

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.

Nicaragua: The Cure-All

(Managua Radio, Sandino Network, in Spanish, Apr. 3—excerpts from station commentary) U.S. Senator Gary Hart, in his campaign for the presidential nomination, recently proposed the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Central America. An immediate reaction came from Secretary of State George Shultz, who branded the proposal ridiculous because, in his opinion, Central America is of vital importance to U.S. security.

If all U.S. troops were to be withdrawn from the region, all problems affecting us over the past century would disappear, as if by magic. Senator Hart has hit the nail on the head or, as the saying goes, he has put his finger on the sore spot! A sore spot that has been most painful to our suffering people, who no longer can endure such injustice and oppression. The only solution to the conflict, therefore, is the immediate withdrawal of those occupation troops who, like Walker's filibusterers, have brought only misery and sorrow to our people. Let the Yankees, then, take their intervention elsewhere. That is what all Central Americans want, because we are fed up with their abuse of mankind. Only then can we begin truly friendly and humane relations with the U.S. people, who share our sentiments of solidarity and fraternal coexistence, which we all desire....

Swaziland: When a Stranger Calls

(Mbabane Television, in Siswati, Apr. 16) Our reporters, who have just returned from a meeting with the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, say the prime minister today appealed to the entire nation to report to the police whenever they see strangers that act suspiciously or any other unknown strangers. He said this following the shooting and killing of an innocent Royal Swaziland Police officer and the injuring of four others and a soldier today. The prime minister said the people involved in the shooting incidents over the weekend and today have confessed that they fled from Maputo....

[Said Bhekimpi] "I trust that those that are still in hiding will give themselves up to the police. If, however, they are ferreted out of the bush, they will be treated accordingly.... If they want refuge, they must follow the rules set down for refugees. If they are in transit, they should report this fact to the law. No traveler, however, passes through another's territory carrying arms...."

"My countrymen, in short, the Government of Swaziland has asked me to appeal to the nation to be alert. We hope that the United Nations will not ask us what has happened. Those U.N. personnel in charge of security will know that these recent events are not acceptable. We will hear from the United Nations if this is what they expect of those that seek refuge in foreign countries. We trust that they too will be taken aback by these events...."

"We have heard that some strangers are found all over the country, some have even been found at the university. Where they emerge from no one knows. Is this the right

way to treat strangers? We say: Those that harbor these elements should examine themselves and question their conduct as patriots. If they do not regard themselves as true Swazis, then who are they? In Swazi custom, one does not harbor a stranger without first reporting him to the authorities...."

GDR: Over the Wall

(East Berlin Domestic Service, in German, Apr. 11) Several FRG newspapers report deep disappointment felt by many immigrants from the GDR. According to the SPD paper *Vorwaerts*, some of them have realized that freedom in the FRG has many pitfalls. FRG citizens are already complaining that people from the GDR would do better to stay at home; people in the FRG have enough problems of their own. Workers in particular see the immigrants as competitors. Many former GDR citizens were taken aback by the fact that their first experience on West German soil was being interrogated by the intelligence service. The *Vorwaerts* article says they are scared of agents.

Frankfurter Rundschau describes how great expectations are bursting like bubbles and giving way to a frightful reality. Social security, a sense of belonging, the community as a great protective family—all this suddenly vanished. The former medical superintendent of a gynecological clinic in the GDR, who moved to the FRG three years ago, told the Hamburg news magazine *Der Spiegel* that he had failed to find an adequate post in the West. The professor said: "In brief, from a one-time proud dissident I have become a beggar emigrant. Looking back, I would not wish to change anything of my life over there except that I would not decide again to leave...."

Iran: Ways to Treat a Lady

(Teheran Domestic Service, in Persian, Apr. 8—excerpts from speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to female students of Qom Islamic Schools and female members of Narmak Mosque) In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am grateful to my sisters, the esteemed ladies, for having come here, because it enables me to point out some of the things which our sisters have experienced and the role of women during the past hundred or so years.

During the period of the Islamic Revolution, you played a more important role than the men. That is, not only were you taking an active part in it, but you also encouraged the men to take an active part. Therefore, the glory created by our ladies is to be highly commended. Consequently, you must participate in all events and in all areas, as much as permitted by Islam. An example of this is the Majlis election, which must take place and which is a topical subject in Iran today. In these elections, ladies as well as men must take an active part, for there is no difference between your fate and that of others. Iran's fate encompasses everyone's fate. That is to say, when it comes to service, Islam has served you more than it has men. Islam protected you and so in return you too must protect Islam. Protecting Islam means that the coming elections—which are to cover the second term of the Majlis—are important in deciding your fate as well as our fate; you must bear in mind that the elections are of highest importance.

...The fact is that those who are hostile to us are at present actively trying to pollute the Majlis. Certain ac-

tivities are under way both inside and outside the country. Through your presence and your gatherings and by going to the voting booths, you must foil such activities....

(*Radio Iran [Clandestine], in Persian, Apr. 8*) According to reports received, after Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that the dispatch of women and girls to the fronts will soon be legalized by the mullahs, the Islamic Republic recently sent a group of very young girls to the fronts, forcing them out of the elementary and high schools. It has been said that the Islamic Republic is planning to increase the dispatch of girls and women to the fronts following strong new publicity. It is planning to kill a great number of Iranian women and girls in addition to the men and boys....

Guinea: The "Other Side of the River"

(*Conakry Domestic Service, in French, Apr. 10—excerpts from a press conference given by Prime Minister Colonel Diara Traore*)

REPORTER: Mr. Prime Minister, you have spoken of the ruling class which is excessively large. It is enormous, gigantic. How are you going to single out bad public servants from good ones? And how are you going to restructure the administration, and on the basis of what criteria?

TRAORE: Guinea is not a continent. It is a small country with a few million inhabitants, a few thousand cadres who know one another....[W]e will call on conscientious cadres, on all civilian cadres, to contribute sincerely to the new society we want to create in Guinea....

REPORTER: Mr. Prime Minister, in your proposal for a new society, you spoke of a democratic society. The watchdog for a democratic system is the press....How do you intend to organize...? Will the press also be independent of the state?

TRAORE: The press will be more than independent—more than what you imagine. It will be independent in accordance with the prescribed norms. The Guinean press was really gagged and only sang the praises of the former leaders. It was only interested in creating the personality cult of the former leaders. From now on, we have given the press the freedom to criticize, formulate, and write anything it thinks, within the framework of our assigned economic recovery objectives. And like the press, all Guinean citizens are free to criticize, so that we all can get off the same ferry and reach the other side of the river....

REPORTER: What kind of help do you want from the Western countries?

TRAORE: All kinds of help, beginning with economic aid....[T]he former bloodthirsty regime did not want to tell the truth....Right now we are experiencing a food shortage....

REPORTER: Mr. Prime Minister, you have not spoken much about the Army. Will it be restructured? Is it going to be reformed? What kind of Army do you want?

TRAORE: The Army is really going to be (?restructured). It was no longer an Army but a real messy place. [laughter] We now want a modern Army, a well-equipped Army—and here again I want to take this opportunity to appeal to all the countries of the world, especially France—to help our Army become a true Army in defense of its country. We do not want to be the second or fifth best Army in the world, but we want an Army in the true sense of the word that can first of all be the pride of the people

of Guinea—an Army that will be there always to watch over the defense and territorial integrity of our dear fatherland....

Mexico: Massaging the Media

(*Mexico City, Excelsior, in Spanish, Mar. 15—excerpts from editorial*) Every day we feel the control exercised by the government over the information media more strongly. It seems as though special personnel exist to censor the news and speeches made in our society. Everything that concerns government policy and official ideology is cut out, distorted, and subjected to annulment. This is not the case with praise, flattery, or support for the positions of those who today have the country's leadership in their hands.

The people who listen to radio and television are becoming annoyed by the systematic bombardment of bulletins read by the announcers and commentators describing the activities of the president, secretaries of state, governors, or some influential municipal officials. Statements made by some magnate in private enterprise or by certain progovernment labor leaders are also reported.

Nothing or very little is heard of complaints made against the high cost of living, unemployment, and low wages, or of the strong criticism and protests raised by leftist leaders against the government's economic policy that is seriously hurting the country's working masses. Under these conditions, information is one-sided. We only hear about the official speeches, while those made by the people and their socialist leaders are daily ignored. Silence has been imposed on the revolutionary opposition.

If the restrictions imposed on one of the people's basic freedoms continues, it will not take long for all the affected political, social, and cultural organizations to take joint action against those authorities and information media responsible for violating the Constitution....

France: Chad's South

(*Paris International Service, in French, Apr. 2*) Among the difficulties encountered by the Chadian regime, there is the situation in the departments in the south of the country, where the administration of the capital has seemed to be seriously questioned in recent months....Two government missions have just stayed for a considerable length of time in this part of the country where the situation has been normalized and where President Hissain Habré intends to go soon. At least this is what he said a few days ago, speaking to Charles Lescaut:

[Habré] Without doubt, throughout Chad events occasionally occur, but I do not believe that there is disruption in the south....[A]part from a small pocket, reconciliation has become effective in the south of the country. To give just one example: This year we have experienced an exceptional cotton harvest....And I would say to you could we have achieved this together, if there were these troubles that are being spoken of abroad?

[Lescaut] Do you intend to go to the south soon?

[Habré] Indeed it is a plan close to our hearts and we are working on this. I am, in fact, thinking of making a tour in the south in the coming months.

It should be remembered that President Hissain Habré has never been to the south of his country....

—S.E.W.