

International Intelligence

Club of Life to hold Cairo conference

In cooperation with several Egyptian ministries, the Club of Life will hold its first international conference in Africa in Cairo on April 25 and 26. The conference will focus on the fight for a New World Economic Order and the key role of African economic development to reverse the worldwide economic depression, and will be paralleled by smaller conferences in Europe, the United States, and Ibero-America.

At the conference in Cairo, the Club of Life will present a development program for the entire continent, radically rejecting the Malthusian proposals which totally oppose the industrialization of the developing sector. Topics to be discussed include the Great Projects approach to world economic recovery, a 30-year development plan for Africa, doubling grain production worldwide, the concept of building nuclear-reactor-centered agroindustrial centers (nuplexes), the debt crisis and international monetary reform, using the the Qattara Depression to provide irrigation, and other means of overcoming the food deficit in Egypt.

The Club of Life is encouraged by the reception the Egyptian authorities have given to its proposal for the conference, and calls on all individuals, institutions, governments and international agencies committed to a pro-development outlook to help ensure the success of this event.

Assad regime in serious trouble?

The cabinet of Syrian President Hafez Assad resigned March 6 after a skirmish erupted between a group of military officers and the forces of Rifaat Assad, Hafez's younger brother. A struggle for the succession erupted during the President's November hospitalization for heart disease.

Assad is reported to have kept on as prime minister Abdel-Raoud Khassem, and is said to be preparing to name one or more vice-presidents as a gesture of willingness to share

power for the first time in his 15-year rule.

A powerful military clique led by Chief of Staff Gen. Hikmat Shihabi is challenging Rifaat Assad, who is reported to have begun preparing to take power shortly after his brother fell ill.

The Shihabi faction, which also includes chief of military intelligence Ali Duba and Shefiq Fayez, the head of the Third Army, is preferred for succession by the Soviet Union, Syria's chief controller.

Arab sources report that Hafez will try to install a new government balanced between the faction led by Rifaat and the Shihabi grouping, as witness the decision to keep Khassem, considered an opponent of Rifaat. But Hafez, head of an extended clan, cannot easily drop his pledge that his brother will succeed him.

European conferences on Western beam defense

More than a hundred persons, including leaders of the northern Italian defense industry, a representative of Italy's northwest military district, high-ranking military officers, diplomats, and candidates for public office attended a March 1 conference in Milan on the need for a U.S.-Western European alliance to initiate a crash program for the development of ABM directed-energy weapons systems.

Speakers, including the secretary-general of the European Labor Party in Italy, Fiorella Operto, Gen. (ret.) Giulio Macri, and U.S. congressional candidate from the heavily Italian district of South Philadelphia Bernard Salera, described the Soviet Union's drive for military superiority, and the growing support among Western European governments for the beam-weapons defense systems proposed by President Reagan's administration.

Conference attendee Dr. Claudio Polastri, head of the foreign policy department of the Italian Social Democratic Party in Milan, called for strengthening Europe's alliance with the United States. American-European relations, he stated, had been severely damaged by the Carter presidency, and Henry Kissinger's doctrine of creating

a tripolar world dominated by the United States, China, and the Soviet Union, excluding Europe from power, was "insane." Beam weapons must become a primary issue in Europe, he concluded.

In recent months *EIR* has sponsored such conferences in Copenhagen, Vienna, Munich, Oslo, Brussels, Rome, and Bonn; a conference will be held in Paris, March 23 and 24.

State Department threatens Egypt

High-level Egyptian officials are enraged at the U.S. State Department for publishing a secret report claiming that Egypt should no longer be considered a "reliable ally," sources in Egypt told *EIR*. They confirmed the existence of the report, which calls the "Iranization" of Egypt "inevitable." This statement is perceived by the Egyptians as open support for Islamic fundamentalists agitating against President Hosni Mubarak. They reported that Mubarak's February trip to the United States was "a disaster, a failure."

At the same time, the World Bank is threatening to withhold urgently needed wheat supplies from Egypt should the government offend them in any way. Egypt depends on imports to feed its population, and cuts could lead to the same kind of riots that broke out in Tunisia and Morocco in January.

Arab daily cites LaRouche attacks on Kissinger

Al Arab, a London-based Arabic-language daily, denounced the United States' and the U.S. media's accusations that Iraq has used chemical weapons in the prolonged war with Iran in an editorial March 7. *Al Arab* has a circulation of 30,000 in Europe and the Middle East.

The editorial condemned Henry Kissinger for his broad association with international terrorism, and praised "U.S. Senator [sic] Lyndon LaRouche [for] his part in exposing Kissinger's role against Arab, Third

Briefly

● **JACQUES VERNANT**, strategist for the *Revue de la Défense Nationale* in Paris told *EIR* March 8 that "France has bet on the wrong horse in the Iran-Iraq war. Iran is on top." Vernant defined this evaluation as "admittedly opportunist" but "rational."

● **THE CATHOLIC** Church in West Germany is funding the radio station of the anti-Marcos opposition movement in the Philippines.

● **SOCIETY OF JESUS** Director-General Hans Kolvenbach, in an exclusive interview with France's *Le Figaro* March 6, said that relations with the Holy See have gone from "tense" to "cordial."

● **NATO** completed two days of maneuvers in Britain March 7, to test how to "counter a Warsaw Pact surprise attack," according to West German media.

● **PEKING** announced on March 4 that it was expelling the correspondent for *Der Spiegel* magazine for disturbing the peace; he was accused of biting the hand of a city policeman.

● **THREE HEADS** of the Roman nobility—from the Massimo, Monteleone, and Pallavicini families—have converted to Islam, according to rumors in Rome.

● **ERICH HONECKER** will make a state visit to Bonn this autumn, according to a high-level West German source.

● **DENIS HEALEY** was an active member in the British Communist Party in 1932-39, a London insider says. The British Labour Party leader "hasn't changed in reality at all since then."

● **ANDREI GROMYKO** would be happy if "the whole Middle East went to hell," an Israeli source told *EIR*. "He thinks the region is made up of a bunch of lunatics, and he's the most notorious racist in the Soviet leadership."

World and American peoples."

Al Arab described LaRouche's charges that Kissinger was involved in the "liquidation" of Third World leaders, and called *EIR* "a magazine founded by an honest man whose conscience compels him to expose all what is hidden in the corridors of power in the United States."

Soviet defense minister makes tour of India

Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov arrived in India March 5, heading a delegation of 60 aides and officers, including Commander of the Soviet Navy Adm. Sergei Gorshkov. The Ustinov trip, postponed because of Yuri Andropov's funeral in February, is intended to make a diplomatic intervention into India and increase Soviet arms sales there.

Ustinov will tour Indian defense industry plants and an Indian navy port, and meet with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and other high-level officials.

"The situation has become grave with the United States militarizing and controlling countries of Southeast Asia, including those that are next to peaceful India," Ustinov declaimed at a dinner March 5. During February, a Soviet naval squad including the aircraft carrier *Novosibirsk* called at the southern India port of Madras—the first visit ever made to India by a Soviet aircraft carrier. Sources report that the Soviets are "testing the waters for a major strategic move in the region—probably Iran, but maybe Pakistan," he said.

Cult threatens Nigerian government

The northeastern Nigeria city of Yola was rocked by violence and rioting for a week beginning Feb. 27, sparked by members of a pseudo-Muslim sect. The government-owned daily *New Nigerian* reported March 6 that 1,000 or more persons may have been killed.

The latest violence comes on the heels

of reports in London and New York that the military government will not be able to maintain its unity in the face of economic crisis. It was just such a breakdown of military cohesion in the mid-1960s which led to the catastrophic civil war.

European press denounces Kissinger's pullout plan

Karl Feldmeyer, the military correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, one of West Germany's most important dailies, attacked Henry Kissinger's *Time* magazine proposal for U.S. pullback from NATO in the lead editorial March 6.

Kissinger's theses address the question "What constitutes the basis for the security of Western Europe?" The answer to that question, Feldmeyer asserts, has "remained unchanged since the foundation of the alliance: The political and military engagement of the United States. . . . In the last analysis it is the U.S. nuclear umbrella that counts. Only the risk this umbrella creates is credible and unacceptable for the Soviet Union. It alone can prevent Moscow from imposing its will upon Western Europe—be it by political or military force."

If that deterrence factor did not exist, Feldmeyer continued, Moscow's position "would be completely different from the present parity counted according to missiles and megatons. . . . Only then would the Soviet Union have won its fight with America which has been building since the collapse of the wartime alliance.

"[Kissinger's thrust] can only reinforce Moscow's hopes that it can avoid a revision of its own policy because the West will not stick to its own policy."

The leading Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* also condemned Kissinger's plan. "This politician ought to know," the March 4 editorial stated, "what the European answer would be to a radical reduction of America's commitment to the old continent, in view of past experience. There would be no revival in the desire for joint defense, but rather a flight into 'relaxation of tension,' which is just a nice way of saying accommodation to the will of the 'other' power."