

International Intelligence

Mexican spokesmen blast high interest rates

The head of the Mexican Confederation of Small Farm Owners, Salomon Faz Sánchez, in a May 21 statement widely covered by the Mexican press, accused high interest rates of decapitalizing Mexico's agriculture. In order to counter the 40 percent rates farmers now pay to private bankers, Faz Sánchez called on the government to give the state agriculture bank, Banrural, a monopoly on farming and cattleraising credits at lower rates.

On May 20, the economic adviser to the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), Alfonso Reyes Medrano, also condemned the high interest-rate policy recently announced by the central bank of Mexico in coordination with the Federal Reserve, calling it "absurd." The policy "coheres with U.S. banking interests" and "represents one of the major causes of world inflation," he said.

On May 21, the well-read column "Among Businessmen" warned that the new wave of interest-rate hikes "poses a latent threat to developing countries like ours," and stated that "the productive private sector" calls on the government "to effectively promote priority sectors" of Mexico's economy.

Coverup on papal assassination attempt?

Several Italian investigators of the attempt to murder Pope John Paul II believe they are confronted with a second conspiracy, according to a report in the *Diario de las Americas*: an effort by other investigators to claim that Mehmet Ali Agca is a "lone assassin."

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* raised the same question on May 19, posing the investigation from the standpoint of an international conspiracy, then asking whether a coverup will occur as it did in the case of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Consultation among European interior ministers thus far appears to have a narrow focus on the role of the neofascist Turkish Grey Wolves group. The chief of the Rome counterterror forces, Alfredo Lazzarini—himself recently a leading speaker at a conference sponsored by terrorist sympathizer Cherif Bassiouni—has been widely publicized as terming an international conspiracy "a very, very remote possibility." Other Italian authorities, however, are pursuing evidence that Agca had links to non-Turkish European terrorists. It has also been reported that the letter sent to Italian President Sandro Pertini by King Hassan of Morocco, a letter documenting the Libyan involvement in the assassination attempt, also documented the role of the Italian Socialist Party. According to sources close to Pertini, who is a Socialist, he has since lost the letter.

German monetarists boost Global 2000

The think tank of West Germany's Free Democratic Party (FPD) sponsored a two-day conference May 19-20 on the Carter administration's *Global 2000 Report*, in the first major public campaign around this document to occur in Europe. The event was organized by Helga Schuchardt, an FDP leader and proponent of euthanasia, who recently addressed the New York Council on Foreign Relations and pressed the Reagan administration to drop its resistance to *Global 2000*.

At the conference, held in Bonn, Schuchardt demanded that NATO call a summit meeting to deal with Third World questions. The conference was also addressed by Interior Minister Gerhard Baum, who attacked the United States for neglecting environmental protection, and by Rüdiger von Wechmar, ambassador to the U.N. and a Bilderberg Society member, who called for pressure on the U.S. to promote "Third World development," Brandt Commission-style. The event was sponsored by the

party's think tank, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Peccei and Poehl attack national sovereignty

Club of Rome International chief Aurelio Peccei was the keynote speaker May 19 at a conference of the World Congress of Savings Banks in West Berlin. Peccei stated that the North-South summit meeting this October in Mexico City should mark "the end of the era of national politics which is leading to the balkanization of the world, and the start of an era of regionally and globally coordinated policies that can bring the world solidarity and salvation."

Preceding Peccei's address, West German central bank chief Karl-Otto Poehl—an ally of Paul Volcker in promoting the formula that national governments must relinquish control of credit policy to "independent" central banks—gave a speech to the conference endorsing Volcker's high interest-rate policy, a policy that is accelerating the elimination of "useless eaters" by precluding economic development.

Schmidt destabilization gains momentum

On several fronts, the Social Democratic-Free Democratic coalition government of West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is currently the target of destabilizing operations. Schmidt's economics minister, Otto von Lamsdorff, has been brought before a tribunal for tax evasion; although Lamsdorff is a "free enterpriser" and no factional ally of Schmidt, his removal through a watergate scandal would unsettle the cabinet and strengthen the zero-growth forces in the Free Democratic Party, where Interior Minister Gerhard Baum is bidding to increase his own power.

The state of Hessen, ruled by the last remaining SPD-FDP coalition on the state level in West Germany, is ridden with disputes over a replacement for FDP Economics Minister Heinz Herbert Karry, who was assassinated on May 11. The Hessen administration of Schmidt ally Holger Börner could fall.

The executive committees of the youth groups of the SPD and FDP have met to plan the transformation of their parties into adjuncts of the peace and environmentalist movements. The left wing of the SPD has become openly "Aquarian": SPD General Manager Peter Glotz, in an interview with *Stern* magazine appearing May 21, stated that the Mitterrand victory in France is the first hopeful counter to the West's "neoconservative wave," and asserted that the problem with the SPD is that it is no longer the party of "the subculture," but "made the big mistake of escaping into society."

Meanwhile, industrialist Otto Wolff von Amerongen told *Quick* magazine that unless Germany raises interest rates, the Saudi loan to Germany would fall through.

Italian scandals point to terror networks

The head of Milan's Banco Ambrosiano, Roberto Calvi, was arrested May 20 on charges of running a capital flight operation, along with Mario Valeri Manera, a top Venetian banker, and six others. The arrests intersect a larger scandal: the May 20 publication of the names of the 900 members of the top-secret Loggia P-2 of the Scottish Rite Freemasons in Italy, a list seized in March 1981 at the villa of Italian banker and Calvi protector Licio Gelli.

Another member of the Loggia P-2 is Vito Micelli, an MSI (neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement) parliamentarian and former head of the Italian SID intelligence agency, who was implicated in the 1975 Rosa dei Venti coup plot and who had helped bring Muammar Qaddafi to

power in Libya. Further names include MSI deputy Mario Tedeschi, publisher of *Il Borghese*, a center of Le Cercle Violet, several ministers of the PSI government, and several secret service officials. Rumors are mounting that the Italian government will fall.

Roberto Calvi had recently bought 40 percent of the prestigious newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, which is co-owned by Italian *Playboy* magazine publisher Angelo Rizzoli, another member of the Loggia P-2. Calvi has been accused of aiding the terrorist groups Prima Linea and the Red Brigades, and of involvement in the assassination of Judge Allessandrini, who was investigating Red Brigades leader Toni Negri before he was murdered by the Prima Linea.

Socialists announce guerrilla brigade

"We have put a dozen men forged in combat at the disposal of the Faribundo Marti Liberation Front [El Salvador's guerrilla force] who can join their force within a matter of days," Panamanian Social Democrat Hugo Spadafora announced at a May 17 press conference in Mexico City. "If we wait weeks, our forces can be hundreds of men, and if it is a question of months, thousands. Our only condition is that one week after our triumph, we are released from service to fight elsewhere on the continent."

Spadafora, the former Panamanian vice-minister of health who quit two years ago to fight with the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, had just visited Libya and is now traveling in Europe on behalf of what he calls the Simon Bolivar Brigades. "The Socialist International is the natural ally of this idea," he told the press. "I am a Panamanian Social Democrat and men like Willy Brandt . . . support the brigades." Bearing the name of one of the leading "black nobility" families in Italy, Spadafora is a former member of the Italian Socialist Party.

The U.S. Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee supports the effort.

Briefly

● **JAPAN'S** anti-Soviet sanctions appear to be quietly dwindling following the resignation of Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito. The Japanese Export-Import Bank approved a \$500 million loan for export of 500,000 tons of steel pipeline to be used in the U.S.S.R. natural gas project with Western Europe. It is to be followed up by at least another 750,000 tons early next year. Ito had blocked such Exim loans.

● **EDWARD SEAGA**, in a three-page statement circulated by the Jamaican embassy in Washington, eulogizes the late reggae singer Bob Marley, who disseminated the drug culture internationally, as "an outstanding example to ghetto youth [whose] influence on children was profound" and as "a giant among musicians and men."

● **PHILIP HABIB**, in his shuttle diplomacy, is seeking a de facto partition of Lebanon, conclude intelligence sources, involving the Litani River "red line" devised by Henry Kissinger.

● **HENRY KISSINGER** showed his enthusiasm for social democrats in a recent Swedish television interview, and also his wish that "on strictly national security grounds" the U.S. could support Pol Pot in Cambodia. Jeane Kirkpatrick and Helmut Sonnenfeldt have also declared that they welcome the Socialist victory in France.

● **ERNESTO SAMPER** Pizano, president of Colombia's National Association of Financial Institutions (ANIF), has been disowned by his grandmother after she learned that the Vatican is considering an Antidrug Coalition request to excommunicate Samper for his "un-Christian" views favoring legalization of marijuana. ANIF sources also say Samper's maid quit because "she didn't want to work for an atheist."