

# International Intelligence

## Aquino asks for ASEAN decision on U.S. bases

Philippine President Cory Aquino widened the debate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) over military bases in the region, by calling on the regional grouping to declare categorically whether or not they want U.S. military bases to remain in the Philippines.

Aquino told reporters on Aug. 22 that knowing how the other ASEAN members felt would help her government decide whether or not to keep the U.S. bases, Reuter reports. "It would be good to find out first of all, whether it is to the interest of the region to continue having the U.S. facilities here," she said.

Earlier, addressing ASEAN legislators at the opening of a five-day meet of the ASEAN Interparliamentary Organization, Aquino said ASEAN and not foreign powers should be the judge of how to preserve peace in the region.

## Chinese ambassador thanks Bush for support

Outgoing Communist Chinese Ambassador to the United States Han Xu praised President George Bush, in a speech to the Forum Club in Palm Beach, Florida on July 24, which was reprinted in the *International Herald Tribune* on Aug. 21. Han said that his government "believes that it confronted a serious insurrection in Beijing. . . . Demonstrators marred the important visit of the Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachov."

All of China's problems "predetermine" that its road to reform will be full of risks, he said, and "therefore, the maintenance of order and stability is a primary task of governance." But "the government and people have accomplished the unthinkable," Han said, lying that China has provided almost one-quarter of the world's population with a decent living.

Referring to the massacre of students in

Tiananmen Square in June, and the ongoing arrests and executions of "dissidents," Han said, "No one wants to see U.S.-Chinese relations suffer as a result of the recent developments. . . . There is much talk of imposing further economic sanctions against China. Such sanctions must be firmly rejected. They hurt the U.S. as much as China. . . . The important thing is not to interfere in China's internal affairs, particularly when it is in difficulty. . . . The principle of mutual noninterference, a cornerstone of Chinese-U.S. relations, must be strictly observed.

"I appreciate the Bush administration's resistance to further sanctions," he said, "and I hope that Congress will show more restraint. Let's be guided by the forces of history and reason from this time forward."

Han gave himself a big farewell party in Washington, D.C. in mid-August, but only "retired" government officials—including Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig—attended. However, Han met with Vice President Dan Quayle before leaving, to discuss "ways China could improve its relations with the U.S.," Quayle's office said.

## P.R.C. attacks British officials in Hong Kong

The government of Communist China attacked British officials operating in Hong Kong, alleging they are interfering in the internal affairs of the colony, and violating the treaty to return it to Beijing in 1997.

The *People's Daily*, according to press reports Aug. 20, quotes a foreign ministry spokesman saying, "A few British officials have publicly made flagrant criticisms and crude interferences in the drafting of basic law for Hong Kong, even breaking the rules of the Sino-British joint declaration. . . . The drafting and formulation of the Basic Law for the special administrative region of Hong Kong comes completely within the scope of China's sovereign rights. We will not permit any foreign country to interfere."

The statement singled out as offensive a speech given in Hong Kong the week before by Barry Wiggham, a leading member of a

think tank for a British negotiating team scheduled to meet Chinese counterparts in September. British officials had "even brought up the preposterous suggestion that China should not station troops in Hong Kong," it said. In his speech, Wiggham suggested that several parts of the draft treaty needed looking at again, including the provision for Chinese troops to be stationed in Hong Kong.

## U.N. conference focuses on child slavery

"Modern Forms of Slavery" was the title of a United Nations conference in Geneva in mid-August, which presented data about child prostitution.

More than 1 million children are sold or kidnaped every year and are forced to prostitute themselves, according to conference reports. Reports were given about child prostitution in India, Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Brazil, Columbia, and West African States.

Reports also identified child prostitution as a big problem in Europe and the United States. Some 8,000 child prostitutes can be found in Paris alone, and in New York upwards of 20,000. Norwegian Justice Minister Boesterud reported that 18% of the Norwegian population has been sexually abused before reaching the age of 18, mostly by relatives.

## Car of Argentine labor leader bombed

A bomb exploded in the car of Saúl Ubaldini, the head of Argentina's CGT labor confederation, while it was parked outside the headquarters of the labor federation Aug. 18.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the bombing, but it comes in the context of a fight being waged against Ubaldini's leadership by a dissident labor grouping under the control of Labor Minister Jorge Tria-

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ca. The group, calling itself the Union Liaison Board, is insisting that labor must voluntarily surrender the right to strike for the next two years and wholeheartedly support the economic program of the new Argentine government. Ubaldini and the unions loyal to him are maintaining they will not give the government a blank check, and that its economic policy must begin to relieve the suffering of workers and improve wages.

The bombing occurred as the Congress voted up the emergency economic package requested by the administration of President Carlos Menem, giving the government a free hand to privatize state owned companies that are losing money. Menem is said to be planning to sell off all or part of the national telephone company, the Aerolineas Argentinas airline, port facilities, grain silos, radio and television stations, and parts of the oil, coal, petrochemical and mining companies that the state owns outright or has a controlling interest in.

## ***Zepp-LaRouche hits Hitler-Stalin pact***

On the 50th anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin Pact Aug. 23, Patriots for Germany chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche released a statement which read:

"Today is the 50th anniversary of the day on which Hitler and Stalin joined their dictatorships in a military pact and divided spheres of influence between themselves, over the heads of the people. We do well today to recall the commonalities that joined the National Socialists and the Bolsheviks to one another. Of course, Stalin had the intention of conquering the West, just as Hitler also considered the attack on the East to be merely a prelude, but in common, both dictators had the resolute aim of exterminating Judeo-Christian civilization, and both made use of unlimited repression against their opponents. In this sense, Mussolini was right when he characterized National Socialism and Bolshevism as the twins of the 20th century."

"The Soviet Union has only recently acknowledged the existence of the Secret Pro-

tocols to which the Baltic states, Poland, and Moldavia fell victim, and which finally opened the way for the Second World War. Gorbachov has attempted to distance himself from the whole affair by laying the blame on Stalin, saying the Russian people had nothing to do with it. But the manner in which Moscow has now intervened, in violation of the legislation of the Supreme Soviet of Estonia, in the strike of Russian workers, and the way Moscow has reacted to the demands for greater independence from Lithuania and Latvia, as well as Moldavia, shows that nothing has changed with Gorbachov.

"There is only one way in which Gorbachov can prove that the Hitler-Stalin Pact was merely the will of Stalin, namely, that he not only declare the secret protocols null and void, but that he also declare null and void the partitioning of Europe, which resulted from the treaties of Teheran and Yalta. The injustice of the Hitler-Stalin Pact can only be made good by allowing all the peoples of Eastern Europe the right to self-determination, and the ability through free elections and sovereignty to determine their fate themselves."

## ***Carter to mediate Ethiopia-Eritrean talks***

The Ethiopian government and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front have agreed to hold peace talks at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta, Georgia in September, according to press reports Aug. 18.

The talks were arranged over the course of three trips which former President Jimmy Carter made to Africa in April and July.

Fighting has continued between the Ethiopians and Eritrean rebels since 1974. Previous talks held in East Germany in 1978, and various European capitals between 1982 and 1985, ended in failure. Resolution of the conflict, which has been manipulated from the outside, has been an important regional objective of the U.S.-Soviet deal. Carter has operated as a special emissary for the Reagan and Bush White Houses since 1985.

● **PERUVIAN PRESIDENT** Alan García suggested the U.S. should relinquish control over the Panama Canal ahead of schedule if it wants to force Panamanian Gen. Manuel Noriega out of power. Noriega sarcastically retorted that he welcomed the idea of an early U.S. departure, and suggested that García represent Panama in any such negotiations.

● **THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY** is capable of handling the narco-terrorists if they are freed to do so, and the U.S. should help with materiel, not troops, said retired Col. Lawrence Tracy, a former Pentagon official, in a TV interview on Aug. 21.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II**, speaking in Spain, called for a cease-fire in Lebanon, Italian press reported on Aug. 21. "I strongly complain that despite all the efforts made in the past week, including by the U.N. Security Council, the bombings continue to make victims of the beloved Lebanese people. It seems that the aim is to destroy the entire city of Beirut and in particular the Christian suburb," the Pope said.

● **THAI ANTI-NARCOTICS** Police General Chavalit Yodmani attacked the "conspiracy" law used against Lyndon LaRouche as "dangerous and easily abused to incriminate innocent people," in an interview with *EIR* Aug. 16.

● **EGYPTIAN POLICE** arrested 41 Shi'ite terrorists and are still hunting for 16 others who were part of a "terrorist international" based in Egypt.

● **A BRITISH** Foreign Office official, unnamed, was arrested as part of an investigation into irregularities involving visa applications issued to Iranians, who are restricted from traveling in Britain, according to the Aug. 19 London *Daily Mail*.