

## LISTENING IN

*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.*

### **The Soviet Union: China as U.S. Outpost**

*(Moscow Radio Peace and Progress, in English to Asia, Jan. 13)* In 1981 the Netherlands announced its intention to sell submarines to Taiwan. China protested then, but the bargain took place. The Reagan administration took a different decision in an identical situation. Why? Should it be assessed as Washington's concession to Peking? Well, it seems to be a far-seeing calculation rather than a concession. Washington is well aware of the purely verbal character of China's protests. In reality, Peking has actually put up with Washington's policy of two Chinas. And Peking's noisy protests against the development of American-Taiwan relations have not prevented China from intensifying its ties with the United States.

The matter is evidenced by the actual exchange of visits, as well as by the plans to hold Sino-American summit talks this year. And Peking's reaction to supplying Taiwan with the sophisticated American F-6 bombers could have been traditionally verbal. But Washington has apparently calculated that a minor sop can be used to gain far greater concessions on the part of China. The Asian press reports say the United States and China are secretly negotiating the issue of setting up [an] American war base in the Chinese port of Dalian.

Earlier the spokesmen for the Reagan administration had voiced their intention to deploy American neutron weapons and medium-range missiles on the territory of China. Peking's reaction, although silent, can be regarded as quite favorable. Moreover, the Asian press reports say one or two American monitoring bases are already operating in the northern regions of China.

The American administration is clearly nurturing the strategic plan of turning China's territory into the outpost of its policy of military pressure and *diktat* to Asia. The Beijing upper crust favors these wild ambitions of Washington and has voiced its readiness to sacrifice the sovereign rights of China for the sake of the interest of American imperialism. The current decision of the White House on the Taiwan issue is designed to incline China to further concessions....

All these events carry a double message to Asian countries. Firstly, the United States and China have reaffirmed their intention to knock together an aggressive military political alliance despite all the existing tactical disagreements. This alliance threatens considerably the course of peace in Asia. Developing military ties with China, wrote the *Dacca Herald* newspaper of India, the Reagan administration demonstrates its intention to turn China into the Southeast Asian policeman. Such a policy can also have serious consequences. Secondly, Washington has

once again exposed its readiness to forgo the interests of its so-called traditional allies in Asia for the sake of the rapprochement with Peking. Today it is Taiwan. Who is next?

### **Vietnam: Expression of Goodwill**

*(Hanoi Domestic Service, in Vietnamese, Jan. 14)* As is publicly known, the Chinese authorities on 17 February 1979 sent 600,000 troops in a war of aggression against Vietnam. Although their war was broken and they were forced to withdraw, the Chinese authorities are still occupying a part of Vietnamese territory. Now, pursuing their hostile policy against Vietnam, the Chinese authorities are frenziedly conducting a type of sabotage war in many fields to weaken Vietnam so as to subdue and occupy it. They maintain a big military force close to the border while continuing to occupy many points in Vietnam or nibbling at others and conducting armed provocations or causing clashes along the border. As a result, the situation at the border is permanently tense and is likely to become explosive....

On 4 January the Chinese authorities rejected another Vietnamese proposal, made in a note from the SRV [Socialist Republic of Vietnam] Foreign Ministry to the PRC Foreign Ministry of 28 December 1981, that the two sides stop hostile armed actions and cease fire along the common border on the occasion of the Year of the Dog. So it is very clear that the Chinese authorities have not given up their hostile policy toward Vietnam and do not want to ease tension along the common border.

Even so, as an expression of the goodwill of the people and the Government of the SRV and for the friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, Vietnamese soldiers and guards at the border will unilaterally act upon the proposal...i.e., cessation by both parties of hostile armed actions and firing along the common border in the period from 20 January through 29 January to enable people on both sides of the common border to safely see the new year in.

If China takes advantage of the goodwill of Vietnam by continuing armed provocations and other hostile actions, the Vietnamese people and their armed forces will have to react in self-defense and the Chinese authorities will have to fully account for all consequences of their acts.

### **Brazil: Contacts With Cuba**

*(Rio de Janeiro, Jornal do Brasil, in Portuguese, Jan. 13)* The U.S. State Department and Brazil's Planalto Palace were fully aware of Brazilian Confederation of Commercial Associations President Ruy Barreto's trip to Cuba....

The idea of making commercial contacts with Cuba started to be worked out in mid-1981, when Barreto participated in a lunch at the U.S.-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in New York. For U.S. interlocutors, Barreto sustained the thesis that the U.S. policy toward the Cuban regime was not a clever one: It did not allow room to maneuver. Based on this reasoning,

Barreto then described a plan aimed at broadening Cuba's room to maneuver. This was the plan: The Cuban Government would cut its sugar production by 3 million tons (a little less than half its total output); it would use the sugar cane needed for producing that volume of sugar for manufacturing alcohol. Brazil would then furnish the technology and the equipment for the assembly of the distillery plan for alcohol production. With this formula, sugar prices on the international market could rise as a result of the 3 million-ton Cuban cut. This would benefit the Cuban economy and all the other sugarcane producers, such as Brazil. Besides, Cuba's room for political maneuvering would be broadened by the reduction in its oil imports from the Soviet Union, since alcohol would be a substitute for some oil byproducts....

When Barreto finished this description, one of the businessmen said: "My brother George should know about this." The U.S. businessman was referring to his brother George Bush, U.S. vice president and former CIA head.

From then on, Barreto was given reliable indications that the U.S. State Department would not raise any obstacle to his idea. Based on this valuable information, the confederation's president went to Brasilia where, at Planalto Palace—he is a friend of Vice President Aureliano Chavez and is on very good terms with President Figueiredo—he was given the go-ahead for his idea, provided it remained clear that it was his personal initiative. The Brazilian Government offered no official endorsement.

#### Jordan: "Broadway AI"

(Amman, Jordan Times, in English, Jan. 16) Reporters travelling to the Middle East earlier this week with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig asked Mr. Haig's party if the United States planned to appoint a special representative to the Camp David "Autonomy" negotiations. The answer was that an envoy would be named only if doing so would help achieve specific progress. "If not, if there are more difficult substantive problems," the reporters were told by a senior American official, "I don't think it's appropriate to engage in theater for theater's sake."

That is most peculiar, indeed, coming as it does from one of the more theatrical travelling shows we can recall in recent history. The trip that Mr. Haig has just concluded to Egypt and Israel is probably a sincere American attempt to make peace, and in this it reflects American naivete more than it does a malicious spirit. The American administration is not mean-spirited; it is simply prone to adopt political expediency as its most important determinant of what is possible and desirable.

Therefore Mr. Haig and his people keep trying to squeeze life out of a lifeless process because they are not faced with any compelling reason to do otherwise. The lack of a serious Arab political offensive or even a unified Arab position allows the curtain to keep rising and falling on the dramatic impulses of Mr. Haig and his fellow players. It is, in fact, the only show in town, but the trouble is that it is more of a show than a sub-

stantive attempt at peace-making. Mr. Haig will be back in a few weeks for more of the same. To do an encore, perhaps? To bask in the lights and the applause, to listen to the ferocious cheering of the ignorant? Is this not much sound and fury, signifying nothing? Isn't Broadway the place for such a performance?

#### Ghana: Libyan Fraternity

(Accra Domestic Service, in English, Jan. 13) ...The paper [*Graphic*] says at independence, especially in Africa, nations normally declared their sovereignty as a matter of right and determined what programs to follow. Yet, observes the *Graphic*, no sooner have African countries protested against imperialism and neocolonialism than they are dubbed Communist, dictatorial or moderate. Thus Kwame Nkrumah, Robert Mugabe, Julius Nyerere, Mu'ammarr al-Qaddafi and a number of progressives have been tainted in all manner of ways.

The *Graphic* notes that even though it was Libya which helped to drive away insurgents from Chad, the rest of Africa and the world at large were made to see the quick Libyan response as an act of invasion, and they believed it. Ghana under the People's National Party government followed the Western lie that Libya was out to annex other parts of Africa and broke off diplomatic ties with her. Today, however, observes the *Graphic*, it is Libya that is donating essential food items to Ghana.

While saluting the Provisional National Defense Council for restoring sanity into inter-African relations, the paper believes that the step has been taken in the spirit of the right of self-determination of all countries. The *Graphic* writes: Let any country say what it likes, present Ghana-Libya fraternity is a positive indicator of the ability of the African to take his own decisions.

—A.R.P.



"Why are we standing in line?"