

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.

Yugoslavia: Vital Statistics

(*Belgrade, Borba, in Serbo-Croatian, Sept. 6*) About 95,000 census takers and more than 11,000 communal and 650 republican instructors participated in the preparations for the census of population, apartments and households and the actual census-taking for the 22.5 million residents of the SFRY in 1981....

To tell the truth, there were cases in which incomplete information was provided and the full truth concealed about the amount of individual or family income, occasional "supplementary" work done in addition to regular employment, the size of apartments or land owned, rents collected from tenants in one's own or rented apartment, education and so forth.

According to the report [of the Federal Institute for Statistics], the difficulties as well as mistakes in census taking were most frequent and numerous in Kosovo and Macedonia. This happened mainly because of the counterrevolutionary events that took place in Kosovo precisely at the time when this voluminous census task was in progress.

Nevertheless,...an overwhelming majority of the Kosovo people cooperated very well with the census takers, especially in the countryside. It is believed that, in the main, peasant households did not try to provide incorrect information about the material goods owned by them and the like. However, it is estimated that certain answers given to census takers and certain indexes cannot be claimed to be 100 per cent correct, especially because in some cases the census takers were not properly instructed how to enter, describe and process everything required by the census forms.

As regards the census in Macedonia, the Republican Institute for Statistics quite openly warns that, in some communes, the census takers of Albanian nationality—there were 866 of them—and probably some of the 90 Albanian instructors intentionally made certain mistakes or entered incorrect information in the census data, which was discovered during the review of the census materials.

These and other similar facts show that in this manner, at least in Macedonia, the Albanian nationalists influenced the census takers to some extent....

Saudi Arabia: Misguided Pilgrims

(*Riyadh Domestic Service, in Arabic, Sept. 12*) A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has issued the following statement: Yesterday, Teheran radio said that some Iranian pilgrims had been injured before being arrested in holy Medina following a demonstration they had staged. The truth is, that some Iranian pilgrims gathered outside the Iranian pilgrimage mission at the call of the supervisor of the pilgrimage mission....They were carrying portraits of Khomeyni

and slogans that had nothing to do with the pilgrimage. Security men confiscated these portraits and slogans from the persons carrying them and arrested the latter, who numbered 21 persons. This was the first step before sending them back to their country once it transpired that their arrival was not for the purpose of pilgrimage but for other objectives. None of these people suffered any mistreatment, contrary to what Teheran radio has broadcast. For the purpose of information, this has therefore been made clear. God is the guide to the right path.

Iran: Propaganda of the Faith

(*Teheran Domestic Service, in Persian, Sept. 4*) According to a Central News Unit report, the parliamentary under-secretary to the Islamic Guidance Ministry today announced at a press, radio and television conference the details of the draft plan for the Islamic Republic of Iran's propaganda system at home and abroad....

He added that the tasks of the Supreme Islamic Publicity Council are as follows: to work out the overall policy line of the cultural and propaganda affairs programs of the Islamic Republic at home and abroad; to specify priorities in the cultural and propaganda programs; to approve programs and allocations and the limits of the tasks of the propaganda and cultural units of the revolution institutions and organs; to supply cultural and propaganda plans to the private sector and to be responsible for propaganda and cultural coordination in the country....

He added that the aim of drafting this plan is to confront the evil propaganda disseminated by the imperialist and Zionist quarters against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, because of the scattered nature of the work carried out by revolution organs and institutions, no fundamental work has been done in the matter of propaganda.

In conclusion, the parliamentary under-secretary to the Islamic Guidance Ministry called on the people and revolution organs to send their views and proposals in connection with the draft plan for a united and coordinated propaganda system for the Islamic Republic of Iran to the legal office of the Islamic Guidance Ministry.

Poland: Divergent Trends in the West

(*Warsaw, Trybuna Ludu, in Polish, Sept. 6, Commentary by Ignacy Krasicki*) ...It is obvious that the United States, ever more ruthless in applying the means of a total ideological, economic and political war against the states of the socialist community, does not like the situation in which, because of the [Siberian pipeline] contract, the USSR would increase its annual income by \$10 billion from the natural gas sold. Not only the Siberian "contract of the century," but also many other phenomena in the sphere of Western Europe's relations with the United States, point to a deepening confrontation between two different orientations in the capitalist world. The outcome of this confrontation will, to a large extent, bear on the future of Europe....

...The development of detente processes in Europe has marked the final end of the myth of an Eastern "threat" to Western Europe. Also the view that the American "atomic umbrella" made it worth joining the Atlantic club, widely adhered to before, has waned....

...The Polish affair has become a distinctive barometer of these moods, and at the same time a source of realities and of mystifications in the West.

Among the realities is the basic fact that, unlike the United States, Western Europe is by no means interested in destabilizing Poland internally to such an extent as to shake the general balance of forces on the continent and, in consequence, to bring about the threat of an explosion into war. On the other hand, one may regard as a mystification, for example, the opinion...that the crisis of the system in Poland must be utilized to the hilt in propaganda, because it excellently diverts the attention of Western societies from the plagues harassing them, such as unemployment, terrorism and so forth.

The real interests of Western Europe with regard to Poland clearly collide with the aforesaid anticommunist mystification of our crisis.

The U.S. administration...is trying to impose on its partners quite a different orientation. Its components vary. What matters to the United States primarily is to give priority to the concept of a military (including nuclear) showdown with the socialist states....[R]elations as a whole are viewed in terms of confrontation, not cooperation. This primarily applies to the sphere of science, culture and propaganda, but also to interstate relations.

Where is Europe heading—toward self-destruction, or toward integration based on the recognition of the principle of the continent's unity despite its division into systems and blocs? The two contradictory orientations which occur in the present-day Western political arena, and which will be decisive for the future features of Europe, can be reduced to this question....

China: Parliamentary Perks

(Beijing, Xinhua Domestic Service, in Chinese, Aug. 27) Carrying forward the party's tradition of hard work and plain living, the forthcoming 12th national congress of the party will practice frugality in arranging the lodging, transportation and other conference activities for delegates, Xinhua reporters learned from the General Office of the CPC Central Committee.

The preparatory group of the congress has decided that during the congress period, no sightseeing tours will be organized and that delegates will have to pay for any theatrical performances and film shows they attend. Stores at the delegates' lodging locations will not set up special counters to supply them new products or products in short supply. Neither will Beijing's department stores designate special working hours to serve delegates exclusively. At the same time, the preparatory group has called on all areas not to give new products to delegates in the name of tributes to the congress.

The preparatory group also has made the maximum possible cut in the number of staff workers. It

has decided that no delegates will be accompanied by a retinue. Old and sick comrades who have difficulty getting about may each be accompanied by one person after having obtained approval....

The preparatory group has also decided that delegates will have to take buses to attend congress activities. Except for the old and the sick who have difficulties getting about, delegates from the central party and government organs and the PLA leading organs stationed in Beijing will all reside with their respective delegations and, together with other delegates, take large sedans to attend congress meetings.

Panama: A New Party

(Panama City, Television Nacional, in Spanish, Sept. 8) A group of political leaders headed by Carlos Eleta Almaran today announced the formation of a new political party in the country. Its name is the Labor Party (Partido Laborista—Pala), its symbol will be a shovel, and its slogan will be: Development with Justice and Freedom.

The leaders of this new party stressed that it is being created to demand the creation and just distribution of wealth and that the country live in peace, free of foreign doctrines. Carlos Eleta Almaran is the party's president and temporary secretary-general, and Azal Vargas is the vice-president and temporary deputy secretary-general. The founders of the party stressed that it seeks to give independent people more credibility and trust.

Those present at the meeting were told that the directors will go before the Electoral Tribunal on 14 September to present the necessary documents to begin registering members next year.

Afghanistan: ...And a Time to Serve

(Kabul Domestic Service, in Dari, Sept. 9. Interview with Col. Mohammed Nader Dehqan, head of the Ministry of Defense Organization Department)

(Question) Very well, esteemed Colonel. Could you please tell us about the legal age for military draft?

(Answer) Thank you. The legal age for draft in accordance with the general draft law is 19 years of age. It means that those who turn 19 will be called up for military service.

(Question) Well, why has the age of 19 been chosen?

(Answer) The age of 19 has been specified for reason that obviously a 19-year-old Afghan youth has completed 12th grade. On the other hand, he is single and lives as a bachelor. Hence, when a single youth enters into military service, he normally does not worry about home from the viewpoint of material and spiritual conditions so he completes his military service in the best way. As you know, in the past 22 was the draft age. Generally, 22 is the age when the youths of our beloved homeland get married. After graduation from 12th grade, they used to wander aimlessly for a year or two. Therefore, taking all things into account it is best from our point of view for the youths to join the service at the age of 19 and to be thus occupied....
—L.H.G.