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INR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

RELEASED IN FULL

Philippines

Human Rights Leaders Support Cause of Plantation Workers.
Human rights activists, including civil rights leader Jose Diokno and Laban Party chairman Tanada, have taken up the defense of about 120 Filipino sugar workers and their supporters, including one priest, charged with sedition. The workers were arrested July 30 in Negros Occidental province during a meeting with a plantation owner over their planting vegetables in an unused corner of the plantation, according to Philippine press sources. An August 13 military press release states that all have been temporarily released and that sedition charges are being prepared against them. The military alleges they belong to four "radical groups" linked to an "unnamed" illegal organization. (CONFIDENTIAL USE, Manila 14015, August 15)

INR Comment. Church sources told Embassy Manila that there is no question that the workers' squatting on the plantation land was illegal but that they felt it was morally justified because of the economic condition of the workers--they were all temporarily unemployed. Local church activists had arranged a dialogue between the owner and the workers on July 30. This discussion was going reasonably well until police "riot" squads surrounded the meeting, a fight broke out, and the workers were arrested. (CONFIDENTIAL USE)

South Korea

Prisoners Released. To commemorate South Korea's independence day, August 15, Seoul released 22 persons imprisoned for violations of the restrictive emergency measures. The KCIA has informed dissident representatives--disappointed at the small numbers--that more releases would be forthcoming as soon as those still detained signed statements promising not to commit such violations again. (CONFIDENTIAL, Seoul 7134, August 14)

INR Comment. The government is proceeding cautiously with the release of the emergency measure violators as it seeks to balance its objectives of controlling dissidence and improving its poor human rights image abroad. (CONFIDENTIAL)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M. BOUTON
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SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

Soviet Union

Rights Update (INR Review and Analysis)

Podrabinek Trial. Soviet authorities finally acted to clear the docket of political cases publicized in the West by holding the trial of Aleksandr Podrabinek on August 15. Podrabinek, the Helsinki Group's specialist on psychiatric abuses, received a relatively mild sentence of five years of domestic exile for writing "Punitive Medicine."

Zal'manson Finally Emigrates. Izrail Zal'manson, who was convicted in 1970 for trying to hijack a Soviet airliner to the West, arrived in Vienna on August 13 after completing an eight year sentence. Others involved in the hijack attempt, including his brother, are still serving sentences; some were released earlier and have emigrated.

Preparations for the Olympics. A Soviet official told a Westerner who visited the USSR recently in connection with the Olympic Games that there would be no Jewish activists left in Moscow by the time of the 1980 Olympics, because they would all be in the West. This is the first time to our knowledge that a Soviet official has admitted that Olympic considerations were playing a role in the campaign against organized dissent, although human rights activists have long alleged this to be the case. They, and we, however, suspect that dissidents will be sent out of Moscow to the "east" as often as to the "west" to prevent possible disruptions of the games.

The Crime of Running a Sunday School. The Kirgiz Republic paper reported on August 2 the trial of I.S. Gorpenyuk and A. Ya. Mook for starting "a school for believers which was attended by children who were under pressure from their parents as well as from the accused...The actions of the accused were a flagrant violation of Soviet legislation on cults. Lessons took place regularly on Sundays, organized by the accused." defendants received three years in labor camp for these violations of Soviet law. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Czechoslovakia/Poland

Dissidents Draft Statement. In early August, representatives of the Czech protest group, Charter 77, and the Polish Workers Defense Committee (KOR) drafted a document which:

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- marked the 10th anniversary of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and the suppression of the "democratic movement of Polish intelligentsia" that same year;
- cited the continuing validity of the ideals of the "Prague Spring" and Polish democratic movement, and promised to remain true to these ideals;
- expressed a deep sense of solidarity with persons who share these ideals throughout the world; and
- noted the persecution of people who oppose the regimes in Czechoslovakia and Poland, as well as in the USSR and elsewhere.

The document is not signed but appears over the names of Charter 77 and KOR. It reportedly will be released on August 21 (the anniversary of the invasion). (CONFIDENTIAL, Prague 2096, August 8)

INR Comment. This is the first known instance of actual collaboration between Czechoslovak and Polish human rights dissidents. It will obviously cause concern to the security authorities of the two countries, particularly in Czechoslovakia where the authorities are already taking measures to prevent demonstrations against the invasion and traditionally have taken a much harder line toward human rights activists than in Poland. (CONFIDENTIAL)

NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Martial Law in Iran. Martial law was imposed in Isfahan on August 11, following three days of riots in which several people may have been killed (the government admits to none) and considerable property damage was inflicted. Despite similar riots (in which at least 10 people were killed) in Shiraz and Tehran, martial law was not imposed in those cities, nor elsewhere in Iran. In subsequent pronouncements, the new military governor of Isfahan stated that martial law would last for one month, that "all" of those responsible for the rioting had been arrested, that they would be tried in military courts, and that armored forces which had been brought into Isfahan to help quell the riots had been withdrawn on August 15 because the city was quiet. On August 14, the Minister of Information told the press that, as required by the constitution, a bill seeking approval of both houses of Parliament for martial law had been submitted.

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Despite the violence and the subsequent crackdown, the Shah and several of his top officials reiterated in the past few days that the monarch's liberalization program would continue. He told our charge in an audience August 13 that he really had no choice but to open up the Iranian system to accommodate vast economic and social changes and to prepare for his son's orderly succession. However, he added that he would not permit religious "obscurantists" to destroy the nation by senseless violence and would use whatever force was necessary to put an end to the disorders. (██████████, Tehran 07700, August 14; UNCLASSIFIED, FBIS 17, August 15, Reuter 1223, August 15)

INR Comment. The imposition of martial law for the first time in 15 years reflects both the serious state of unrest which now exists in Iran and the determination of the Shah to maintain control of events. The immediate result of martial law was an end to the violence in Isfahan, but it continues elsewhere in the country. If the regime imposes martial law in other areas, the violence will probably subside, but before long it is likely to reappear regardless of martial law. ██████████ CONFIDENTIAL

Pakistan

Prisoner Releases and Suspended Sentences. During the second week of August, Pakistan released a number of prisoners, some of whom were detained on charges stemming from political or labor movement activities:

- General Zia suspended the remainder of the sentences (ranging from a few days to six months) of 26 Television Corporation employees arrested last February in a labor altercation.
- Zia also announced that all prisoners in Pakistan would have their sentences shortened by 60 days. So far, 845 prisoners have been released because of this order; a total of 1,500 are expected eventually to benefit from it.
- The Sind provincial government is releasing 33 journalists arrested in July during a hunger strike by a radical fringe of the journalists' union.

In the first specific head-count of political prisoners the government has ever provided, a Punjab provincial official stated there are now only 40 such persons held in the Punjab under preventive detention orders. Most of them allegedly committed offenses under the Explosives Act. (██████████ USE, Islamabad 7728 and 7832, August 8 and 10, respectively)

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INR Comment. These gestures of good-will probably mean that the government is no longer feeling threatened by agitation in the streets. The number of political arrests have declined for the present, but renewed unrest could quickly change the situation. ~~(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)~~

LATIN AMERICA

Bolivia

Positive Developments. On August 11, President Pereda lifted the State-of-Siege imposed on July 21, and abrogated two controversial laws promulgated by former President Banzer. The more controversial of the two was the 1973 state security law which empowered the government to detain indefinitely persons suspected of subversion. Moreover, it served as the legal justification for exiling several hundred Banzer critics. (A January 1978 amnesty permitted the return of those exiles, but the law remained in force.) Of somewhat less importance was the 1974 obligatory civil service law which enabled the government to "draft" technocrats into the ministries.

The opposition parties had cited both of these laws as important issues during the presidential campaign earlier this year, but Embassy LaPaz reports that their reactions to the abrogations have been only cautiously positive. ~~(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)~~
~~OF [REDACTED] SE, La Paz 6502, August 14)~~

INR Comment. By putting into practice his public promise to respect human rights, Pereda probably hopes to dilute potential criticism. He may also hope that the opposition parties will be more willing to accept peacefully his proposed 1980 election schedule if they believe institutionalized methods of harassment are being abolished. ~~(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)~~

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