

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.

Russia: War Games

(Moscow, Krasnaya Zvezda, in Russian, Dec. 12) "The signal has been given to assemble," the messenger gasped when Captain R. Abdullin, commander of the mechanized civil defense battalion, hearing the bell, opened the door of his apartment.

It was way after midnight. The military township was asleep. The lights burned only in the windows of the apartments where the battalion officers and ensigns lived. Within a few minutes the commander's car was rushing along the deserted streets.

"The 'enemy' has hit the population center with a 'nuclear strike,'" the leader of the exercise briefed the battalion officers on the tactical situation. "Your task is to carry out a march and perform rescue and emergency repair operations in the region...."

Having assessed the situation, Capt. Abdullin issued combat orders. The powerful vehicles drove through a forest settlement. Capt. Abdullin led the column along this route so that if necessary it could conceal the equipment from an air attack and reconnaissance by the 'enemy.' With a high degree of accuracy the battalion commander determined the grid square within which the battalion personnel should don protective clothing. The reconnaissance team under the command of Lieutenant V. Voroboyev, which moved ahead of the column, promptly reported on the contaminated terrain. In a little while Voroboyev's voice came over the air again:

"Obstacle ahead!"

The battalion commander immediately ordered the first mechanized crew to go ahead.

Lieutenant G. Shershnev's subordinates, maneuvering skillfully in a narrow opening, moved to the head of the column. The communist Shershnev himself took his seat at the controls of a bulldozer. The servicemen needed only minutes to clear the path.

Soon the column was marching along the planned route again.

During the march the subunits acted on various hypothetical situations given by the exercise leader.

The battalion reached the indicated region on time. There was a smell of burning in the night air. Reflections of the conflagration danced on the horizon. Without losing a minute the servicemen set to work in the center of contamination.

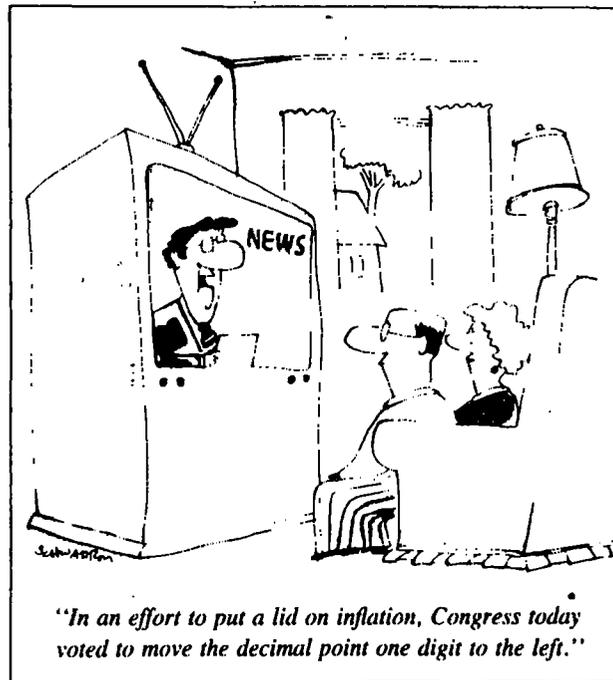
A fire blazed in the training field sector. "Napalm" spread its scarlet tongues of flame over the charred frames of the model buildings. A damaged transformer container caught fire. Water gushed from a burst water pipe.... In brief, the situation at the exercise was as close as possible to a combat situation.

The battalion personnel operated precisely, like a well-tuned machine. Company commander Senior Lieutenant S. Bodrov and crew commanders, Lieuts V. Voroboyev and G. Shershnev led their subordinates confidently. Soon

the center of the fire had been put out, the obstacles had been dismantled and failures in the electricity network had been localized.

The battalion received an excellent rating at this final exercise.

The subunit's success was no accident. Every exercise here takes place in a spirit of competition and to a high methodological standard. The majority of servicemen have high-class qualifications. All this enables the battalion to march in the ranks of the front-runners of socialist competition for a fitting greeting to the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation.



PUNCH (England)

Argentina: Falklands Redux?

(Buenos Aires, Noticias Argentinas, in Spanish, Dec. 30) Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Augusto Jorge Hughes has expressed "the solemn promise of the air force to recover our southern archipelago." He made this promise in a message addressed to all units throughout the country which must be read in special formation on 3 January 1983, on the 150th anniversary of "the British usurpation of our Malvinas Islands."

(Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires Herald, in English, Jan. 4) Argentina yesterday called for speedy negotiations with Britain to find a definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands on the 150th anniversary of Britain's seizure of the archipelago.

Meanwhile, government officials, politicians and several organizations held separate ceremonies to repudiate the British presence on the islands and to honour the memory of the soldiers who died fighting in the South Atlantic last year....

Political leaders told the independent Noticias Argentinas news agency that Argentina should not rule out another invasion of the islands if peaceful methods failed to recover them. But the politicians stressed that every effort to regain the Malvinas by peaceful means should be made.

"We would make any future military action conditional

on a decision of the people expressed through Congress," said Peronist leader Deolindo Bittel.

"A new armed intervention in the islands should not be ruled out," said Francisco Manrique, head of the Federal Party.

Radical politician Ruben Rabanal stressed that "military attack should be a final position after all procedures to avoid another confrontation have been exhausted."

Poland: Taking Stock

(*Warsaw Domestic Service, in Polish, Jan. 4*) You will no doubt be interested, ladies and gentlemen, in information on supplies of food to the market in January. The supplies of meat and meat products will be no lower than in past months. The market will be supplemented by supplies of 5,000 tons of chickens, an additional purchase made with Pewex resources. It will still be possible to purchase sugar instead of meat or pork butcher's meat. Unfortunately, the range of supplies will be narrower. There will be more beef. There should not be any difficulty in buying fats. The supplies of maturing and melted cheese will increase by over 3,000 tons. To meet the need of the market and the baking industry, 295,000 tons of rye and wheat flour should be sufficient. Due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary raw materials, supplies in the sweet industry, and chocolate in particular, will be lower. The number of cigarettes will be higher than the average monthly allocation and the surplus will be sold openly.

Israel: Going It Alone

(*Tel Aviv, Ha'aretz, in Hebrew, Dec. 29*) "In the future, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] intends to manufacture most of its combat equipment and anti-aircraft systems, not only because of the desire for technological freedom but also, mainly, because of the acute and pressing need to gradually minimize our dependency on U.S. funds; a dependency which has grave implications for our political freedom of action as well as our way of life and the image of Israeli society." This was stated by Major General Ehud Baraq, the head of the Planning Branch in the IDF headquarters, in an interview with *Bamahane*.

Maj. Gen. Baraq said the U.S. postponement in realizing a comprehensive and serious strategic agreement with Israel harms some of the possible paths of actions the United States has toward its positive interests in our area.

The head of the Planning Branch said that Zaire's willingness to renew its contacts with us has opened the way for limited military aid, whose main aim is political, and which "may influence the readiness of other countries in Africa to renew relations with us."

Indonesia: Seeing Red

(*Jakarta Domestic Service, in Indonesian, Jan. 6*) Following reports in several Jakarta newspapers about the circulation of calendars showing a hammer and sickle emblem on a T-shirt, the commander of the Security and Order Restoration Command [Kopkamtib], Admiral Sudomo, has conducted an investigation and safeguard measures since 3 January to prevent the circulation of the calendars among members of the public. As of yesterday, some 37,000 copies of the calendar had been confiscated.

From the head office of a firm in Jakarta, it has been discovered that some 100,000 copies of the calendar were

printed. Some 42,000 copies have been circulated while the remaining 58,000 copies are still being stored in a warehouse, which has been sealed off by the Kopkamtib. Based on these figures, the number of copies confiscated totals 95,000 copies, while the remaining 5,000 copies are still being sought. . . .

Kopkamtib has called on members of the public who are still holding such calendars to surrender them to their local military or police station or direct to Kopkamtib through central Jakarta mailbox No 999.

West Germany: Riot Control in East Germany

(*Hamburg, Der Spiegel, in German, Jan. 10*) Measures against young protesters in [East Germany] are to be intensified. In a decision on "Increasing Revolutionary Vigilance and State Security," the text of which has arrived in the West, in the fall of 1982 the East Berlin Bezirk SED management ordered: "Attempts to rally . . . by hostile and criminally prone young people—particularly at social and church facilities in the capital—must be even more decisively stopped. Educational and disciplinary action against negative elements belonging to Berlin sports clubs has to be stepped up considerably." The decision is thus aimed not only against rioting soccer fans but against punk concerts, private readings of literature by authors considered to be critics of the regime, and church peace groups. The document was circulated among "magistrate members; municipal district mayors; directors of combines, enterprises and factories; and chairmen of cooperatives."

China: "Till Debt Do Us Part"

(*Beijing, Renmin Ribao, in Chinese, Dec. 30*) The new year and the Spring Festival are approaching. Many young men and women are preparing to hold weddings during the holidays. How to hold weddings in a civilized and frugal manner is a major issue bearing on family happiness and the fostering of new social practices.

In the past few years, with the launching of the "five stresses and four beauties" and the promotion of new-style weddings, more and more young people and family heads have come to see the harm of holding large weddings. The holding of civilized and economical collective weddings, or new-style family weddings, has been well received by society. But the practice of having extravagant weddings has not yet been completely wiped out. . . .

Holding large weddings is not the wish of young people. Many family heads especially have regarded the practice as a financial burden. But for fear that other people may talk if weddings are too simple, many young people and their guardians have succumbed to unhealthy practices, or bowed to social pressure. By holding large weddings, many young people have become burdened with heavy debts. Multiple contradictions have marred their marital lives.

. . . Young people should have the courage to break with the bonds of traditional concepts and seize the initiative to take charge of their own weddings. Being in love is a matter of sharing the same will. Weddings must be voluntary. Wedding ceremonies must be civilized. Every youth with consciousness should have such courage and lofty sentiment and play a vanguard role in building socialist spiritual civilization.

—H.S.