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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW  
(5-11 May 1978)

SOVIET UNION

-- The Supreme Soviet has extended the investigation of the case against dissident Aleksandr Ginzburg to 1 June, according to Western press reports from Moscow.

Ginzburg, who was arrested on what are believed to be charges of anti-Soviet activity in February 1977, has already been detained longer than the nine months permitted by Soviet law for the investigation of a criminal case. Unpublicized extensions, however, can be and routinely are obtained by the KGB in politically sensitive cases without the formal intercession of the Supreme Soviet. The current move, however, ensures publicity in the West, and could thus be a signal concerning Soviet intentions on the timing of Ginzburg's trial.

On 15 December last year, the Supreme Soviet extended for six months the investigation of the case against Anatoliy Shcharanskiy, who was arrested exactly nine months before on probable charges of espionage and possibly treason. The extended investigatory phase of Shcharanskiy's case thus expires on 15 June. Unless another extension is obtained, which is legally possible, a formal indictment and trial in his case should follow anytime thereafter.

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Meanwhile, dissidents in Moscow say that Yuriy Orlov, founder of the Helsinki monitoring group, may go on trial within a week; he will probably be charged with the same general offense as Ginzburg. Like Ginzburg, Orlov was arrested in February of last year, but no extension of the investigation of his case has been publicly announced.  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

#### EASTERN EUROPE

-- East Germany: A small group of intellectuals has discussed formation of a dissident Communist "opposition" in exile, presumably in West Germany. It would be the first of its kind. Its impact on East German developments would probably be slight, but it could cause the Honecker regime to have second thoughts about its policy of allowing dissidents to emigrate.

The dissidents who met in late March in West Berlin in response to a suggestion by exiled singer-poet Wolf Biermann, agreed that a Communist opposition in exile would provide an incentive to exiles to retain their identity as Communists and East Germans. Most East German refugees, they think, simply assimilate into West German society or are exploited by West German groups for propaganda and political purposes.

The proposed group plans to recruit more and to publicize its activities in East Germany. It is also considering publishing a bimonthly newsletter directed at middle-level East German Communist party cadre, intellectuals, and youth who they believe are the most restive. The exiles plan to campaign for the release of imprisoned dissident Rudolf Bahro, a party member who wrote a book attacking the East German system and advocating radical party reform.

Four of the five persons discussing the formation of the group had been imprisoned in East Germany for supporting Biermann but were released late last summer. Some had contacts with dissident circles in Jena, one of the most active dissident areas. The group will probably gain support among the 30-odd exiled East German intellectuals now in West Germany and from some West German sympathizers.

The proposed group will probably have little impact on the East German people; the average East German has little sympathy for intellectuals, whom he considers a privileged elite. The group's program, nevertheless, may have an effect in some party and intellectual circles,

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and the security-conscious regime can be expected to react nervously. If the group is formed and is able to use West German media to broadcast its ideas to East Germany, the East German regime could feel it necessary to threaten a cooling in the inter-German political climate.

The East German intellectuals' group will have no official West German backing, and support is unlikely even from the political parties. Activity such as the dissidents envision would be inconsistent with the foreign policies of the governing parties in Bonn, and the opposition would find espousal of Communism in any form unacceptable.

Biermann has found admirers only in radical union and intellectual circles in West Germany. The activities of such an exile group would attract factual coverage in the West German media, but there is no influential media element, except the news weekly Spiegel, that might form an alliance with exiled East German Communist intellectuals.  
(SECRET/NOFORN/ORCON)

-- Czechoslovakia: Another sign that Prague may be getting tougher with dissidents is reflected in the reported decision of a Czechoslovak appeals court to increase the prison sentence (from eight to eighteen months) handed down in April to a dissident musician for alleged "antistate remarks." (In Communist legal systems, as in most others that are not based on Anglo-Saxon Common Law, an increased sentence is one possible outcome of any appeals procedure.)

The young musician, Ivan Jirous, leader of the underground "Plastic People of the Universe" rock group, has been in trouble with the authorities before. The trial of Jirous and several of his friends in the autumn of 1976 (reportedly for performing their satirical songs at a wedding) supposedly was an event that helped trigger the drafting of the Charter 77 dissident manifesto. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Romania: The authorities reportedly have refused entry to a British journalist because of his alleged "incorrect reporting" on Romanian developments. The reporter--from The Times of London--has written on Romanian dissidents, labor unrest, and grievances among the country's Hungarian minority.

The Romanian action could cast an embarrassing shadow over President Ceausescu's planned visit to Britain in June. Bucharest has at times been willing to deal brusquely with Western reporters, despite the

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risk of public relations damage. Early last December the police confiscated materials--including some dissident literature--from several Western journalists who were about to leave Romania. In April 1977, Bucharest refused entry to a US correspondent until representations by the US Embassy prompted a quick reversal. (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

WESTERN EUROPE

-- International Labor: International Labor Organization Director General Blanchard began an official visit to the USSR on 9 May. He had informed Soviet officials in Geneva that he would raise in Moscow the recent Amnesty International report entitled Psychiatric Abuses Documented by Workers' Group in the USSR. In response, the Soviets have predictably accused Blanchard, a French citizen, of being prejudiced against the USSR.

Blanchard, in turn, is unhappy that the Amnesty International report attacked the ILO for having failed either to grant recognition to the Soviet dissidents' self-proclaimed independent trade union, or formally to inquire as to its status. He maintains that formal action by the ILO can only be taken after a complaint has been filed. A number of West European labor organizations are becoming increasingly concerned over the plight of workers in the USSR and Eastern Europe, however, and complaints are likely to be filed soon with the ILO. (CONFIDENTIAL)

MIDDLE EAST

-- Israel: Authorities have dismissed the military governor of the occupied West Bank and have decided to court-martial two other officers following revelation of a recent incident in which troops under their command used excessive force in suppressing an Arab demonstration. Defense Minister Weizman and Chief-of-Staff Rafael Eytan probably seek through these actions to restore discipline among Israeli troops in the area and to minimize the possibility that over-reaction by security forces could spark violent anti-Israeli demonstrations by West Bank Arabs.

For the past two years, the Israelis generally have adhered to a policy of restraint--using non-lethal ammunition, selective intervention and press censorship--in handling West Bank disturbances. In late March of this year, however, Israeli troops resorted on occasion to physical

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intimidation and psychological harassment to discourage West Bank Palestinian demonstrations against the Israeli invasion of south Lebanon. In perhaps the most dramatic such incident, Israeli troops involved in suppressing an Arab demonstration near Bethlehem threw tear gas grenades into a classroom in which they had confined a group of Arab elementary school students. Several students suffered injuries.

Following international press accounts of the incident that contradicted the military governor's version, Weizman ordered his own investigation. He concluded that an attempt had been made to cover up the affair, and to make a scapegoat of the deputy military governor of the Bethlehem area. Chief-of-Staff Bytan has now decided to prosecute both the military governor of Bethlehem and his deputy for having ordered the school attack in violation of standing military orders.

The West Bank Arab reaction to these events has been mixed. Many Palestinians predictably are delighted and believe the disciplinary measures will help prevent future abuses by occupation forces. Arab skeptics, on the other hand, see the actions by Weizman and Bytan as public relations exercises designed to strengthen official Israeli claims of a benign occupation regime. Some Palestinians have even suggested that Weizman and Eytan were laying the groundwork for the introduction of Prime Minister Begin's plan for limited Arab self-rule on the West Bank. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Iran: Recent countrywide disturbances in Iran, the latest in a series that began in early January, indicate that the Shah's conservative religious opponents are determined to maintain pressure against the regime. The most serious recent violence occurred in the shrine city of Qom, where clashes first erupted this year on 9 January, and Tabriz, where disturbances began in February. On 18 February demonstrators commemorated, according to Muslim custom, the 40th day observance of the deaths of Muslim militants killed earlier at Qom.

Student strikes and protests at Tehran University and the University of Azerbaijan in Tabriz are complicating the task of the police, already under considerable strain because they have been on continuous alert since the first disorders in January.

The Shah is frustrated with his failure to contain the unrest and seems baffled as to how to deal with the underlying causes of Muslim fundamentalist dissidence. He believes that the disturbances are

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turning popular opinion against militant Muslims, giving him a freer hand in dealing with them. An official announcement on 10 May threatened that the government would use all its power to quell demonstrations of an "antinational character."

There appears to be little room for compromise between the Shah and his conservative Muslim opponents, who believe that reforms instituted by the Shah and his father threaten the future of Islam in Iran. The Shah is gambling that his program of modernization has enough popular support to allow him to take stern measures against the conservative Muslims--a community that, in his view, wants to turn the clock back to the Middle Ages. (SECRET/NOFORN)

#### LATIN AMERICA

-- Argentina: The government has apparently decided that conditions no longer justify giving the security forces free rein. In a speech at a recent national police conference, Interior Minister General Harguindeguy declared that emergency measures had almost completely eradicated subversion, and that it was therefore no longer necessary or advisable for the police to remain under the direct operational control of the various military commands. Presumably acting under the direction of President Videla or the military junta, Harguindeguy has also issued instructions to the police to stop bullying the public and to restore normal police procedures.

These moves suggest that Harguindeguy, one of Argentina's toughest and most conservative Army generals, has adopted a more moderate posture, at least with regard to counterterrorist tactics. In the past, these operations were often directed against political leaders and other civilians not connected with subversive organizations or activities. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Brazil: One of the country's leading dailies has reported that President Geisel has approved a measure reestablishing the right of habeas corpus for those accused of violations of the national security law. Restoration of this legal guarantee has been a persistent and fundamental demand of critics of the regime, which until recently had not seriously considered reinstating it.

If the report is correct, the move is clearly significant and would fit in with Geisel's announced intention to introduce a number of

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normalizing measures before the end of his term. At the same time, however, the regime will undoubtedly protect itself by retaining other practices or instituting new measures that allow it to deal easily with "subversives."  
(UNCLASSIFIED)

-- Paraguay: President Stroessner's decision to lift the state of siege in all areas outside the capital is a symbolic concession to international critics, but does nothing to restore basic constitutional guarantees that have been suspended for more than 20 years.

The action does not restrict the power of security forces to make arrests anywhere in the country. The only change is that those arrested for subversive activities outside of Asuncion must now be brought to the capital--where most of the prisons are located in any case--before emergency security procedures can be used against them. (CONFIDENTIAL)

#### FAR EAST

-- Indonesia: After Vice President Mondale's visit, President Suharto has apparently decided to move up the timetable for the release of the 10,000 political detainees scheduled to be released in December 1978.

[REDACTED] the phased release will begin on 17 August, Indonesian National Day, when up to 5,000 prisoners will be released.

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Indonesia's decision to accelerate the release of prisoners may be attributable to US representations, combined with the fact that last year's release of 10,000 detainees went smoothly. Minister of State Sudharmono has said that the decision to proceed with a phased release is "not absolutely firm" but that he sees "no obstacles" to such a move. This suggests that it is now a matter of working out the administrative details. President Suharto apparently believes that it is too early to make a formal announcement of the specific dates and numbers of prisoners to be released under the new timetable. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- South Korea: Several hundred students clashed with police at two of Korea's major universities this week. About ten students were arrested, and one reportedly was badly beaten after students had

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nailed an individual in their midst whom they called a government agent. The students protested the authoritarian Yushin Constitution, campus surveillance by security agents, and what they regard as a sham election on 18 May for the National Conference for Unification--the body that will elect South Korea's president later this year.

[REDACTED] the students may be hoping to provoke government repression prior to the 24-25 May visit to Seoul of Dr. Brzezinski. The authorities, however, probably hope to avoid making matters worse. [REDACTED] the Ministry of Education has issued directives that the guidance system--whereby every faculty member is responsible for about 20 students--is to be strengthened, and that the universities must be kept open despite student activism. [REDACTED] the students did not appear as agitated as in

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