

LISTENING IN

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Below, some international eavesdropping— transcripts of radio broadcasts, news agency handouts, and newspaper and periodical items culled from daily reports of the U.S. Government's Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

Vietnam: The China Border

(Hanoi, Vietnam News Agency, in English, Dec. 6) At a press conference here this morning, the commission for investigation of the crimes of war of aggression committed by the Chinese expansionists and hegemonists distributed the following document about the crimes committed by the Chinese reactionaries at Xin Man District, Ha Tuyen Province....

[2.] Psychological Warfare and Other Sabotage Activities Against Vietnam....

- Leaflets have been sent into Vietnam by many means: Along the waterway, by kites, by shells, and sometimes by balloons.
- Scouts and commandos are stealthily sent into Vietnam to disseminate false information and slanderous fabrications.
-They have opened shops along the border supposedly to serve the population along the Vietnamese border. Many kinds of goods were brought there, including those which were denied to the Chinese people....

They have also resorted to another insidious scheme to undermine the economy by offering to trade one Chinese blanket for eight kilos of the silk-like fiber that grows on young corn cobs or for four horse hooves. That is tantamount to inciting people to destroy their fields of corn or their herds of horses. They have also promised to barter 250 packets of dyes in exchange for 100 automatic rifle cartridges. This is aimed at undermining Vietnam's national defense....

Panama: The Church and Politics

(Panama City, La Estrella de Panama in Spanish, Dec. 12. Communiqué issued by the bishops of Panama, David, and Colon) In view of the events which took place in the capital on 10 December, when the headquarters of a political party was peacefully occupied by some 10 priests and 3 laymen, the undersigned bishops, who have jurisdiction over the areas to which the priests in question are assigned, report the following for the purpose of clearly establishing the official position of the church in this area:

1. Clear statements made by the holy father, John Paul II, and earlier statements previously made by Paul VI, by the Roman Synod of 1971, at Medellin and at Puebla indicate that priests are expected to direct the consciences of the faithful in matters of social justice and human rights and they must justify any such action.
2. With equal clarity and authority the popes and Latin American bishops have always forbidden priests from carrying out acts of partisan politics. We reaffirm that prohibition once more.
3. We consider the following to clearly be acts of

partisan politics: First, the occupation of the headquarters of any political party in order to pressure that party into making a decision that is a political party decision; and second, the fact that the priests in question declared themselves to favor one of the political sectors involved in the turbulent Salvadorian situation.

4. Echoing the message of the bishops and religious superiors of Central America and Panama issued in Panama on 28 November, we "reiterate our condemnation of violence, both by the right wing and the left wing, because it is an element of divisiveness and destruction."

5. Finally, once again we issue an appeal for peace, to allow Salvadorians, exclusively and without foreign interference, to determine their own future....

The Philippines: Martial Law

(Manila, FEBC radio, in English, Dec. 11) Martial law, according to news reports, will be lifted early next year to pave the way for the election of a transitional president. All this signals the so-called normalization process in the country. The news stirred different reactions from the public. While it is true that various sectors of the country, especially the high echelons and the opposition, are opting for an end to martial law, ordinary citizens in society could not understand why martial law has to be lifted....

While delegates to the Batasang Pambansa are engaged in stiff deliberations about the urgency to return to normalization, small people are still in bewilderment why the government has to lift martial law when it has done so much good for the country. With due regard to the merits and demerits of the lifting of martial law, we urge the people to once again examine the action carefully and judge on the greater benefits it will give to the majority of the people. As it is, ordinary folks do not understand much about the significance of the lifting of martial law. It is not that they are uninformed, but what they know is that the situation now does not warrant the lifting of martial law....

Uganda: Awesome Challenges

(Kampala Domestic Service, in English, Dec. 15. Speech by Paulo Muwanga of the Ugandan National Liberation Front) ...Your Excellency, Dr. Apollo Milton Obote: In congratulating you on this occasion of your inauguration as president of our motherland, I wish to draw your attention to the formidable challenges ahead.

Guns are still plentiful in the hands of criminals, and killing—in all parts of the country—has not been completely stopped. The economy is shattered and infrastructures such as roads and railways are virtually destroyed. The social services, education and health facilities are all in shambles. Our public service is demoralized and completely incapable of implementing a government policy with speed, loyalty, and dedication. The moral standards of our people have been eroded. These are some of the awesome challenges that this country is facing as you assume leadership....

I wish you the best of luck, for God and my country.

S.W.