

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.

France: Spy in the Closet

(Paris, AFP, in English, July 7) The French authorities were today trying to unravel an extraordinary Chinese puzzle made up of three main elements—deviant sex, espionage, and diplomacy.

The problem arose after the arrest Tuesday of Bernard Boursicot, 39, a former clerk in the French Embassy in Beijing from 1969-72, formally charged with handing over secret diplomatic documents to Chinese intelligence instead of shredding them.

His defense was that he was forced to do so because of his love for a Chinese woman, Shi Pei Pu, the mother of his 17-year-old son, Shi Dudu. He said that he was only able to go on seeing Miss Shi by cooperating with a Chinese intelligence agent, Kang.

That was how things stood until the French counterespionage service DST during the night arrested Miss Shi, who had come to Paris to join Mr. Boursicot with the 17-year-old youth. The DST claim that Miss Shi is in fact a male singer at the Beijing Opera.

There is of course no question of a son. In fact, the DST said, Mr. Boursicot visited China in 1981 for three weeks to see his friend, and they both returned to Paris with Dudu, an abandoned orphan, whom they adopted....

An investigating magistrate was expected today to order a medical examination of Shi Pei Pu, aged about 50, to determine the singer's sex.

Shi Pei Pu has twice appeared on French television and given highly successful performances.

China: Criticism and the Arts

(Beijing, Xinhua Domestic Service, in Chinese, July 7—commentary on "Criticism Should Be the Normal Order in Literature and Art," published in Guangming Ribao the same day.) The article points out: For some time it has been rather difficult for some literary and art departments to criticize certain deviations and unhealthy tendencies. The reasons are: (1) Some writers and artists, including Party members, detest criticism and fly into a rage when they are criticized. (2) Articles critical of literary and art works are difficult to write. Some comrades engaged in literary and art criticism are often "hated" by people, and some have thus "changed their profession" and have been working in other areas in order to "offend few people." (3) It is difficult for the press to carry critical articles. A periodical which published two articles of an analytical and critical character was described as "encircling and suppressing writers and artists...." Now some newspapers and periodicals carry as few critical articles as possible, or no such articles, in order not to make "a bad name."

The article says: Because of long-standing "leftist" mistakes in the guidelines for literature and art, criticism was indeed used as a stick in the past, thus harming a number of writers and artists. In this sense, fear of criticism can be said to be a legacy of history.

However, history advances.... Departments in charge of literary and art works at the central and local levels throughout the country all show great concern for and cherish large numbers of writers and artists and try to create conditions in various ways for them to bring their intelligence and wisdom into full play. In the country over the past few years, not a single writer or artist has been stigmatized as a counterrevolutionary because of his works or articles.... Even when writers or critics have been criticized for some mistakes in their works, they can still continue to write creative articles or critiques as others do, and they are also rewarded for their fine works. Some even have the honor of being admitted to the Party.... If one still associates criticism with "suppressing people," it just does not tally with the changed realities.

The article says: Do our literary and art works and commentaries not criticize other fronts, society at large, as well as party and state leaders at various levels every day? Literary and art works should be commended when done well and criticized when done poorly. Only in this way can literary and art works be in tune with the atmosphere of the socialist cause and order in the people's daily life.... Not all literary and art circles are bright; they also have their dark side....

In some literary works and articles, the banner of socialism is not held higher and higher, but lower and lower. Some individual literary works distort and make ugly the Party and socialism, disseminate disillusioning, pessimistic, negative, and decadent sentiments, and advocate ultra-individualism, anarchism, religious belief and irrational tendencies.... The masses of people have a lot of complaints about this. Criticism and self-criticism is the only way to eliminate such negative factors.

South Korea: Hitting the Books

(Seoul, Yonhap, in English, July 7) The government is deliberately examining the contents of Japanese historical textbooks to be used from 1984 to see how the distorted historical accounts involving Korea were corrected.

Education Ministry officials said Thursday the ministry has obtained thirteen Japanese history textbooks and asked Korean historians to carefully analyze the contents.

The scrutiny is being made because the results of the corrections made by Japan were more or less unsatisfactory, they said....

The officials said that Japan has corrected only portions of the thirty-nine points Korea requested for correction last year. Descriptions of the events Korea had requested an early correction for, including the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592 and the assassination of Queen Min in 1895 by Japanese, will be most precisely examined, they said....

Paraguay: State of Siege

(Asunción, ABC Color, in Spanish, July 1) Yesterday the archbishopric's press office released a communiqué signed by Asunción Archbishop Ismael Rolon. The communiqué states that "the people are not only concerned over the floods. Unfortunately, there are also incidents which affect the peace and security of their homes, such as the frequent arrests of students, workers and professionals under law 209."

The archbishop outlines the church's position, stating that... "Although we are not in charge of giving immediate

and direct solutions, we support those who request justice, liberty, and love. We want to back up their requests for the authorities to positively investigate, prove, and resolve the problems.”

...“We are concerned over what we hear and what we read in the newspapers about the arrest of Paraguayan citizens on the one hand and the defense of foreign criminals who have taken refuge in the country on the other.

“It is not our intention to obstruct the state’s legislative actions of vigilance and prevention. But the frequently used formula, state of siege-law 209, lends to ambiguous interpretations and abuses. Moreover, the law rather indicates that a system of violence, which is neither human nor Christian, is in force.

“The National Constitution is very clear in article 50: ‘Every person has the right to have his life, physical integrity, freedom, security, honor, and reputation protected by the state.’ The words of Jesus are also very clear: ‘Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me’ (Matthew 25: 40).”

Italy: From “Pen” to Parliament

(Rome, ANSA, in English, July 13) Attempts by Christian Democrats and Neofascists to prevent newly elected Radical Party Deputy Toni Negri from taking his seat in the Rome Lower House made Tuesday’s opening of the new Italian Parliament one of the more turbulent in recent years.

Negri, a political science professor at Padua University, is accused of promoting an insurrection against the state, a charge that bears a life sentence. Other accusations allege that he abetted homicides and also minor thefts in his role as a leader of the now defunct Potere Operaio radical leftist group, and its successor, Workers’ Autonomy.

The trial against Negri was suspended when he was elected on the Radical party slate in the June 26-27 general election. He had been jailed for preventive detention with his co-defendants for over four years.

The 50-year-old Negri...was released from jail because his election makes him subject to parliamentary immunity....

Apparently unaware that many legal experts feel the prosecution has yet to produce hard proof for its charges, or in any case that the whole case is still *sub judice*, the Christian Democrats described Negri as “he who more than anyone else has theorized and preached subversion and armed struggle against the state.”...

The Christian Democrat demand for Negri’s exclusion from Parliament, even though he has declared he would like the competent parliamentary committee to lift his immunity so that he can clear his name in the court-room, caused a sensation in the parliamentary corridors and, in a tardy statement after the fact, was described by Christian Democrat party Chairman Flaminio Piccoli as “completely mistaken.”

The spirit of the Christian Democrat statement was reflected by the Neofascists of the Italian Social Movement when Negri took his seat among the M.P.s on the Radical Leftist Proletarian Democracy party. The extreme rightists beat on their benches with clenched fists and shouted, “out murderer, out murderer!” Some of the Neofascists even tried to assault the left-wing sector of the semi-circle of seats forming the Italian parliamentary hall, but the acting speaker managed to restore calm....

The Proletarian Democracy party described attempts to prevent Negri from taking his seat as “unheard of,” while Radical party leader Marco Pannella pointed out that it was “the first time in Europe that people have tried to prevent an M.P. elected by the people from taking his seat.”

Colombia: “Money Talks”

(Bogotá, El Tiempo, in Spanish, July 7) The excellent radio report given by Juan Guillermo Rios and Alfonso Castellanos, of the “6:00 am, 9:00 am” CARACOL team, with Carlos Lehder, the controversial Colombian-German personality, led authorities to take action in a matter over which the archbishop of Armenia had already made statements, raising his authoritative voice to condemn the use of ill-gotten gains for what appear to be social programs.

The well-known Mr. Lehder, who initiated the campaign against the extradition treaty—it has now been confirmed that he may himself become the subject of an extradition case—is seeking, through a publicity campaign and a campaign in favor of the Latin Movement, to obtain no less than a Senate seat with the votes of the Quindio people, who benefit from his money and are bewitched by his words....

Mr. Lehder, skillfully encouraged by the journalists, loosened his tongue and did not hesitate to confess to his dark past and his direct links with drug traffic.

Demonstrating a strange nationalism and obvious “anti-imperialism,” he said “Exactly. I was an intermediary [in the drug trade] to help the Colombian bonanza enter the United States....And I say that not only did I conspire against the United States, but I am still conspiring and will continue to conspire until the Turbay-Reagan Extradition Treaty is revoked.”

In Mr. Lehder’s statements over CARACOL station, he opens politicians’ eyes: “I am not a politician. I am a civic man who has had many experiences and I am at the head of some very serious businesses. If no one is capable of speaking for the Quindio, I will speak; and if no one is capable of forming a civic movement in the Quindio...well, I formed one, apparently very successfully because it has more than 10,000 affiliated members, which means more than 20,000 votes. Armenia casts 60,000 votes in presidential elections.”

Mr. Lehder’s political movement, which has taken giant steps, also has a newspaper, *Quindio Libre*....

Mr. Lehder also said that his island in the Bahamas, for which he paid \$1 million, had hotels where Colombians have lived or stayed temporarily. “They use those territories as they wished and I offered them, along with the Bahamian Government, the necessary protection, as a free zone.”...

All that Mr. Lehder tells us, obviously stimulated by the inner conviction that he is the redeemer of Quindio, not only requires a careful investigation, but an in-depth analysis. On the national level, Lehder is not unknown. He has paid millions for the media to publish his pamphlets. On the regional level he is the savior of the long-suffering people of Quindio...He is showing them—and this is what alarms the archbishop of Armenia—that conditions are favorable for those whose “money talks” to dominate in Colombia.

—E.J.R. and M.T.W.