

## 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.*

### **Thailand: Third World Protest**

(*Bangkok, The Nation Review, in English, Dec. 5*) About 500 students...rallied in front of the U.S. Embassy in protest against a draft legislation which, if approved by the U.S. Congress, would allow American drug firms to export domestically-banned medicines to Third World countries....

The bill under protest was recently proposed by Senators Orrin Hatch and Edward Kennedy, with the aim of helping solve the unemployment problem in America. But even without a ban on exports, the drugs, which have not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, are already available for sale in Third World countries. The senators reportedly argued that these drugs had already been exported by drug firms to foreign markets....

The students, belonging to pharmaceutical faculties at five universities,...carried placards lashing out at the proposed legislation.

### **Mexico: Crop Rotation**

(*Mexico City, Excelsior, in Spanish, Dec. 5*) Narcotics are produced in 90 per cent of the country's states, Secretary of National Defense General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui said today, adding that since 1983 the struggle against drug trafficking has only taken place in Sonora, Durango, and Chihuahua....The official said that last night some forty hectares planted with marijuana were discovered in Jalisco. He said that some of the plants were five meters tall and their stems as thick as bamboo. Arevalo Gardoqui denied that the country is the "contact" of international drug trafficking groups, and said that the narcotics crops are the exclusive responsibility of the Mexican mafia. He said that Army actions against drug trafficking will be extended and intensified in order to cut the traffic and cultivation of narcotics in the country by 85 per cent during the present six-year term.

Meanwhile, at the state prosecutor's office...inhabitants of La Nortena...reported the existence of large marijuana plantations in that region. They said that more than two thousand people work on the plantations, and that drug traffickers pay them almost two thousand pesos daily to harvest the crops...."All the people there are dedicated to the cultivation of marijuana," they said. Raul Jaquez Sotelo, mayor of Madera, said that he was not aware of the existence of marijuana plantations in the area, but added that the region lacks workers to harvest the corn crops....

### **USSR: Man Against Crime**

(*Editorial Report of Moscow Television Service broadcast, Nov. 30*) Moscow Television Service...carries a twenty-minute program in the "Man and the Law" series presented by Professor Mikhail Matveyevich Babayev, doctor of juridical sciences.

The program opens with a brief clip of a sentencing scene in court, and then Professor Babayev talks about the importance of observing the letter of the law. Babayev

introduces a sequence shot at a plenum of the USSR Supreme Court...at which Vladimir Ivanovich Terebilov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Court...talks about the need for measures against misappropriation and waste of grain and feed.

Babayev returns to introduce a sequence during a case heard by an itinerant session of Sevskiy Rayon Court...It shows defendant Simutin...accused of stealing 1,380 kg of rye while in an inebriated state, undergoing questioning in the courtroom. Simutin gets three years' deprivation of freedom, with confiscation of one-third of his property, the sentence to be served in a harsh-regime labor colony....

Babayev resumes speaking to express his moral distaste for the facts of the case and chides the farm management for lack of supervision.

This is followed by a sequence filmed in an oblast court...where A. A. Bondarev, former chief of a pig complex, and A. N. Korotchikov, chief kolkhoz livestock expert, are facing charges arising from a fall in the number of pigs because of their alleged negligence. Bondarev is fined R1,500 and Korotchikov R500.

### **Kuwait: "The Democracy of Cages"**

(*Al-Watan, in Arabic, Dec. 23—article by Ahmad al-Baghdadi*) During the past week, the issue of political parties was lightly touched upon in the local press. Unfortunately, many people, including students at Kuwait University, regard political parties as a danger and a devastation and believe that their existence fragments society....The issue of political parties reminds me of the story of early man when he discovered fire and was at first afraid of it because it hurt him, but when he discovered its uses and learned how to use it, it brought him warmth, security, stability, and peace. Afterward he could not live without it.

Let us decide, first of all, that the democracy we have chosen is not our unique brand. Democratic rules and ideologies began in the Western world and diffused into other societies, because they were the best systems for political and social development. As our societies have unique historical characteristics that differ from those of the European societies, our ruling regimes have exploited the situation to their advantage. These regimes have endeavored to concoct a system of government permitting them maximum control. As a result, these societies have lost their political identity.

Some of these regimes have imposed restrictions on political party activities, some have limited the number of political parties, and some have permitted political party activities on certain conditions that have proved to be burdensome. In short, the democracy adopted by Third World countries is known as the democracy of cages, because the authorities decide on the amount and direction of political activities.

We should discuss the issue of political parties openly, and everybody should contribute to this discussion by expressing his opinion in the press, in lectures, and in scientific surveys free from any interference by executive authorities. In conclusion, we can say that without the channel of the legitimate political parties we will just be grumbling in vain between four walls. Democracy will continue to retreat, leaving us in pain and bitterness.

---N.E.L.