

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.

China: Respecting Women

(*Harbin, Heilongjiang Provincial Service, in Mandarin, Oct. 19*) Our country's Constitution clearly defines that women enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of political, economic, cultural, social, and family life. The state protects marriage, the family, and the mother and child....

...What merits our attention is that in recent years the residual feudal idea of regarding men as superior to women and the traditional prejudice in this regard have gained ground to some extent. What allows of no tolerance is the frequent occurrence of such illegal and criminal cases as forsaking girl babies, insulting women, ill-treating mothers giving birth to a daughter, and abducting, selling, and injuring women and children. Certain hideous practices which had been stamped out in New China long ago have reappeared. The problems of loving the new and loathing the old and marriages breaking up due to a third person's intervention are also very serious....

Protecting legitimate rights and interests of women and children is the common duty of the whole party and society....Through this activity we should eliminate such erroneous ideas and bad customs and habits as regarding men as superior to women, discriminating against women and children, and buying and selling women and children. We should also struggle against all practices of injuring or killing women and children and absolutely strike down various criminal offenses in regard to abducting, selling, injuring, and killing women and children. Large numbers of the masses and personalities of various circles should dare to point out with a sense of justice the phenomenon of harming women and children and have the courage to struggle against this phenomenon so as to create the fine atmosphere of respecting women and protecting children across society.

South Africa: Row With Lesotho

(*Johannesburg Sunday Times, in English, Oct. 9*) The future of South Africa's black citizens has erupted on the centre stage of the referendum campaign. Government spokesmen are working hard to cool passions with promises of action after polling day on the question of black political rights. The door, they insist, is not closed on black advancement. The issue has been further confused by a flaming new row between South Africa and Lesotho.

Lesotho Prime Minister Chief Leabua Jonathan has intervened in the referendum campaign by sending a telegram to KwaZulu's Chief Gatsha Buthelezi in which he warns that the new constitution could lead to a "racial holocaust." The minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Pik Botha, last night branded the Jonathan telegram as "intimidation" and "interference in South Africa's domestic affairs." The telegram adds urgency to a growing campaign by Government speakers to defuse an issue which is beginning to dominate

the referendum debate.

In Vryburg this week the prime minister, Mr. P. W. Botha, went out of his way to stress that there would be continued negotiation with black leaders after November 2 to find "new and imaginative forms" of constitutional justice and equity for all South Africans. While emphatically ruling out majority rule, he said the referendum by no means signalled the end of "honest endeavours" to solve problems between the government and blacks....

The telegram is a response to an earlier one from Chief Buthelezi and claims that South Africa would miss another chance for peaceful change if it went ahead with the proposed constitution...."Sadly, the present constitutional proposals by the South African Government are, because of their exclusion of the black majority, only going to enhance racial conflict."...

The telegram—released by Chief Buthelezi's office this week—led to an immediate response from Mr. Botha. He branded the telegram as interference in South Africa's internal affairs and said it was an obvious attempt by Chief Buthelezi to muster more support for his stand. "He has threatened and intimidated the Coloureds and Indians and is doing the same to others now."

Mr. Botha said neither Chief Jonathan nor Chief Buthelezi tolerated dissidence and that they ran one-party states. "I am a little bit tired of those who pontificate about the democracy for others when they themselves operate from a position of authorization [sic] rule. I have just one question for Prime Minister Jonathan: On what basis does he govern his people? The night he lost the elections he seized power and has not since dared to ask his people if they want him."

United Kingdom: Return of the Marbles

(*London, Press Association, in English, Oct. 12*) Greece today officially asked for the return of the Elgin Marbles. The request came from Greek Ambassador Mr. Nikos Kiriazidhis at a meeting at the Foreign Office with Lady Young, deputy foreign secretary.

The marbles, rescued by Lord Elgin from the Parthenon ruins at Athens in 1806, have been housed in the British Museum, London, for more than a century.

Today, both government and British Museum authorities indicated they had no intention of sending back the marbles, purchased by Lord Elgin from the Turks for 35,000 pounds.

The Foreign Office said the Greek request—spearheaded by former actress, now culture minister, Melina Mercouri—was being considered. They would get a reply in due course. But it added: "The marbles are the legally acquired property of the trustees of the British Museum...."

India: U.S. Purposes in Pakistan

(*Bombay Times of India, in English, Oct. 4*) The U.S. defence secretary, Mr. Weinberger, did not need to visit Islamabad to discuss military supplies for Pakistan. At least as far as is publicly known, no problem in this regard has arisen between the two governments. Only recently the U.S. administration agreed to provide Pakistan the deadly Harpoon missiles. It follows that the purpose of the trip was political. On the face of it, it would appear that Mr. Weinberger wanted to demonstrate the U.S. administration's support for General Ziaul Haq, however strong the

current agitation against him, especially in Sind. Or else, he could have found some pretext for avoiding the visit. There can be another possible explanation which is that he went to Islamabad to assess for himself whether General Zia still enjoyed the confidence of other generals and to find a suitable replacement for him in case the general had ceased to be a viable proposition. In a sense, this is not a particularly good explanation on two counts. First, the U.S. administration must have a sufficiently large and well-informed intelligence network in Pakistan to keep it posted with General Zia's political health, maintain contact with other military leaders and recommend a possible successor. Secondly, the trip was too brief (it lasted a mere 36 hours) to enable Mr. Weinberger to study the situation for himself on the spot. But the Iranian experience might be haunting the Reagan set-up. Surely it would not like to be taken by surprise by events in Pakistan as it was in Iran in 1978-79. This makes it difficult to be sure about the purpose of Mr. Weinberger's trip. But it does appear that Washington has decided to be seen to be standing behind General Zia.

If this is in fact the case, it raises another issue. What is the U.S. government's advice to the general on how he should handle the present agitation? To try to crush it or to try to open talks? But talks with whom? It would be a reasonable inference that the hard-faced men in Washington would not want serious negotiations which could pave the way for early elections. For in that event, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), headed in effect by Benazir Bhutto, would sweep the poll. And the Americans would not like to deal with her. She is too independent for their liking and she would be coming to power on the crest of a wave. The Reagan administration would, of course, want General Zia to go through the motions of seeking a political solution if that could help him split the opposition. The general himself would love to do so. That is presumably why he has agreed to open talks with the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan headed by Maulana Noorani. But parties truly involved in the current struggle are not likely to fall a prey to this kind of tactic. And in Sind the PPP is bearing almost entirely the brunt of the fight. By this reckoning, the inference, at least tentatively, would be that Washington would back General Zia in his bid to crush the agitation. Perhaps President Reagan and his aides have, like Mr. Kissinger, viewed the Iranian experience as well differently from the rest of us. They could have concluded that it was a show of weakness that proved the undoing of the Shah. If this deduction is accurate, Pakistan is in for a long dark night. Blood will continue to flow in its towns.

Nicaragua: U.S. Designs

(Panama City, ACAN, in Spanish, Oct. 16) Eli Altamirano, secretary general of the Communist party of Nicaragua (PCDEN) told ACAN-EFE today that the U.S. Government is preparing "plans" to occupy Central America militarily on the pretext that it is combating "Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism." According to the Communist leader, "U.S. troops might be deployed from Guatemala up to the Colombian border for the purpose of annexing Central America.

"Up to now, there has been a large number of U.S. troops in the Panama Canal Zone, and, under the guise of military maneuvers in Honduras, the United States also has military advisors directing the Salvadoran Army in its

fight against the rebels," Altamirano explained.

He added that the administration of President Reagan is supporting "a mercenary army" that is waging an undeclared war against the Nicaraguan democratic revolution. Eli Altamirano affirmed that the high-level commission headed by Henry Kissinger, "the expert imperialist diplomat," has the "admitted objective of establishing guidelines for the governments of the area."

"It is necessary to unite and secure a democratic and patriotic alliance among all the progressive and revolutionary sectors of this country in view of the difficult situation confronting the Nicaraguan revolutionary process," the PCDEN secretary stated.

Honduras: Marxist Designs

(Tegucigalpa, Cadena Audio Video, in Spanish, Oct. 19—statement by Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova) ...Central America's problems have their origins in social injustice. A primary cause of these problems has been the dismay and frustration felt by its people as a result of the great abuses committed against them during elections. The people's will has been thwarted and, in the long run, the Marxists have come here with their nice-sounding rhetoric to talk to these people, who feel frustrated because of their social problems or the violation of the people's will at the polls....

I ask all men and women throughout the world who believe in democracy to force Nicaragua to honor its commitments. When its current rulers assumed power in July, 1979, they pledged to establish a democratic, pluralistic, and participatory regime and to hold elections as soon as possible. This issue has yet to be resolved. Indeed, it may not be closed until Nicaragua has a single party, like Communist countries the world over.

Remember my words: If El Salvador falls, Honduras and Guatemala will fall. If Central America falls, Mexico will fall, and eventually the terrorists of international communism will be throwing bombs at the capitol. I congratulate the honorable Democratic and Republican representatives and other members of the U.S. Bipartisan Commission for Central America on their visit to our country. [?I ask them to tell] President Reagan and the various leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties that President Suazo Cordova has confidence in them and that he hopes they will attend to our requests. You may be certain that the full support we will receive will contribute to political, economic, and military stability in Central America....

Poland: Registering Assent

(Warsaw Domestic Television Service, in Polish, Oct. 11) The Union of Polish Writers (ZLP) has been registered. The press spokesman of the office of the metropolitan city of Warsaw states that the deputy mayor of the capital, Michel Szymborski, informed representatives of the ZLP founding committee of the Union's registration. From the moment of its registration the union receives legal identity and may undertake activity throughout the country. The registration document was collected by Halina Auderska, chairwoman of the founding committee. A group of eminent writers, initiators of the rebirth of the creative organization of Polish writers, were present.

—D.H.