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INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

No. 37, December 29, 1977

The EA items  
on Indo, Phil, Korea  
have been put in PD's book

File Project (#S199900006)

S. Department of State

Release  Excise  Deny  Declass  
Exemption(s) B1, B3

SOVIET UNION  
and  
EASTERN EUROPE

USSR/Poland/Czechoslovakia

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as (S) Downgrade to  
Date 1/24/01 Declassify on \_\_\_\_\_ Reason 25X1

INR Review and Analysis

Soviet Workers "Complaint" Group Adopts Rights Dissent Tactic. Unusual expressions of workers', as opposed to intellectuals', grievances are causing Soviet authorities obvious concern and may bring stronger measures to curb internal criticism. The press conference with Western newsmen held by a small unofficial workers "complaint" group early this month is one of the few instances in which workers have sought Western publicity for their cause. The move also confirms that although the workers have not espoused the broader goals of the human rights movement, they have at least established practical links with the intellectuals, and have, to some extent, adopted their tactics. Such a collaboration must seem potentially ominous to the Kremlin.

The arrest and psychiatric confinement of the leader of the group reflects this concern. Although the workers' complaints were non-ideological and confined to labor grievances, the official reaction was, in addition, in keeping with the policy of clamping down on all forms of internal criticism.

Surge of Polish Rights Activism. Rights activism increased in the pre-holiday season. Police rounded up students distributing leaflets endorsing President Carter's human rights stand in Warsaw's main shopping center. Thirteen persons were reportedly detained in five Polish cities for distributing leaflets and collecting signatures on a petition to the State Council calling for publication of the text of the UN Human Rights Convention ratified by Poland

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earlier this year. Some 7,000 persons, according to a dissident spokesman, attended various human rights rallies on December 17. There are also reports that the police confiscated several duplicating machines used by dissident groups as well as a considerable number of copies of underground publications. A dozen different underground publications are rumored to be circulating in Poland.

New Czechoslovak Charter 77 Document Anticipated. The Charter 77 movement is expected to issue a new document on the first anniversary (January 1) of the Charter Manifesto. It reportedly will denounce the regime for continued violations of human and civil rights and call for broader implementation of these rights. The party daily Rude Pravo bitterly attacked Amnesty International on December 17 for calling attention to alleged violations of human rights in Communist countries while systematically ignoring repression in the West, including the US. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

## AFRICA

### Ethiopia

#### Urban Terrorism at New High.

INR Review and Analysis. The level of urban terrorism in Ethiopia has steadily increased since September and now surpasses the high level of March-April. Probably only a small proportion of the thousands of Ethiopians who have died since the Revolution began three years ago, however, have been executed by the Mengistu regime. Most have been victims of the periodic breakdowns of order that have accompanied the destruction of the old ruling institutions. Personal, class, and ethnic scores are being settled, and the government is unable to control the violence. In addition, the government contributes to the atmosphere of violence by its use of brutal and arbitrary measures to quell dissidence.

The current upsurge in terrorism in Addis Ababa began in September with the assassination of the head of the pro-government trade union. Government reprisals followed which, in turn, resulted in new killings of government officials, including a member of the ruling military council. The council apparently now has given a free hand to squads of urban dwellers' associations (kebeles) and the police to carry out a "red terror" designed to counter the "white terror" of counterrevolutionaries.

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The EPRP is the most important of several underground groups warring with one another and against Mengistu. The EPRP core is just as radical as Mengistu, differing only on its goal of civilian rule. Its supporters, however, include many members of the former privileged classes who oppose Mengistu's social leveling. The EPRP conflict with the kebeles--who represent the urban proletariat--increasingly resembles a class conflict. Mengistu has tried to reach a truce with the EPRP but has been rebuffed.

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#### MIDDLE EAST and SOUTH ASIA

##### India

Government Admits Wiretaps. Prime Minister Desai has told Parliament that he has personally reviewed the list of persons whose telephones are being tapped, saying that no new name could be added without his personal approval. He also said that no MPs are on the list, which is restricted to those who engage in violent activities. MPs, nevertheless, have charged that intelligence officials have maintained surveillance over their movements; a Communist MP alleged that the government has tapped the telephones of and maintained surveillance over his party members. (UNCLASSIFIED, Reuters 1134, December 17)

INR Comment: Indian law permits telephone taps and personal surveillance. Both practices were widely used by Prime Minister Gandhi against her political opponents during the 1975-77 State of Emergency. The new Janata government probably uses these powers far more sparingly, but it is unlikely that it will abandon them entirely. These police powers date back to the pre-independence period and are widely accepted in India as necessary to maintain law and order. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

##### Pakistan

Mrs. Bhutto Under House Arrest For Threatening Agitation. The military government has placed Mrs. Nusrat Bhutto, wife of the jailed ex-Prime Minister and leader of the formerly

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dominant Pakistan People's Party (PPP), under house arrest for two weeks from December 27 to January 10. Mrs. Bhutto was to have led a "Day of Democracy" agitation on January 5 (her husband's birthday) to demand his release and a return to civilian government. She has also threatened street violence unless the government immediately calls for elections. The Bhuttos' 24-year old daughter, along with prominent PPP leaders in the Punjab, was arrested on December 20 in the wake of a pro/anti-PPP riot stirred up by the two Bhutto women at a cricket match in Lahore.

INR Comment: Mrs. Bhutto's house arrest carries out a threat General Zia ul-Haq made on December 19 when he learned of the cricket match fracas. According to a reliable source, he has become more impatient with Mrs. Bhutto's provocative political behavior and evidently feels that the planned January 5 demonstration would have posed a significant threat to public order. All outdoor political activity has been banned since Zia postponed the elections in October.

General Zia has been observing some of the niceties of due process. Miss Bhutto was given the right to challenge her house arrest in court; other provincial courts are full of cases brought by PPP sympathizers challenging the legality of Mr. Bhutto's detention. A Supreme Court ruling in November upheld the legality of the present martial law regime, but also held that the regime is answerable to the law and the constitution for its actions. (UNCLASSIFIED, Reuter 1337, December 27; SECRET, Islamabad 12306, December 18)

LATIN AMERICA

Chile

Chile Now Less of an Issue in UN. USUN reports that the majority of the non-aligned nations are losing interest in the human rights issue in Chile because

- US policy towards Chile has defused efforts by certain delegations (e.g., Cuba) to use condemnation of the Chilean Government as a rallying point for non-aligned anti-Americanism; and
- there is general recognition that the Chilean human rights situation has improved.

The "tired and frustrated" Working Group (WG) on Chile also recognizes that human rights progress has been made, and hopes to find a way to make a quiet exit from the scene

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while making it appear that the UN has won a victory. Members of the WG believe that this aim could be achieved if the Chilean Government would invite it for a visit, thereby enabling them to write a report finding that although some problems remain, there has been substantial improvement. The WG could then recommend that its mandate calling for vigorous oversight of Chile should be replaced by a much milder directive. However, negotiations over a possible visit remain stalemated over Chile's insistence on conditions unacceptable to the Working Group. (CONFIDENTIAL, USUN 5718, December 17)

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INR Comment: suggest that Perez is prepared to use harsh counterterrorist methods, including summary execution of guerrillas and their supporters. It seems likely, that DISIP and the military have been proceeding in a heavy-handed manner against the approximately 150-200 insurgents, who are more of an embarrassment than a threat to the government.

President Perez' basic inclination probably is to proceed against guerrillas with all available means. He is likely to be restrained by solicitude for his party's chances in the upcoming presidential election, however, as well as the need to preserve his own reputation as a human rights champion and the most outspoken regional supporter of the US rights policy.

#### Argentina

Christmas Amnesty Affects 432 Prisoners. On December 23 the government announced an amnesty affecting 432 persons jailed by the executive branch under state of siege powers. Three hundred and eighty-nine prisoners were released from executive custody, and 43 more were expelled, permitted to leave the country, paroled, or placed under house arrest. This was the largest release of executive detainees under the current military government, although, as Embassy Buenos Aires notes, it fell far short of expectations entertained by some observers.

Release from executive detention means only that those named will not be charged under national security laws; an unknown number of the 389 named may continue in jail as a result of parallel and pending criminal charges.

The government also stated that there are now 3,607 persons being held under executive authority, and that a list of their names will be published "at an opportune time." There is no way to check the government's figures. (CONFIDENTIAL, Buenos Aires 9881, December 28)

INR Comment: Whether the 389 are physically freed or held for criminal proceedings, official acknowledgement of their detentions means that they can now expect normal

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prison treatment, and they no longer are candidates for the list of "disappeareds." The 17 protesters associated with the "Mothers of Plaza de Mayo" who disappeared in mid-December were not included in the amnesty, and no information has yet been received about them. (CONFIDENTIAL)

#### EAST ASIA and the PACIFIC

##### Indonesia

Massive Prisoner Release Goes Off on Schedule. The government announced the release on December 20 of 10,000 political prisoners. Official spokesmen said that while the detainees were being given "complete freedom," they would still be subject to government control and guidance "until their loyalty is assured." Those who could not find jobs, or who had no families to rejoin, would be offered voluntary resettlement outside of overcrowded Java. A house, two hectares of land, and temporary subsistence would be provided for each family.

During the release ceremonies the detainees took an oath of allegiance to Indonesia, agreed to be available to the authorities for further questioning on security matters, and pledged not to engage in actions to undermine political stability.

Embassy Jakarta officers who attended release ceremonies found the detainees generally in good health and spirits and saw no evidence of intimidation regarding resettlement. The government has promised foreign ambassadors and the International Committee of the Red Cross access to camps and resettlement areas. Amnesty International has called for the release of all remaining prisoners immediately and unconditionally, and says that it is unwilling to accept the December 20 release at its face value until the names, dates, and places of release are publicly made available. (UNCLASSIFIED, FBIS, December 20; UNCLASSIFIED, New York Times, December 20; CONFIDENTIAL, Medan 6498, December 20; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Jakarta 17054, December 20)

Six Boys Die in Cramped Cell. Reuter reports that the official Indonesian news agency issued a release on December 26 stating that six boys, between 10 and 16 years of age, had died in an eight-by-fourteen foot cell in South Sumatra, apparently because they could not get enough fresh air. They reportedly had been in prison since December 21, following their arrest for having put road blocks in front of a house. (UNCLASSIFIED, Reuter, December 26)

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INR Comment: This tragic case of official neglect, if true, will not be helpful in Indonesia's attempts to improve its human rights reputation. (UNCLASSIFIED)

South Korea

Kim Moved to "Half-Way House". Government authorities transferred imprisoned opposition party leader. Kim Tae-jung to a hospital on December 19 for treatment of a rheumatoid condition he suffered from prior to his arrest last year. They denied he was being released on "sick bail" and said that his legal status remained unchanged. The event has renewed speculation among Korean dissidents about the timetable for the release of other political prisoners. (CONFIDENTIAL, Seoul 10652, 10672, December 19 and 22, respectively)

INR Comment: Seoul's disclaimer notwithstanding, Kim now enjoys better living conditions and greater access to his family and lawyer. His transfer to a de facto half-way house also may make it easier for negotiators from the KCIA and dissident church groups to agree on a compromise solution for the release of other political prisoners. If this occurs--and dissident sources expect some releases by the end of the year--it will, in turn, set the stage for Kim's eventual release. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Philippines

INR Comment: This is the second reported such instruction in six months. After a similar instruction in June apparently resulted in a decline in countersubversion initiatives, however, Marcos reportedly let it be known that the instruction would not be strictly enforced. [ ] say that the new instructions are being enforced, recent evidence

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of the torture of Communist Party chairman Jose Sison after his capture on November 10 raises doubts about how much the situation has improved. L

Cambodia/UK

UK to Propose Cambodia Rights Resolution in UNHRC.  
Embassy Brussels reports that the British representative told the meeting of European Community political directors on December 14 that the UK will introduce a resolution charging human rights violations in Cambodia at the February meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission.  
(CONFIDENTIAL, Brussels 18734, December 16)

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