

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.

FRG: Tuning In, Turning off

(*Bonn Die Welt, in German, Dec. 19*) The "bigwigs" in the ARD and ZDF television networks who are often not very concerned about the citizens' wishes or protest are now faced—as a result of a spectacular action by the "GDR" [East Germany] leadership, of all things—with the question of whether television does not frequently convey a distorted picture of life in the FRG. The "GDR" has started to install large antennas and lay television cables which allow the reception of Western television in those regions where this has not been possible due to technical conditions. Reports to this effect initially caused incredulous amazement among responsible people in Bonn. Meanwhile, indications to this effect have become more solid.

In talks with a West Berlin politician, an SED official substantiated the reports: East Berlin, he said, is no longer afraid of Western television. "When Deutschland reports on unemployment, demonstrations, and violence in the FRG, only a few people believe it. When West German television reports these things they believe it."...

The official reasons given by the SED—that West German television could have a soothing effect on discontented "GDR" people—is just one aspect. The East Berlin leadership is aware that—unlike newspapers—it does not have a monopoly in the area of electronic media. Every evening millions of people in the "GDR" are informed by FRG television and radio about world events, including events in the Communist sphere of influence, which the officially controlled media withhold.

The fact that West German television cannot be received for technical reasons in some areas of the "GDR" has led to problems. The federal government has information according to which the number of applicants for emigration to the FRG is significantly higher in the Dresden area, where people cannot yet receive West German television, than in other areas.

There is also apparently a connection between the possibility of receiving ARD and ZDF and decisions on the work place and change of residence. The "GDR" peoples, including SED officials, reportedly reluctantly accept transfers to the Dresden or Griefswald areas where they cannot receive West German television. According to government estimates 75-80 per cent of "GDR" citizens regularly watch West German television. Measures by the party-state leadership to prevent the reception of West German television have failed in the past....

Sudan: Games States Play

(*London, Ash-Sharq al-Awsat, in Arabic, Dec. 10—excerpts from interview with Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri by 'Irfan Nizam ad-Din*)

QUESTION: There are many hot Arab and local issues. Let us begin with Sudanese affairs, particularly the Ethiopian threats and troop concentrations, which are increasing daily—the plot against Sudan. Do you think, Mr.

President, that these concentrations mark the beginning of a war with Ethiopia, and how can this situation be dealt with?

ANSWER: Ethiopia cannot fight at the present time because it has enough problems to turn your hair white. The Ethiopian Government simply wants to divert the Ethiopian people's attention to an issue which I consider to be peripheral, just as it did earlier with Somalia, when it rallied public support under the pretext of protecting Ethiopia.... When the Somalis withdrew, Ethiopia exaggerated the matter, of course, claiming that the war was still going on. They brought in the Cubans and Soviets, and so forth, and began to attack Somalia. Now they want to repeat the same game with Sudan, but unfortunately for them, Sudan has not entered or fought inside Ethiopia, nor does it have any intention of doing so. They have ordered these troop concentrations and brought in many foreign soldiers—whom you know as well as we do—in order to provoke us into attacking them. However, we will not do that....

QUESTION: It has been reported that the situation in the south is quite serious. Ethiopia may not be in a position to fight, but it can plot from within. How serious is the situation in the south, and is there a secessionist plot under way at this particular time?

ANSWER: There is talk of secession and claims that northern Sudan wants to Arabize the south and control its economy. These claims are made by the revolution's enemies inside Sudan. They failed in their bid to gain the leadership, and the people of the south rejected them in free elections. Therefore, they went to Ethiopia. In Ethiopia they discovered that Libya had the upper hand, so they began to work jointly. Encouraged by the Soviets, they began to create these problems. They trained a large number of Sudanese living in Ethiopia. There are tribes which reside in both Ethiopia and Sudan. They put pressure on these tribes to make them go to Ethiopia and then they called them refugees.... They train them and then send them in. As I said, they have carried out operations and failed. As a result, they have resorted to incitement. This has led many people in the world to believe that Sudan is sitting on a volcano. The truth is that the situation in Sudan is calm. Anyone wishing to verify this fact should come here....

QUESTION: Do you not believe that in addition to these recent activities, there is perhaps an international strategy or plot involving various parties from both East and West aimed at wreaking vengeance on Sudan for applying Islamic law?

ANSWER: That may be the case. I cannot say there is no such plan. The world is full of plans—that is, plots against states. It happened to Bangladesh and Pakistan. If the perpetrators are Ethiopia and Libya, we can handle them. We can handle the situation even if the Soviets are involved, but if the West gets involved, it would mean an international plot which no one could resist. If the whole world decides to partition a country without war—if it agrees to partition Sudan, Egypt, or the Arab world—no one can say anything....

Bolivia: Helping Democracy

(*La Paz Domestic Service, in Spanish, Dec. 25—excerpts from Bolivian President Hernan Siles Suazo's Christmas message to the nation*) ... We Bolivians have managed to

complete the initial phases of the democratic government by overcoming great difficulties thanks to the conscientiousness demonstrated by the people who confronted the bankrupted situation inherited from the past, the provocative actions of groups who want to turn back the clock, the irresponsible demagoguery of those who want power for power's sake, and the natural disasters which aggravated the crisis....

In the face of a government which owns no newspapers, an ill-meaning campaign emphasizing the negative aspects of the process while minimizing or even ignoring its positive aspects has been launched. Thus a climate of uncertainty has been created, undermining our short-term prospects, and even worse, raising questions about our future. This campaign has gone so far as to propose the removal of the constitutional president who has been elected by the Bolivian people three consecutive times.... This is a suicidal attempt, because taking the popular mandate away from the president will only set off a chain reaction affecting all the institutional organs that have been reinstated by the democratic efforts of all the Bolivian people....

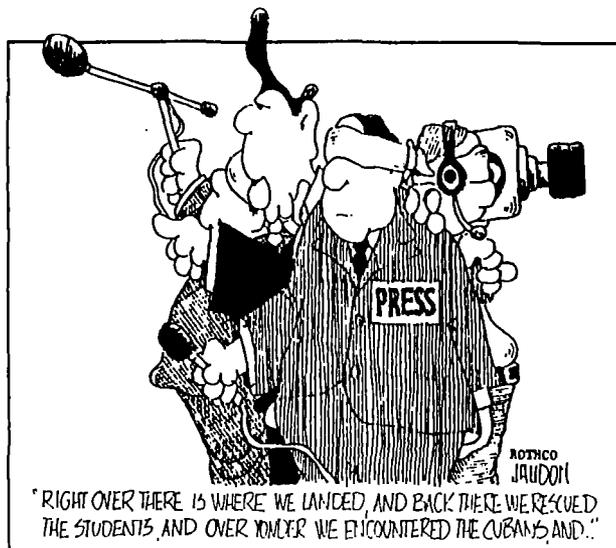
Mindful of the deep aspirations of the Bolivian people, and in full agreement with the Bolivian Episcopate, the government invites all political, labor, and civic organizations that are interested in the continuity of institutional order to work together attaining primary objectives for strengthening the nation and the state. Such primary objectives are: confronting the crisis; fighting drug trafficking; rationally utilizing our natural resources; providing for the population's basic needs; developing our energy resources; improving public health, housing, and education; and encouraging agricultural and industrial activities.

These objectives are to be pursued through a pluralistic and patriotic participation, with a determination to move the country forward and to demonstrate that the common effort through institutional, political, labor, and business organizations can not only overcome the crisis, but can also definitely consolidate and strengthen democracy as well....

China: "Spiritual Pollution"

(Beijing, Beijing Ribao, in *Chinese*, Dec. 11) Two days ago, at the seventh session of the Standing Committee of the municipal People's Congress, the members of the Standing Committee listened to a report... on the situation of spiritual pollution in the municipality's work in the cultural and artistic fields and the measures adopted to resist spiritual pollution in the future....

In Beijing, whether on the theoretical front or in literary and artistic creation, the theater, television, the movies, broadcasting, or in mass culture, a picture of liveliness has begun to emerge. The main trend, which is marked by important achievements, is quite healthy. However, after the ideological front forum in 1981, while the municipality has corrected the erroneous tendency of bourgeois liberalization and the erroneous tendency to regard spiritual products as commodities on the theoretical and literary and artistic fronts, it has left some other erroneous tendencies uncorrected. Some have even grown in seriousness.... In recent years, publication work has not been put under strict control and a considerable number of bad books or books which should not have been published in



vast quantities have been published by the Xinhua Bookstore and the China Bookstore or through other channels. Spiritual pollution also exists in social cultural work and mass cultural activities. In the municipality, the situation of the circulation of erotic cassette tapes, videotapes and photographs is quite serious....

USSR: Faith In People

(Moscow, TASS International Service, in Russian, Dec. 19) President Reagan has devised an original way of calming the alarm that is growing in the United States and throughout the world concerning his policy that is taking the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe. He recommended that the generation that will witness the end of the world should "act as it deems necessary."

Reagan made his prediction of the biblical end of the world, which would be more appropriate to a religious fanatic than a public statesman, in an interview for *People* magazine. In reply to the question, "Do you really believe that our generation may see Armageddon," Reagan said: "I have never spoken about this publicly, but I have spoken about it with my people, since theologians have long told me that never before had so many predictions come true as now. In the past, there were times when we thought the end of the world was near, but it has never happened."

"The point of reading the Bible," the President continued, "is to understand that this world and our life do not essentially belong to us." According to Reagan, it thus appears that there is no point in being concerned about preserving peace and the life of mankind.

Not giving a fig for the preservation of human civilization, Reagan never fails to be concerned for his own life and personal safety, and this concern is assuming an increasingly maniacal character. Proof of this is the concrete obstacles at the White House and the "ground-to-air" missiles on the grounds of the Presidential residence. Reagan himself wears a bulletproof vest although, as he admitted in the interview, there are times when he expresses uncensored remarks because of discomfort.

Comment on Reagan's revelations in the pages of *People* is, as they say, superfluous. They point to the grounds for the growing fears in Americans—confirmed by the latest public opinion polls—at the fact that there is now a man in the White House of whom anything can be expected.

—W.M.B. and N.J.H.