renewed hostilities last month. Incidents have become so numerous in the predominately Catholic section of South Armagh that British troops and local police may have to respond in force to demands from the populace for protection. Such a confrontation could wreck the already tenuous "cease-fire" between the IRA and British authorities. (CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN)

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Iceland and West Germany Near Agreement
on Fishing

Iceland and West Germany are close to an agreement on regulating fishing in Icelandic waters, following talks in Reykjavik on October 28 and 29.

Bonn has agreed to several Icelandic demands that had stalemated the talks for months. The West Germans will remove freezer trawlers from Icelandic waters, support the granting of EC tariff concessions to Iceland, and sharply reduce cod fishing. Iceland has agreed to allow some fishing within its 50 mile zone.

The location of areas in which the West Germans will be allowed to fish remains unresolved. Bonn contends that the areas outlined by Reykjavik are not particularly productive. Having broken so many other barriers, however, neither side is likely to let this issue stand in the way of an agreement.

There is still no sign of an agreement between Iceland and the UK. The last round of talks on November 6 and 7 made little progress. Negotiations will resume on November 16, but Icelandic Foreign Minister Agustsson told the US Ambassador earlier this week that he was pessimistic about the coming round of talks.

Ironically, the UK is West Germany's main stumbling block in reaching an agreement with Iceland. West Germany, the UK, and Belgium agreed last month not to sign an accord that contained terms which were unfavorable to another or which had not been offered to another. The Germans had insisted on the pact out of fear that they would be left out in the cold when Iceland and the UK reached an

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agreement. Now, with the UK the odd man out, Bonn will have to go to the British for approval. Bonn is anxious to reach an agreement with Reykjavik and may go ahead even if the British object. (CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN)

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Italian Radicals Propose Federation With Socialists

One of the livlier issues up for debate when the Italian Socialists hold their congress in February will be whether to accept the Radical Party's offer of a formal federation between the two parties.

The Radicals made the offer at their congress last week. They are a small, well-organized group of left-wing activists who, until now, have stayed out of elective politics and operated mainly as a pressure group on the formal political parties. With a membership of about 2,000, consisting largely of northern Italian university students, the Radicals have focused their activities on efforts to secure social change through popular referenda. Last June, while the political parties were campaigning in nationwide local elections, the Radicals were out in the streets collecting signatures in support of a referendum to legalize abortion. They were also among the most active supporters of legalized divorce in the 1974 referendum on that question.

The Radicals' activities have won them wide publicity and considerable popularity at a time when Italian voters seem more disenchanted than usual with established politicians. To the surprise of nearly everyone for example, the Radical leader, Marco Pannella, recently placed ahead of many well-known politicians in a poll that asked Italians to rate political figures according to the amount of public trust they deserved.

That may have encouraged the Radicals, but the major aim of their federation proposal is to boost the Socialists' electoral strength and thus increase their leverage vis a vis the Christian Democrats and Communists.

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The Radicals support the Socialists' long-term goal of replacing the Christian Democrats as Italy's major governing power with a grouping of leftist forces. But the Radicals realize as well as the Socialists that such a grouping would be dominated by the Communists unless the Socialists increase their electoral weight substantially; they won 12 percent in the June elections compared to the Communists' 33.4 percent.

It is too soon to estimate how much the Radicals could contribute to the Socialists' strength. At the minimum, however, the Radicals would enhance the Socialists' organizational capacity and give the party a much-needed infusion of energy and new ideas. In Italian politics, however, new ideas tend to produce new areas of disagreement and factionalism.

Socialist left-wingers appear to favor a federation, but some Radical causes--such as the liberalization of the country's tough drug law--may be too controversial for the rest of the party. In addition, the Radicals also voted at their congress to consult on a regular basis with certain left-wing extremist groups whose open disdain for the parliamentary system would embarrass the Socialists.

A federation with the Radicals, moreover, would complicate Socialist efforts to keep relations with the Communists on an even keel. On some issues, for example, the Radical stance goes well beyond what the Communists advocate. While the Radicals favor a referendum to abolish Italy's concordat with the Vatican, the Communists--eager to avoid a frontal clash with the Church--favor only selective revision of the agreement.

In the end, however, the Socialists may be forced to set aside their reservations, since the Radicals--who would appeal to at least some of the voters the Socialists are trying to capture--have threatened to run separately in the next election, if the Socialists turn down the federation offer. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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