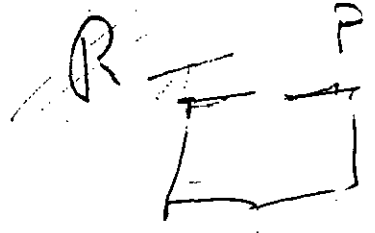


M. Schneider
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INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS



Project (#S199900006)

Department of State

Release Excise Deny Declass

No. 53, April 19, 1978

Exemption(s) B1, B3

SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Soviet Union

Dept of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
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Date 12/1/01 Declassify on _____ Reason 75X1

Rights Update (INR Review and Analysis). Soviet authorities have reinstated Georgian as the official language in the Georgian draft constitution after demonstrations which took place on April 14 in Tbilisi. The demonstrators objected to the dropping of the final section of the republic's 1937 constitution, which explicitly accorded Georgian the status of the official language.

The number of reported demonstrators ranges from several hundred to 50,000. Two American lawyers in Tbilisi are said to have been told that a regiment of troops had been moved to the outskirts of the city as a contingency. Whatever their size, the demonstrations apparently were impressive enough to force concessions from the regime. According to Western press accounts, the Georgian newspaper Zarya Vostoka reported on April 16 that the new constitution will contain the previously deleted language provisions. Subsequently, official sensitivity to the language issue was revealed by a Moscow English language broadcast emphasizing constitutional guarantees on the use of native languages in State and cultural institutions.

In other developments, Balis Gayauskas, distributor of money from a fund set up by Alexander Solzhenitsyn to aid jailed dissidents and their families, reportedly has been convicted in Vilnyus of anti-Soviet agitation and given the maximum sentence of 10 years in a labor camp and five years of internal exile. In 1973, Gayauskas completed serving a 25-year sentence for Lithuanian nationalist activities.

Former Soviet general and leader in the dissident movement, Pyotr Grigorenko, requested political asylum in the United States on April 18. Stripped of Soviet citizenship earlier this year, Grigorenko said at an INS hearing that he still cherished the hope of returning to the USSR but would return only for a public trial. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

East Berlin

East Berliner Refuses Military Induction. Nico Huebner, a resident of East Berlin and son of an East German Communist Party functionary, has been arrested for his refusal to be inducted into the East German Army. Huebner argues that Greater Berlin (East and West) remains demilitarized as a result of post-war four-power agreements and contends that the extension of military conscription to East Berlin in 1962 by the East German Government (GDR) is in violation of his rights as a resident of Berlin. Both the Mayor of West Berlin and the West Berlin Senate's three major parties have supported Huebner's arguments. The GDR media termed their support a "gross interference" in the country's internal affairs and an attempt to apply four-power status to East Berlin in violation of the GDR's sovereign rights. The Western allies are studying the case. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Berlin 2492, April 12; CONFIDENTIAL, US Mission Berlin 730, March 31; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, US Mission Berlin 788 and 800, April 6 and 7, respectively; UNCLASSIFIED, FBIS 111, April 7; UNCLASSIFIED, New York Times, April 16)

INR Comment: The case has attracted considerable attention in West Berlin and West Germany, where Huebner is viewed as a courageous individual upholding legal rights which, given political realities, the allies are relatively powerless to protect. Because his stand goes to the heart of East-West contention over the status of East Berlin, the GDR can be expected to take a very hard line toward Huebner and his arguments. It is unlikely, however, that the West Berlin or West German authorities would be willing to see the Huebner case turned into a cause celebre that would disrupt relations between the FRG and the GDR on the eve of Brezhnev's visit to Bonn. (CONFIDENTIAL)

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Indonesia

Three Leading Opposition Figures Arrested. According to a Jakarta newspaper, Indonesian security officials arrested three prominent Muslim opposition figures on April 10-12. No reason was given for their arrest. The three are Mahbub Junaidi, well-known newspaper columnist, chairman of the Indonesian Journalists Association, and the deputy secretary general of

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the Muslim opposition party; Professor Ismail Suny, Rector of the Islamic Muhammadiyah University in Jakarta; and Sutomo, familiarly known as Bung Tomo, a respected nationalist and freedom fighter during the revolution against the Dutch. (UNCLASSIFIED, FBIS 91, April 12)

INR Comment: All three Muslims have been arrested before but released after questioning. We have no evidence that any of the three has engaged in subversive political activities. Their arrests may rekindle opposition protests, which had subsided during the past three weeks. Ismail Suny and Bung Tomo are particularly outspoken critics of the Suharto regime. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Philippines

Young Jesuit Worker Reportedly Tortured to Death. A leading Philippine human rights activist told Embassy Manila on April 19 about the alleged torture and death of a 17-year-old Jesuit worker, Teotimo Tantiado, at the hands of the Philippine security service. Tantiado, an associate of Father Romeo Integan, a doctor/priest arrested as one of the leaders of the April 9 election protest march, was picked up by the security service on April 10. On April 18, an anonymous caller told a Catholic Church official that Tantiado had died as a result of torture but that the military had altered the autopsy to indicate that Tantiado died of "acute pancreatitis." According to the Embassy source, the military will release his body on April 19; he hopes that independent doctors will make another autopsy at that time. (CONFIDENTIAL/LIMDIS, Manila 6265, April 19)

INR Comment: The source has provided the Embassy with usually reliable and substantiated information on human rights violations in the past. In the wake of protests over the April 7 national elections, there have been unconfirmed reports that Marcos has ordered the security service to clamp down on the opposition and several opposition leaders have been arrested. This is the first allegation of torture of any of the detainees in the post-election period, however. (CONFIDENTIAL/LIMDIS)

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NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Pakistan

Supreme Court Agrees to Delay in Bhutto Hearing. On April 15 the Supreme Court postponed its hearing of former Prime Minister Bhutto's appeal of his murder conviction until May 20, two weeks later than scheduled. (Bhutto's lawyers had requested a two-month delay to prepare the appeal.) The court also announced that it would sit daily during the hearing; even so, most observers believe that the review will be a lengthy affair. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Islamabad 3783, April 17)

INR Comment: The Martial Law Administration (MLA) clamped down on political expression shortly before the High Court announced Bhutto's death sentence on March 18. Citing law and order problems, General Zia closed newspapers, increased arrests of Bhutto supporters, and banned all political activity. He has also rejected foreign appeals for clemency for Bhutto. The clampdown on political activity is unlikely to ease until Bhutto's case is resolved. In this atmosphere, the Supreme Court--notwithstanding its relative independence in the past--may find it difficult to render an impartial verdict. It could show its independence, however, by agreeing to further delays and lingering over the written judgment. While General Zia told newsmen he expects the appeal to take six weeks, it is more likely to take at least three months. Bhutto's appeal ultimately will probably be rejected, leaving a decision on clemency squarely with General Zia. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Iran

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INR Comment: Although the Shah's idea of using the Rastakhiz Party as a vehicle to legitimize the establishment of "action committees" initially met with opposition from Senate leader Hushang Ansary, orders from the palace made Ansary quickly reverse himself. Few Iranians will fail to recognize that these "partisan forces" are simply SAVAK and police in disguise.

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Libya

Potential for Increased Repression (INR Review and Analysis).
Developments in Libya over the past several months foreshadow the possibility of increased interference by the government in the lives of its citizens. Embassy Tripoli and clandestine Libyan sources have recently reported several potentially repressive government actions.

- X --Abolishment of the Libyan Judiciary. A clandestine report based upon information provided by a senior Libyan official indicates that the government intends to replace the Libyan judiciary and court system with local and regional "people's committees."
- X --Creation of Revolutionary Committees. The Libyan media have proclaimed the establishment of "revolutionary committees" throughout Libya, apparently to enforce revolutionary orthodoxy and "smash the forces of apostasy." Although the functions and methods of the these organizations are unclear, some Libyans are concerned about the prospect of armed goon squads roaming the streets to weed out dissidents and enforce unpopular government policies.
- X --Stepped-Up Military Conscription. Aggressive press gang tactics have been used to enforce Libya's stringent conscription policies. One effective tactic was the cordoning off by military police of all exits to Tripoli's athletic stadium during a well-attended soccer match.
- X --Arrests of Officers With Non-Arab Wives. A number of officers were imprisoned (and later released) because

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they had married non-Arab women.

With the exception of the April 1977 execution of 20 or so military officers accused of having plotted a coup against Qadhafi, the Libyan revolution has been relatively bloodless. The aforementioned measures, however, could introduce a period of increased governmental intrusion into the daily lives of Libyan citizens.

Although Libyans enjoy few of the basic freedoms taken for granted in the West, the enforcement of Qadhafi's revolutionary orthodoxy has heretofore been unorganized and inconsistent at best. The human rights situation in Libya could deteriorate rapidly, however, if Qadhafi, perhaps out of fear that his efforts are failing, moves to hasten the pace of his revolution. (SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

Timerman Under House Arrest. Journalist Jacobo Timerman was transferred from prison to house arrest on April 17. Relatives told Embassy Buenos Aires that persons wishing to visit him must first obtain permission from the Ministry of the Interior. (UNCLASSIFIED, FBIS 62, April 17; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Buenos Aires 2867, April 17)

INR Comment: Timerman, the former editor and part owner of Argentina's best newspaper, became a cause celebre following his arrest in April 1977. While authorities were unable to link Timerman to subversive activities, he was severely mistreated and subjected to anti-Semitic abuse while in custody. Presumably he will remain under house arrest pending completion of an investigation into whether or not his assets were legally acquired. The US has repeatedly pressed the government about the Timerman case, and the Argentines will view his passage to house arrest as a major human rights concession. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Chile

Efforts to Improve Human Rights Image. Chile has been the subject of several condemnatory UNGA and UN Human Rights

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Commission (UNHRC) resolutions, and President Pinochet has responded to those resolutions by refusing to allow a visit by the UNHRC working group. The Chilean refusal has been a major stumbling block in Chile's effort to improve its international human rights image. Recently, however, the Chilean Government invited Ambassador Mezvinsky to Chile to discuss ways of breaking that impasse, and as a result of those discussions, Pinochet has agreed in principle to a visit.

Pinochet, who previously insisted that Chile would invite only two members of the working group, told Ambassador Mezvinsky that the full working group will be invited. However, the Chileans and the UNHRC apparently have agreed that one member of the working group, Chairman Allana, who is particularly disliked by the Chileans, will refuse the invitation. Specific conditions governing the working group's visit (i.e., publicity and scheduling) remain to be worked out in New York. (CONFIDENTIAL, Santiago 2702, April 12)

INR Comment: Pinochet clearly wants to resolve the impasse between Chile and the working group and is prepared to be flexible and make some concessions. Improving Chile's human rights image has been a major goal of the Foreign Ministry for several months, and recent developments such as the publicity surrounding the Letelier case and Air Force junta representative General Leigh's public remarks on the need to resolve human rights issues, probably have prompted Pinochet to speed up the process. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Nicaragua

Government Willing To Make Some Concessions. Tension continued in Nicaragua last week as secondary school students occupied schools and churches in most of Nicaragua's major cities demanding better prison conditions and an end to the government's practice of isolating Sandinista Liberation Front prisoners. According to press reports, Archbishop Obando Bravo played an important mediating role, securing a promise from military commanders that the students would not be subject to repression and, from President Somoza, that he would consider the possibility of declaring an amnesty for all political prisoners.

On April 13, the press reported that Somoza had informed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that Nicaragua was ready to receive an ICRC visit, implying that the government is prepared to accept the ICRC's

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demand to visit all detention centers and to talk in private with any prisoner.

With regard to an Inter-American Human Rights Commission visit, however, little progress has been made. President Somoza told Ambassador Solaun on April 15 that, although he is still considering an invitation to the Commission, he does not want to appear to be yielding to external pressures. Somoza added that statements in Caracas by Presidents Perez and Carter had only made it more difficult for him to act. (CONFIDENTIAL/EXDIS, Managua 6328, April 16; STATE 096306 and 096307, April 16; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, Managua 1733, April 13)

INR Comment: Somoza may yield to an IAHRC visit if he can do so gracefully. Venezuela's insistence on keeping up the pressure on Nicaragua in the OAS, however, is taking on the appearance of a blatant grudge-match, with Perez determined to hasten Somoza's downfall. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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