

Intelligence Digest

World Report

A review of world political, economic
and strategic affairs

1 June 1981

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Foreign policy options : terrorism

According to President Reagan, international terrorism is the priority concern of his administration and he aims to make the international community aware of its obligations and ultimate mutual benefit in curbing it.

The attempts to assassinate the Pope and President Reagan have only served to dramatise in a horrible way the growing international sickness which attacks the fundamental basis of civilised human behaviour.

Terrorism has been spreading because, among other reasons, woolly liberal thinking is already too ready to find mitigating excuses for politically motivated violence thus giving it a pseudo-justification and semi-respectability.

Here in Britain we are dealing with a terrorism which seeks to break up the United Kingdom and make one million Anglo-Irish 'foreigners' in their own country by forcing them into a united Ireland against their will.

There are serious international implications in what is happening. As the Pope said, after begging the IRA 'on my knees' to turn away from violence:

Let no one concerned with Ireland have any illusions about the nature and the menace of political violence. The ideology and the methods of violence have become an international problem of the utmost gravity. The longer the violence continues in Ireland the more the danger will grow that this beloved land could become yet another theatre for international terrorism. To all who bear political responsibility for the affairs of Ireland, I want to speak with the same urgency and intensity with which I have spoken to the men of violence. Do not cause, or condone, or tolerate, conditions which give excuse, or pretext, to men of violence. For those who resort to violence always claim that only violence brings about change. They claim that political action cannot achieve justice. You, politicians, must prove them to be wrong. You must show that there is a peaceful, political way to justice. You must show that peace achieves the works of justice, and violence does not. I urge you who are called to the noble vocation of politics to have the courage to face up to your responsibility, to be leaders in the cause of peace, reconciliation and justice. If politicians do not decide and act for just change, then the field is left open to the men of violence. Violence thrives best when there is political vacuum and a refusal of political movement.

What has become known, somewhat contentiously, as the 'politics of suicide' has projected the 'Irish Question' on to the international stage with up to 50 television teams covering the events surrounding the self-inflicted death of a convicted terrorist. The partisan intervention of the former Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Ramsay Clark, being one of the most bizarre and disgraceful episodes in an already dangerous situation.

Even the White House has been induced to express its 'concern' over the self-inflicted deaths of four convicted terrorists, the second of whom was believed to have killed some 20 'enemies of the Republican Movement', most of them Irishmen.

Britain's American friends find themselves in an awkward and embarrassing dilemma. On the one hand they do not wish to criticise a friendly democracy yet on the other they cannot ignore the considerable influence of the American Irish and the historical fact that the United States was born in armed revolution against the British Crown; factors which are not appreciated in Britain.

Danger and dilemma

The parallel is the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which is what attracts sympathy from the European powers, Britain included, because of current economic interests and the absence of any significant 'Jewish lobby' such as exists in the United States. The PLO, like the IRA, claims to represent a subjugated peoples and both use terrorist/freedom fighters just as both threaten political stability. The IRA could do to Eire what the PLO has done to Lebanon.

Be he a 'lone nut' or an organised 'fanatic', the terrorist poses a growing threat to the modern world.

The Pope said: 'The ideology and the methods of violence have become an international problem of the utmost gravity.' There is no evidence that the ideology will remain conveniently absent from the United States, indeed there are significant signs to the contrary. The July 1980 issue of *Intelligence Digest World Report* contained the following passage:

We have for some considerable time now, warned about the politicising of the Mexicans within the US and the claims for 'lost and stolen' Mexican lands, so you will not be unduly surprised to learn that a Washington DC school board official has asked that one of the American-held hostages in Iran be released because he is a 'Chicano' and that: 'Chicanos are Mexicans who have lived under the yoke of US imperial aggression and occupation since the land was stolen from Mexico in 1836 and 1846. For 200 years the Latin American countries have experienced the same kind of US domination and control that Iran experienced between 1953 and 1979. As fellow victims of US greed and racism, Iran and the Latino community must learn more about one another and stand together.'

In Special Brief No 75, *Flashpoints of the World*, we of course covered Ireland but we also showed how Mexico could claim Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah together with part of Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and the Oklahoma panhandle. We then commented:

There are some eight to 10 million illegal immigrants within the US (estimates vary), most of them Mexican, and the President of Mexico has already indicated that the 'illegals' must be treated 'properly'. The Mexicans are deeply aware of the cultural heritage and of what the 'Europeans' (Americans and Spanish) have done to them. With the growth of Mexican oil-power and a changing relationship with the formerly, but not any more, all-powerful United States, the lines on the map will assume a political importance undreamed of by most Americans today.

If it is established that the United Kingdom can be fragmented through the 'return' of Northern Ireland to

pean members. As background it is necessary to give some facts which have never been revealed before.

When Soviet forces invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968 it was with the participation of East German, Polish, Hungarian and Bulgarian troops. The conduct of these satellite forces was closely studied by the Russian commanders and far-reaching conclusions were drawn. The most important of these was that the non-Soviet forces of the Warsaw Pact could not have been relied upon had the Czechs offered armed resistance. This has a direct bearing today regarding the decision whether to take military action or not against Poland. But other questions arose as well. Principal among these was whether the satellite armies could be trusted with weaponry as advanced as that used by the Soviet forces themselves.

In 1969 a Warsaw Pact Technical Council was accordingly established to decide when and what advanced equipment could be entrusted to the satellite forces. There is no permanent rule followed by the Technical Council but the effect has been that since then the Soviet Union has not provided its East European allies with the most modern equipment. There is normally a delay of four to five years before, for example, the Poles, East Germans and Czechoslovakians receive the standard of equipment which had been used by the Soviet forces, and by this time the Soviet forces have already moved on to the more advanced equipment.

From this an important conclusion could be drawn in respect of the Nato-Warsaw Pact balance.

Moscow's doubts

Nato's assessment has been that Moscow clearly doubted that political reliability of the East European forces in a confrontation with the West, and that the willingness of these forces to carry out tasks would be influenced by factors beyond Soviet control. From this it followed that the Soviet intention was to use the East European forces primarily in a supportive role, such as securing rear areas or on purely garrison duties. There were, indeed, indications that the satellite forces would be restricted to peripheral areas in the event of a really serious confrontation. Remarkably, this applies as much to the East Germans as to the Poles.

However, this policy was causing increasing resentment among the East European military commanders and even more so among some of the satellite political leaders. Fifteen months ago, therefore, at a meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee, presided over by

Brezhnev personally, it was decided to study the problem afresh. This time the East European leaders were to have a bigger say in the Technical Council which was to undertake the new study.

What the study was all about, in essence, was whether the East European leaders could convince the Soviet military and political leaders that their forces would, in a show-down, be absolutely reliable. Unfortunately for them, the study had hardly started when the first signs appeared of a crisis in Poland.

Inevitably, this has virtually blocked all progress in the fresh assessment. When, even if, any progress will be made must now be in doubt. However, one of the subjects that was to be considered was the relative combat readiness of Nato and Warsaw Pact forces.

Nato's equipment

Numerous papers on different aspects of this subject were prepared, one of which was about the effects of the non-standardisation of Nato's equipment. This is so far the only one of these studies about which some information has become available. It finds, in summary, that the interrelation between the different national components of Nato's forces is totally 'irrational', thus considerably damaging Nato's collective combat capability.

The Soviet author of the study concludes that if Nato could achieve complete standardisation its combat capability would increase by between 30 and 50%. The lack of standardisation, he finds, is for Nato a crippling handicap and possibly a fatal weakness. As an example of what is described as a chaotic situation the paper points out that Nato ground forces in central Europe have seven different types of basic combat tanks, eight types of armoured personnel carriers and a variety of 22 types of anti-tank weapons. In addition, it further points out, Nato's different national air forces fly 23 types of aircraft. 'As for the Nato countries' navies, they are equipped with 36 types of shipborne radar', it adds for good measure.

Also: 'The inadequate compatibility of the corresponding national systems has an adverse effect on the communication and control system of the bloc's armed forces.' However, it warns that if Nato should ever achieve standardisation it would have a military advantage over the Soviet constituent of the Warsaw Pact forces. This seems to be a recommendation that Moscow's satellite forces would have to be given more modern equipment and a more integrated role in the event of Nato achieving standardisation.

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Occasionally, we read something in the newspapers which is very startling.

NUCLEAR ENERGY may replace our present domestic fuel, and completely change industrial production.

JET PROPULSION has already made air travel immensely faster than it was even a year ago, and will soon give us aircraft which will take us around the world in a few hours.

OUR MOTORCARS will be transformed, and will probably be much cheaper to run on long trips, and incomparably faster.

RAILROADS are to be totally transformed by the Wenner-Gren system. In a few years the cost of rail travel will be less than half, and the speed three times greater.

(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

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THE YEAR

JANUARY 1953

INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

A Review of World Affairs

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INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

A REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS

Intelligence pointers

The U.K. inflation is soaring at a rate of about 10 per cent. Figures of this kind are misleading. The money volume is growing at a rate of between 10 per cent and 30 per cent. Inflation cannot be stopped except by reducing the money and credit volume. To do this would be politically disastrous for any single political party. Only a national government could do it.

The basis of the problem is therefore constitutional rather than purely

economic.

If no agreement about the fishing limit is reached, Iceland is likely to assert her independence by withdrawing from Nato. If this happens, the Soviet Union will offer attractive terms for taking over the Keflavik base.

There are strong possibilities of an Israeli air strike against Libya.

The German Elections

Chancellor Brandt's decisive victory in the West German elections has stamped a constitutional seal on to a dangerous trend in West German policy which has been evident for some time.

At the time of going to press it is too soon to attempt a close analysis of the voting trend, but a factor which undoubtedly made a big contribution to the SPD/FDP success was the fact that the CDU/CSU opposition to Brandt's *Ostpolitik* developed into so decisive an exercise that one wonders how much real substance it ever had.

West German policy is going to have two objectives:

1. To dominate the Common market.
2. To build up a special political relationship with the Soviet Union and move towards a special military

relationship.

Moscow's policy is to detach West Germany from Nato. According to this Service's information sources in Germany, there is some degree of understanding about this between Brezhnev and Brandt.

The fact is that there is a substantial and influential body of opinion in West Germany which wants a special relationship with the Soviet Union. The election result has now given this body of opinion a constitutional road to its objective.

It would be both senseless and dangerous to close one's eyes to this fact.

A full report from our Bonn Correspondent will be published in the January, 1973, issue of *Intelligence Digest*.

We apologise to subscribers for the very late dispatch of the November issue of *Intelligence Digest*. This was due to a delay by our printers which was outside our control.