

International Intelligence

Schmidt, Giscard present plan for European Union

An initiative for a European monetary and political union was presented to the press in Bonn on March 19, by former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The two were speaking on behalf of the Committee for a European Currency Union of the Inter-Action Council, a group of 70 former high-ranking government officials of 15 Western countries, which had met in Rome the week before.

Schmidt and Giscard called for measures to secure the economies of Western Europe from monetary turbulence. They recommended that the European Currency Unit (ECU) be turned into a fully convertible currency for trade and commercial credit in Western Europe, and that a European central bank be created.

Schmidt had discussed the project with three days earlier with French President François Mitterrand, and reported "full agreement on the main issues" between the two. He and Giscard will tour other European capitals to discuss their idea.

The day after their press conference, Schmidt and Giscard attended a meeting of the Committee for a European Currency Union in Bonn. Schmidt ridiculed the recent Paris agreements of the Group of Six (the "Louvre agreements"), warning that the Europeans were putting too much trust in the prospects for stabilizing the dollar.

Briton views Gorbachov: 'Russia first, dogma last'

David Watt, the former director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, wrote in the March 20 *Times* of London, that the Soviet leadership is not Marxist-Leninist, but represents a continuity of Great Russian traditions. In the article, entitled "Russia first, dogma last," Watt cautions that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher might be misguided, while preparing for her upcoming trip to Moscow, by so-called right-win-

gers, as well as left-liberals, as each attempts to analyze the U.S.S.R. in a "socialist/communist" paradigm.

"Marxist-Leninist doctrine is no longer anyone's prime mover, since nobody really believes in it—not even Gorbachov, who hardly mentions it. . . . What Mrs. Thatcher has to bear in mind is not that Gorbachov is a socialist, but that he is a Russian leader. This means his main preoccupation is with permanent Russian national interests and objectives." The main drift of Gorbachov's so-called "reforms," in Watt's view, "will probably be to make the Soviet Union more formidable without altering the old socialist aims a jot. . . . Security comes first, then widening influence, status, and superpower parity. But these are the pretensions that have worried the rest of the world since the early 19th century, and they will continue to worry us, I guess until the end of the 21st and beyond, whoever rules Russia."

Pope points to Church's role in world debt crisis

Pope John Paul II, in a March 24 speech commemorating the 20th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, stressed the relevance of that famous document for the present day, particularly in view of the international debt crisis.

Populorum Progressio, he said, delivered "a penetrating critique both of various forms of liberal capitalism, and of totalitarian systems inspired by collectivism. . . . In the light of the profound analysis of the encyclical, one can see how, in a certain sense, the two systems, which at least in the most rigid forms divide the world among themselves, have certain convergences, which the political confrontation tends to hide."

The words of the encyclical, "development is the new name of peace," now seem to have "a prophetic value. Who could doubt today, the intrinsic connection between the reality of malnutrition, infant mortality, hunger, unemployment, limited life expectancy, international debt, the obstacles to de-

velopment of entire nations, and the precarious situation of any form of peace, on a local, regional and world level? . . . The increase and aggravation of the international debt . . . [proves] that the evangelical message of the encyclical remains valid . . . [and that] especially today the Church has to play a role in this field."

Soviets seek world cooperation on AIDS

Soviet blood donors will be routinely screened for the AIDS virus, beginning "in the near future," announced Dr. Viktor Zhdanov, director of the Virology Institute at the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, in a March 19 *Izvestia* article. "It would be a harmful delusion to think that the worldwide AIDS pandemic will skip our country," wrote Zhdanov, although he claimed that only 30 cases of AIDS had been identified in the U.S.S.R.

Zhdanov asserted, motivating this with a desire to stem "various rumors" among the population, that "the disease is not transmitted through ordinary contact, and is not transmitted through food, water, or air. In general, happily, the disease is not very contagious and is not always transmitted even from spouse to spouse." On Feb. 28, however, *Izvestia* had reprinted without comment an interview with Dr. John Seale of Great Britain, published in the Italian weekly *Panorama*, in which Seale called AIDS "a pandemic, which can annihilate 50% of the Earth's population in the next 20 or 30 years," while "the authorities are doing nothing to stop it."

Zhdanov concluded with an appeal for "international efforts . . . intensive scientific research, active offensive actions, a systematic exchange of information. . . . There must be an effective international program of scientific and practical measures, and Soviet specialists are prepared to take a very active part in its development." He said that Soviet virologists were appealing to the World Health Organization (whose Soviet-directed communicable diseases section led the cover-up of the AIDS danger two years

ago) to coordinate the international battle against AIDS.

Soviet advisers said to move into Beirut

Major General Ammon Shahaq, the chief of the Israeli Defense Forces, reports that thousands of Soviet advisers are stationed in Syria, and that some of them have already moved into Lebanon, in the wake of the Syrian Army. According to the Tel Aviv newspaper *Al Hamishmar* on March 20, monitored by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, General Shahaq told leaders of American Jewish organizations that the Soviet presence was "certainly not for a brief visit."

He noted that Moscow's interest in Syria is no weaker than in the past, and is probably stronger.

General Rogers: Zero option is for 'fools'

NATO Supreme Commander in Europe Gen. Bernard Rogers, in an interview with the *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* published March 25, said that Western leaders "were damn fools to accept the zero option"—Moscow's plan for withdrawing medium-range nuclear missiles from Western Europe. Rogers warned that if there were no talks on short-range missiles to follow a zero option agreement on medium-range missiles, NATO would be in a "position worse than in 1979, when we took the double-track decision" to deploy U.S. Pershing II and cruise missiles as a counter to Soviet SS-20s.

Rogers added that he foresaw "problems to be faced by NATO" in the near future, concerning the deployment of 325,000 U.S. soldiers currently stationed in Europe. Rogers said he would place no bets on whether these troops would still be there in five years: "As far as trends are going in the United States, the number of troops could be damned low by then."

Rogers's term expires in June, and it is not being renewed, because of his strongly expressed opposition to the "decoupling" of the Western alliance. He stated that he would prefer not to leave the SACEUR command at this time, since "this alliance is facing very critical years." He added that he thought that the Reagan administration "probably thought that eight years are enough, that someone else should take this post now."

Suspicious deaths among British SDI scientists

Three British scientists, all involved in sensitive defense research related to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), have died or disappeared under strange circumstances during the past nine months, the *Times* of London reported March 19. All three were of Indian Subcontinent origin, and "were dealing with major underwater projects which could help locate submarines at vast depths, and which also have implications for the Star Wars program."

The latest case involves the disappearance of Loughborough University doctoral candidate student Avtar Singh-Gida, who was last seen with a colleague near a Derbyshire reservoir, where they were conducting an experiment on underwater acoustics. Police, reported the *Times*, are particularly concerned about his disappearance, because of his friendship with Vimal Dajibhai, a defense specialist at the Marconi company, who was found dead last August beneath the Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol. In October 1986, another Marconi defense-related specialist, Ashad Sharif, died in an apparent suicide.

British parliamentarians are calling on the government to investigate these deaths, in part because the work the three men were involved in, was in areas in which Britain is well ahead of the Soviet Union. Said Social Democratic-Liberal Alliance defense spokesman John Cartwright: "These deaths and the disappearance are stretching coincidence too far, especially when you consider the sensitive nature of the work these men were engaged in."

Briefly

● **DR. ARTHUR RUDOLPH**, the German scientist who built the Saturn V rocket, was restored to his West German citizenship on March 17. He had been forced out of the United States by a frame-up run by the KGB and the U.S. Justice Department, on unsubstantiated charges of Nazi war crimes. The district attorney in Hamburg has exonerated him of charges that he was involved in the murder of prisoners at the Dora concentration camp.

● **ILYA GLAZUNOV**, the Soviet painter whose blood-and-soil works were exposed in *EIR* on Feb. 27, 1987, has an show in London, where visitors may observe "the mystical bond between a Russian and his Motherland," according to the *Daily Telegraph*. The *Telegraph* assures Britons that Glazunov is no dissident, but a "court painter," whose hero is 19th-century writer Fyodor Dostoevsky.

● **NORWAY** launched a hunt for "foreign" submarines on March 25, after a ship involved in NATO military exercises off the northern coast detected sonar signals. According to *Reuter*, Maj. Gunnar Mjell said: "A Norwegian vessel made contact with an unidentified number of submarines last night. The sonar contact lasted for just a few minutes and several vessels are now searching."

● **A SMALL CIRCLE** at the Swedish foreign ministry runs illegal arms trading, according to Ingvar Bratt, formerly an engineer with Sweden's Bofors company, which has been implicated in "Irangate." Bratt told the daily *Dagens Nyheter* on March 20, "The government does not want to know the truth about the illegal arms affairs. . . . The trail points right into the foreign ministry. This, the government must hide at all costs."