

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.

Mexico: Reconsidering El Salvador

(Mexico City, El Financiero, in Spanish, Jun. 4—article by Santiago Ibanez) The time has come for Mexico to reconsider its policy toward the Salvadoran Government. The recent change of administration there has marked a significant change in the circumstances that led to the withdrawal of our Mexican ambassador in El Salvador in 1980. The presence of the Mexican foreign secretary at President José Napoleón Duarte's inauguration confirms this. Now Mexico must show its impartiality toward Central America's conflicts, and to do this it must reestablish full relations with El Salvador....

If our true purpose is to support democracy in Central America and to allow the peoples of the region to decide for themselves what kind of economic system they desire, there is no reason for us not to offer full support to José Napoleón Duarte's regime. It is a great deal more representative of the people's will than is the Sandinist regime in Managua, which was not elected by the people but emerged through force of arms.

Our traditional opposition to U.S. policy in Central America and our attempts to seek the favor of our own left by means of a "revolutionary" foreign policy are running the risk of going too far. We should be concerned about any situation in which the Mexican Government does not maintain an official representative before a government that was elected by the people—under pretext that it is not representative—while we maintain relations with regimes that were not elected by the people, which are considered representative. By doing this, we act not only against the most basic principles of justice, but against our own interests.

Vietnam: Cooperative Publishing

(Hanoi, Vietnam News Agency, in English, Jun. 17) The publishing services of Vietnam and the Soviet Union are cooperating in publishing the Soviet encyclopedia in Vietnamese as part of the long-term cooperation program between the two countries.... The Su That (Truth) Publishing House in Hanoi and the Pravda Publishing House have cooperated in the publication of Lenin's complete works in 55 volumes, each with 60,000 copies. The work was completed in 1981 after ten years.

At present, 16 publishing houses of Vietnam have cooperation [word indistinct] with four Soviet publishing houses.... [These] publishing houses have published 30 titles of books in Vietnamese, each running from one to two million copies....

...Each year, Vietnamese publishing houses are translating about one hundred Soviet books and printing about one million copies of books including works by party and state leaders. For its part, the Soviet Union has published many works by President Ho Chi Minh and other party and state leaders of Vietnam. The Soviet Literature Pub-

lishing Houses has translated and put out several works by prominent Vietnamese writers and poets. So far, nearly 300 book titles of Vietnamese authors totalling more than 14 million copies in Russian and other languages of the Soviet Union have been printed.

USSR: A Literary Excursion

(Moscow Domestic Service, in Russian, Jun. 11—poet Olzhas Suleyman's account of a recent visit to Afghanistan) Recently the first "Ten Days of Soviet Literature" were held in Afghanistan. I managed to visit that country together with several Soviet writers from Moscow, the Ukraine, and Belorussia. We spoke at meetings where we met students at Kabul University and young people in villages and towns.... We had meetings with soldiers of the Afghan Army and Soviet servicemen carrying out their international duty.... What struck me in [Mesarabad] was that there were mainly only women and old men at the meeting. The women were armed, apparently comprising a self-defense detachment defending their hamlet of children and old folk from the bandit *dushmans*; the young people were either in the Army or had perished fighting the *dushmans*. Naturally, it was particularly distressing to appear before such an audience. We were used to reading our verses in large, well-lit halls filled with people. But here, in the open air, among half-ruined houses, to see these little old women... with the barrels of automatic rifles and shotguns over their shoulders....

...After the meeting, an old man came up to me. It turned out that he was 83, and spoke to me in Kazakh.... He suddenly asked me sadly: Tell me, my boy, is it true that there is hunger in your country? and I reflected how influential is that primitive radio propaganda that dozens of *dushman* radio stations and bourgeois radio stations pour out to the simple Afghan peasant. I tried to explain that it is by no means the case, that we have enough grain for our needs to cope with the difficulties that undoubtedly exist—but it occurred to me that these words did not suffice, that it will take years to disperse that storm cloud of mistrust that still exists in the dark masses of the Afghan peasantry, which has been brought up in the conditions of long years of the feudal regime....

Nigeria: Not So Broke

(Lagos International Service, in English, Jun. 7—station commentary) Looking at the way the Western press treated Nigeria's request to the IMF for some \$2 billion loan, one would think that the country is totally bankrupt and cannot survive economically without the loan. Nigeria's external affairs minister's recent statement on the issue has put paid [as heard] to that imperialist propaganda. Also, as Nigeria's finance minister, Dr. Soley, rightly put it, Nigeria is not in a desperate situation, and the 5-month-old military administration is only continuing the talks for the IMF package of between 2 and 3 billion naira, originally initiated by the defunct civilian administration, as a matter of policy. Nigeria, as the minister explained further, is a member of the IMF and has her money in the fund, and therefore national interest would determine the acceptance or rejection of any negotiation process. For one thing, it appears there is a sinister motive behind the undue negative

publicity being given to the negotiations by the Western press; otherwise one cannot understand why they are harping so much on the conditions being given by the IMF for granting the loan and which Nigeria has rejected. These are the devaluation of the naira to bring it, according to them, to the level of the dollar; liberalization of trade, which in other words means more importation of goods from the Western countries; and a cut in petroleum subsidies....

The most important of the conditions is the devaluation of the naira. Such an exercise, apart from its social effects..., can have serious economic consequences for the peace and stability of the nation. And from all indications, it seems that what the Western media are envisaging is a civil carnage that will portray Nigeria as an unstable country. On the other hand, a devaluation of our currency would mean a cheap naira and higher prices for importation of goods, most of which will come from the West and the United States. The same goes for the argument on liberalization of trade, which cannot mean anything to the industrialized countries other than intensive importation of finished goods and even raw materials and the consequent depletion of our foreign exchange....



Cuba: Guatemala and the Imperialist Plan

(Havana International Service, in Spanish, Jun. 18) Guatemala is undergoing an acute economic crisis which has had negative repercussions on the country's peasants and workers. Despite this, however, the ruling clique and U.S. imperialism plan to establish what could be described as the foundations of a war industry there. Washington is using Israel to develop this plan, since, as Walter Middendorf, U.S. ambassador to the OAS, has said, Israel has interests in Central America....

Among the results of the Yankee-Zionist alliance, the U.S. official station, the Voice of America, recently reported that an agreement was signed by the United States,

Israel, and Guatemala for the production of Kfir combat planes in that Central America country. The plans for the production of the Kfir combat planes are a part of the arms industry plan that Israel is developing in Guatemala and that includes the production of ammunition, Galil rifles, armored vehicles, and an electronic industry for military applications.

Guatemala, has, in fact, become yet another operational base in Central America for Yankee imperialism and a market for the militaristic expansion of Israel, which also has economic interests in the region.

These actions demonstrate the U.S. Government's demagoguery about economic aid to the Central American countries, the most eloquent example of which was the much touted economic aid plan that Washington outlined only two years ago. Guatemala's economic development will receive little help from the creation of a war industry whose profits will line the pockets of the U.S. and Israeli arms industries, while the Guatemalan people continue to suffer from the crisis....

PRC: The New-Style Robin Hood

(Beijing, Renmin Ribao, in Chinese, Jun. 9) The slogan "rob the rich to help the poor" used by peasant uprising armies in history played a progressive role at the time. In the socialist era this idea of peasant egalitarianism can only have a negative influence by hampering the development of productive force. This idea was very fashionable in rural areas a few years ago. Although fundamental changes have taken place since the 3rd Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, this idea is still very far from being eliminated. The practice of making various impositions on specialized households under the pretext of "showing a fine style" is a phenomenon that merits attention. Please "show a fine style" by helping poor households. Please "show a fine style" for enlivening rural cultural life and organizing cinema and theatre shows. Please "show a fine style" for village neighbors holding weddings or funerals....

In most cases it is the cadres who come to the fore, and it would be "ungracious to refuse their invitation." If you do not pay up, you are under suspicion as "one of the heartless rich." If you do not pay a lot, you are mocked as having a "poor style." It is perhaps not going too far to describe this as the past practice of "robbing the rich to help the poor."

...In advocating that specialized households show fine style, we mainly mean that they should pass on to the peasant households around them their good experiences in management, good methods in applying science and technology, and good ways of developing commodity production, hand over to still more people the "golden key" to riches, and lead everyone forward to get rich together. In the spiritual field, teaching people to get rich is much better and more realistic than "taking pleasure in charitable acts." The latter existed in ancient times, whereas the former is something that only the new-style peasants of the 1980s can do. We must seriously break away from the past practice of "robbing the rich to help the poor" and vigorously show the fine style of the specialized households in "teaching people to get rich."

—E.G.M.