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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW  
(19-25 May 1978)

SOVIET UNION

-- As a backdrop to the trials of Yuriy Orlov and Zviad Gamsakhurdia in Moscow and Tbilisi last week, Soviet authorities carried out a number of repressive measures against other dissidents. The Soviets presumably hoped that while international attention was focused on the trials, the other anti-dissident steps would attract little notice. These developments were:

- Leader of the psychiatric abuse monitoring committee, Aleksandr Podrabinek, was arrested on 14 May. The investigator assigned to the case told Podrabinek's father that his son was being investigated for having violated Article 190 (failure to report a crime against the state) of the RSFSR criminal code.
- Jewish "refusenik" Iosif Begun was arrested on 14 May, allegedly for illegally residing in Moscow. He has reportedly begun a hunger strike in protest.
- One of the leaders of the dissident workers' "free trade union," V. Paplavskiy, was reportedly tried and sentenced to one year in a labor camp for vagrancy.

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[Redacted]

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**WARNING NOTICE**  
**SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES**  
**AND METHODS INVOLVED**

State Dept. review  
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- Several dissidents standing vigil outside the Orlov trial were detained for questioning, and at least six apartments of dissidents were searched.
- A Tass article in Pravda on 23 May implied that Orlov, as well as Shcharanskiy, was working for US intelligence services. In a 15 May lecture on international affairs at the Moscow factory where Shcharanskiy's brother works, Shcharanskiy was reportedly referred to as a CIA agent. (CONFIDENTIAL)

EASTERN EUROPE

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-- Czechoslovakia: [redacted] three instances of police beatings of Charter 77 signatories since mid-May. Two of the victims were abandoned in the countryside near Prague. This is the first known sustained use of police brutality against dissidents since the Charter 77 movement was initiated in January 1977.

The Chartists believe that by using violence the regime hopes to provoke them into illegal retaliatory moves that would make them vulnerable to legal prosecution. They also see it as a way of forestalling dissident activity during the coming visit of Soviet leader Brezhnev to Prague. As the US Embassy suggests, the incidents are probably part of an overall tightening of internal controls in anticipation of increased dissident activity pegged to the tenth anniversary of the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in August.

Some Chartists believe their only defense against such police tactics is Western publicity, and they have consequently given detailed accounts of the recent beatings to Western newsmen. They have also sent protests to top Czechoslovak leaders. While the beatings have made the Chartists very cautious about their personal movements, they have not dissuaded them from issuing a statement of solidarity with convicted Soviet dissident Yuriy Orlov. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- Romania: Two documents prepared by a small but active group of Romanian Baptist dissidents were recently obtained by the US Embassy in Bucharest. The group announced the formation of a "Committee for the Defense of Religious and Spiritual Freedoms" with the aim of assisting persons persecuted for religious beliefs. The documents solicit an

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association with an international Christian solidarity organization in Zurich, and call for an end to religious persecution in Romania. The Committee hopes to promote ties between Christians in Romania and other countries, and to publicize the regime's intolerance toward religion.

The appearance of the documents is the first time in over a year that the Baptist dissident group has publicly challenged the regime on the issue of religious freedom. Although some members of the group were briefly detained last year, its leaders apparently continue preaching without repercussions. Most recently, pastor Iosif Ton, who has been the driving force behind the movement, preached in Bucharest churches and was not harrassed. Some of the religious dissidents, however, were reportedly forced to apply for passports, with the obvious implication that the regime wants them to leave. The US Embassy believes that the passports--if issued--will bear exit visas valid for the US, thus forcing Washington to make a decision concerning admission of these dissidents.  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

WESTERN EUROPE

-- EC: Foreign ministers of the EC Nine agreed at their informal meeting on 20 May to issue a joint statement deploring the Soviets' sentencing of prominent dissident Yuriy Orlov and his colleagues who had been monitoring the USSR's compliance with the Helsinki agreement. The statement was released on 24 May. 25X1

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-- Turkey: The Turkish Government recently granted permission to Amnesty International to open an office in Ankara. This decision is in line with the public commitment to human rights made by the Ecevit government. In granting the authorization, Ecevit may calculate that while Amnesty's assessments of the Turkish human rights scene could sometimes be embarrassing, he will be able to use them just as often to rebut Greek charges of human rights violations in Turkey.

The presence of the Amnesty International office should help discourage moves against minorities, such as the Greeks who are concentrated in Turkey's urban areas. Turkish treatment of people such as the Kurds, who live in remote parts of the country, will be more difficult to monitor.

The most serious human rights-related problem facing Ecevit, however, is the steadily increasing level of political violence, concentrated mainly among rival gangs of Turkish students. Ecevit, who is opposed to draconian measures for both philosophical and political reasons, has so far taken a measured approach to this problem, and he will remain unwilling, notwithstanding pressure from some of his advisers, to take such steps as the imposition of martial law. Should violence continue, however, he may find pressure for decisive action impossible to resist. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- International Labor: The executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions announced last Friday in Hamburg that it will file a complaint against the USSR and Poland with the International Labor Organization in Geneva. It will allege that both countries have violated the ILO's convention on workers' freedom of association, which was adopted in 1948 and has been ratified by both states. This ICFIU decision comes not long after the other, smaller, Western labor grouping, the Christian-oriented World Confederation of Labor, opted to file a similar complaint against the Soviets for their crackdown on dissidents

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seeking to organize a trade union not under regime control. ICFIU General Secretary Kersten has also served notice that his organization continues to expect ILO action on its formal, year-old complaint against Czechoslovakia for alleged discriminatory employment practices.  
(UNCLASSIFIED)

LATIN AMERICA

-- Peru: The Peruvian Government on 19 May declared a state of emergency throughout the country because of widespread civil unrest over the announcement of steep price increases for food staples and gasoline. Constitutional guarantees and the publication of all independent magazines were suspended.

As a precaution prior to the nationwide general strike on 22-23 May, authorities arrested a score of labor leaders, journalists and leftist politicians, including some candidates for the 18 June constituent assembly election. [redacted] some of those arrested<sup>25X1</sup> will either be sent into exile or detained in the jungle penal colony of El Sepa.

A further 800 demonstrators reportedly were arrested during the strike. Hundreds had previously been arrested in connection with violent protest demonstrations in the provinces. Some of the protest leaders reportedly may be sent to Lima for incarceration. (SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

-- Ecuador: The recent decision by Ecuador's supreme election tribunal to uphold earlier disqualifications for the 16 July presidential election has further depleted the ranks of eligible candidates. Although government leaders stress the legality of the disqualifications, their effect has been to aid government-supported candidates and sidetrack most of those who were not to its liking. Should the remaining contenders not perform according to the government's expectations, further intervention in the election process cannot be ruled out.

Despite the insistence by government leaders and even respected former President Galo Plaza that the election tribunal acted independently and according to law in ruling on the disqualifications, there is widespread suspicion that some military officers are behind the move. Since

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February, both through questionable revisions in the election law and by decisions of the election tribunal, five presidential contenders have been excluded. (SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

-- Venezuela: Despite intensive counterinsurgency efforts, guerrilla groups in the eastern states of Monegas, Anzoategui, and Sucre retain their capability to harass military units and disrupt civilian activities. 25X1

The causes for the failure appear to lie in the military's inability to marshal the support of local residents as well as rivalry between civilian and military intelligence units in the field. Guerrilla actions have decreased in recent months. 25X1

Renewed actions will probably aim for publicity and support in this election year. Some likely tactics include kidnaping and extortion of prominent local residents; armed attacks on military installations and convoys; highway and bank robberies; and infiltration of armed forces and security units in the area. (SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

#### FAR EAST

-- Indonesia: President Suharto is apparently determined not to allow the issue of human rights in Indonesia to jeopardize continuing US military and economic aid. On 20 May, the Indonesian Government released 265 political prisoners in commemoration of the anniversary of the West Java military command. Other small-scale, symbolic releases may well occur on similar commemorative occasions in coming months, as an adjunct to the planned, phased release of some 20,000 political detainees by December 1979. Suharto seems to have adopted the idea of more frequent releases of smaller groups of prisoners as a way to maximize favorable human rights publicity.

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After Vice President Mondale's visit to Jakarta, Suharto reportedly decided to release 10,000 political prisoners between August and December, and the remaining 10,000 next year. He has now apparently changed his mind, and intends to release 5,000 on Indonesia's Independence Day in August and another 10,000 before December 1978, leaving only 5,000 to be released in 1979. In another apparent move to win US approval, Suharto has instructed Attorney General Said either to release or quickly bring to trial persons who were arrested for dissident activities in the months before the recent national assembly session. (CONFIDENTIAL)

-- South Korea: Kim Kwan suk, the Secretary General of the Korean National Council of Churches and a leading critic of the Pak government, has sent a letter to President Carter charging that the human rights situation in South Korea is far worse than "public reporting" indicates. The letter warns that repression by the government is reaching a "dangerous point," and that without real improvements there is bound to be a serious social crisis. Kim voices disappointment over what he sees as US support for the Pak government, adding that the US Government thus shares responsibility for violation of human rights in South Korea. Citing South Vietnam's experience as an example, Kim expressed concern that South Korea's alleged disregard of human rights will also lead to its international isolation.

Kim's letter, which was passed to the US Embassy in Seoul and has been brought to the US by a member of Dr. Brzezinski's party, reflects the frustration that South Korea's human rights activists have increasingly experienced over the past year. Their cause has lost momentum at home, while the efforts of the Pak government to improve its image abroad have made substantial gains. (CONFIDENTIAL)

#### AFRICA

-- Tanzania-SWAPO: Andreas Shipanga, the former Minister of Information for the South-West Africa People's Organization, and 11 other disaffected SWAPO members were released from detention in Tanzania on 25 May. The Tanzanians also released seven members of other southern African liberation groups. All but one of the SWAPO members were flown directly to Europe. The British Government has agreed to grant Shipanga political asylum; most of the other SWAPO members are destined for Sweden, Denmark, Norway, or the US.

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The decision by Tanzanian President Nyerere to release the detainees was made partly in response to pressure from international human rights organizations, including Amnesty International. In addition, the Western five-power contact group's proposals on Namibia call for the release of all Namibian political prisoners held outside the territory. SWAPO leaders in Namibia have already cited the Tanzanian release in urging South Africa to free SWAPO members held in its prisons.

SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma had earlier opposed Shipanga's release, possibly because he feared Shipanga could mount a serious challenge to his leadership. Some black Namibian political leaders may ask Shipanga to return to Namibia to help lead a moderate political coalition. Shipanga, however, may fear that if he returns, he might be arrested by South African authorities or assassinated by adherents of Nujoma.  
(SECRET/NOFORN)

-- Comoros: President Ali Soilih, the leftist leader of the Indian Ocean Republic of the Comoros, was overthrown in a coup on 13 May. Soilih's anti-religious policies--he outlawed the wearing of veils by women in public and prohibited elaborate weddings and feasts that had been a century-old tradition in the Comoros--caused a great deal of discontent among the islands' predominantly Moslem population. The new government is pledged to restore religious freedom throughout the islands and the population seems to be relieved and pleased that Soilih is no longer in power. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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