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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW  
(26 May - 1 June 1978)

SOVIET UNION

-- Soviet authorities are maintaining pressure on dissidents in the wake of the Orlov and Gamsakhurdia trials. According to dissidents in Moscow, Orlov's wife has not been allowed to see her husband since his conviction, contrary to standard Soviet practices. In the Ukraine, two daughters of imprisoned Baptist leader Georgiy Vins have been refused permission by authorities in Kiev to emigrate to Canada, according to their mother. There were indications earlier this year that some members of the Vins family might be allowed to emigrate. Finally, several Baptists were reportedly arrested in Krasnodar in the north Caucasus following a mass gathering of representatives of "unofficial" Baptist churches. The meeting was called to discuss such matters as emigration and ways of maintaining contact between congregations.  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

-- A number of Jewish refuseniks and others seeking to emigrate have recently carried out several acts of individual protest that testify to their mood of increasing desperation.

-- Irina McLellan, wife of an American professor, hung a protest banner out the window of her Moscow apartment.

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[Redacted]

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- Vladimir Slepak and his wife Maria held a similar placard from their apartment balcony.
- A group of Jewish women waved protest posters from the upper stories of the apartment building where there had gathered after their efforts to stage a demonstration in downtown Moscow were thwarted.
- Antonina Agapova, who has tried to emigrate since her son defected to Sweden in 1974, has threatened to commit suicide by public self-immolation. Earlier this year she tried unsuccessfully to escape to Finland.  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

EASTERN EUROPE

-- East Germany: According to Reuters from West Berlin, East Germany is expected shortly to release noted dissident Rudolf Bahro to West Germany. It is not clear whether the West Germans will pay a ransom for Bahro (as they have for many other East German political prisoners), whether his release will be a unilateral East German move, or whether Bonn has arranged some sort of exchange agreement.

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Several West European Communist leaders and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky have urged the East Germans to release Bahro.

Bahro was arrested last August following publication in West Germany of his scathing criticism of the East German regime in which he called for radical economic and political reforms, but within the framework of the Communist system. Bahro's heresy was particularly grating because of his long-time party membership, his familiarity with the economic system, and his refusal to recant. Bahro was arrested on charges of allegedly conspiring with Western intelligence agencies, and he is the only East German dissident to be held on such grounds. A recent police search of his home, however, failed to turn up incriminating evidence.

Bahro's release, possibly on "humanitarian" grounds may be designed to remove an irritant in East-West German relations before a prospective

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Honecker-Schmidt meeting later this year. The regime is presumably also anxious to get rid of a dissident who has become a cause celebre in the West. (SECRET/NOFORN/ORCON)

WESTERN EUROPE

-- UK-USSR: The British press is increasingly critical of Labor Party and Trades Union Congress (TUC) leaders for maintaining a low profile on the issue of workers' rights in the USSR and Eastern Europe. The TUC is affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), however, and officially supports the ICFTU's recent decision to file complaints against the USSR and Poland with the International Labor Organization (ILO) alleging violations of the ILO's convention on workers' freedom of association. TUC leaders have maintained good relations with their ostensible Soviet counterparts and seem prepared to make additional private representations with the Soviets before giving the subject more publicity.

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The Labor Party's national executive committee has so far deferred taking action on this matter, pending a clearer expression of the views of the TUC's general council.

The British have been a good deal less reticent in their reactions to the recent sentencing of prominent dissident Yuriy Orlov by a Soviet court. The Labor Party's national executive committee has issued a unanimous, public criticism of that Soviet action. The British Government has indefinitely postponed conclusion of a sports agreement with the USSR, and has indicated that it is considering taking additional steps in the event other leading Soviet dissidents are placed on trial. The Orlov case also generated a condemnation of Soviet human rights practices by both sides in the House of Commons, and provoked a nasty exchange between UK Foreign Trade Secretary Dell and Soviet Deputy Premier Kirillin at a joint press conference on 25 May in London. (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

-- West Germany: Egon Bahr, Secretary General of West Germany's Social Democratic Party, seemed to be indirectly critical of President Carter's human rights policy during a recent press conference in Copenhagen. Bahr, who believes a "milder climate" for West German-Soviet

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relations has resulted from Brezhnev's visit to Bonn in early May, implied that the US should not press its human rights policy abroad until it has set its own house in order. Bahr specifically mentioned the status of American Indians, and added that "the concept of human rights must not be used as a stick with which to beat one's adversary, for then it results in fewer people having more rights, whereas the aim must be for more people to have more rights." (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

-- Denmark: A recent survey of the Foreign Ministry's "Newsletter" sheds some light on the relative importance Danish officials attach to human rights issues in three selected Eastern Bloc countries--the USSR, Poland, and East Germany. Of the 40 various notices appearing in the newsletter on the three countries during the period between 29 June 1977 and 10 February 1978, six notices, or 15 percent, dealt with human rights problems. Two of these discussed general human rights issues in relation to the Helsinki agreements, two concerned Jews in the USSR, and two related to the case of several Danes who were arrested in the USSR for attempting to distribute Bibles. Much more space was devoted to Danish fishing and economic relations with the three Communist countries than to human rights matters, but the latter, in turn, commanded more attention than military, strategic, and other issues. (CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN)

#### LATIN AMERICA

-- Peru: Thirteen opponents of the government--mostly leftwing politicians--have been exiled to Argentina, following 10 days of rioting and a 48-hour general strike that left 26 dead, scores injured, and more than a thousand in jail. The expulsions are part of a new hardline policy to clamp down on further demonstrations and strikes by maintaining pressure on labor and the left. Among those expelled were nine leftist candidates for the constituent assembly election scheduled for 18 June, prompting speculation that the election may be canceled. Late last week, however, the electoral court said that preparations have not been affected by the civil strife and that the election will be held as scheduled. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Argentina: The government has released Alfredo Sofia, a pro-Communist human rights leader, whose arrest last week was apparently designed to warn domestic critics not to speak out against security measures taken during the World Cup soccer tournament that began on 1 June. Interior Minister Harguindeguy has attempted to justify the

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arrest on the ground that Sofia--who has been publishing information on political prisoners and missing persons--is responsible for a pamphlet that scurrilously attacked the government. The timing of the detention reflects the dilemma of government security officials who are trying to prevent terrorist incidents during the soccer tournament while not doing further damage to Argentina's human rights image. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Paraguay: The Catholic Church, which has provided almost the only institutional opposition to President Stroessner in recent years, has decided to moderate its criticism of government abuses of human rights. In both his Easter message and his sermon on Paraguayan Independence Day last month, Archbishop Ismael Rolon adopted a nonconfrontational stance. Although Rolon pointed out the need for more legal safeguards and a more competent system of justice, his attitude was more positive and hopeful than earlier. Rolon, who refused to conduct services in Stroessner's presence a few years ago, has apparently decided that the only way he can exert a beneficial influence is to pursue more conciliatory tactics. (CONFIDENTIAL)

ASIA

-- Philippines: In a move to throw his political opponents off balance, President Marcos may soon release supporters of former Senator Aquino who were arrested on 9 April. Marcos also probably hopes to draw opposition leaders into a public debate on national issues in order to show his interest in a political "reconciliation."

By suggesting some sort of political accommodation with Aquino and his followers, Marcos may believe he will improve the credibility of the legislative election in April. He has already ordered the reversal of official election results in the Cebu region in favor of a nongovernment slate--although one with a platform that generally conforms to his policies. He considers it important to maintain a democratic facade as he moves toward another round of talks with the US over a revised bases agreement.

These overtures are largely window dressing; Marcos has made sure that the procedures to be followed in the National Assembly will severely limit any criticism of his martial law regime. The Assembly convenes on 12 June.

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Opposition leaders in Manila have been unable to agree on a common stand since the protest demonstrations immediately after the election. Aquino himself seems to have lost some of his zest for the political crusade

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-- Pakistan: Three men recently found guilty of bank robbery by a special military court were each sentenced to amputation of a hand--the traditional Islamic punishment for thieves. According to government regulations, the amputations will be performed by a surgeon using a local anaesthetic. This is the first instance of amputation actually being decreed by a court since Chief Martial Law Administrator Zia introduced the use of Islamic punishments for criminals last year. Other sentences, such as floggings for various offenses and execution for rape, have been carried out as ordained by the Koran. (UNCLASSIFIED)

#### AFRICA

-- South Africa: Authorities have detained a member of the Young Christian Workers (YCW), a Roman Catholic youth group with links to UNESCO and to international labor, and two journalists who work for the black, ecumenical newspaper, The Voice. Earlier in May, the security police had raided a YCW office and detained the first black president of the YCW, who remains in custody incommunicado. These moves are reminiscent of earlier attacks against the protestant Christian Institute, which was among the organizations banned on 19 October 1977. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Comoros: The Political-Military Directorate that came to power on 13 May has appointed Abdillahi Mohamed as Prime Minister and Head of Government. Although there is no confirmation on the sponsorship of the coup, it was reportedly initiated by the landing of a group of 60 to 70 French-speaking mercenaries. In a note of irony, former President Ali Soilih, who was deposed last month allegedly because of his disregard for the islanders' traditional Islamic beliefs, was killed on 29 May while allegedly attempting to escape from custody. The Directorate reports that external elements tried to free Soilih shortly after he was informed that he would come to trial before a special Islamic Court.

Abdillahi wants to restore democracy and plans to form a federation of the four islands based on a constitution to be adopted by a National

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Assembly to be elected next month.   
the republic will be a "liberal regime," respecting the particular  
customs and traditions of each island in the hope of reintegrating  
Mayotte, which voted in 1975 to remain part of France. (SECRET/NOFORN/  
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