

# International Intelligence

## ***Solzhenitsyn: Rebuild the Russian heartland***

An essay entitled "How we must rebuild Russia," by Russian exile author Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, was published on Sept. 18 as a 16-page supplement to the Soviet mass-circulation Communist Party youth daily, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. Solzhenitsyn paints a graphic picture of Russia's self-destruction, and calls for it to save itself by letting go all its non-Slavic republics and becoming a nation of the "Eastern Slavs"—the Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians.

"The time has run out for communism . . . but its concrete edifice has not yet collapsed," Solzhenitsyn writes. "And it could happen that instead of a liberation, we could all be flattened by its rubble. . . . The republics cannot be stopped from separation: Centrifugal forces are so great that they cannot be stopped without violence and bloodshed. And if that is the price, they should not be stopped."

"We have deprived ourselves of our former prosperity," he continues. "We have destroyed the peasants as a class with their villages. We have polluted our earth and water. We have destroyed our women with hard labor. We have separated them from their children. We forgot health care. There are no medicines. We have forgotten what is healthy food; millions are homeless, and we hold to just one thing: We are afraid we will be deprived of our limitless drinking."

## ***Moscow, Jerusalem move toward diplomatic ties***

A flurry of diplomatic activity at the height of the Gulf crisis is paving the way for the restoration of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic ties, which were broken off during the 1967 Mideast war.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov held a surprise meeting with Israeli Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Neeman and Israeli Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai

in mid-September. This was the first meeting between a Soviet leader and members of the Israeli cabinet since 1967. Radio Moscow quoted unnamed "foreign observers" saying that the meetings were aimed at bringing about "closer ties between the two countries."

The Neeman-Modai trip followed close on the heels of a nine-day visit to Moscow by Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, and a senior Israeli Foreign Ministry team arrived in Moscow on Sept. 12 to prepare the way for an meeting at the end of September between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Levy announced the trip, but reiterated Israel's rejection of any move to convene an international conference on the Middle East.

On Sept. 15, Gorbachov met with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis. Gorbachov reportedly told him that Moscow is prepared to resume diplomatic relations with Israel if Israel indicates its willingness to accept an international peace conference.

## ***French analyst sees America in decline***

Racism on the rise, economic decline, miserable education—that is the reality of the United States today, and the Gulf war won't change it, wrote the president of France's International Institute of Foreign Affairs, Thierry de Montbrial, in an article entitled "The American decline," appearing in the Paris daily *Le Figaro* on Sept. 13. According to many commentators, says Montbrial, the U.S. is emerging as "the only superpower of this planet," but "such a reading of events would be superficial."

Montbrial outlines the bankruptcy of the U.S. economy: trade and budget deficits, commercial debt, a GNP which no longer represents more than 23% of the entire world's GNP. In this situation, "the Japanese challenge is hitting them head-on," to such an extent "that they see a new enemy replacing the Soviet Union." The American educational system "is becoming more and

more miserable," with visible effects on the economy. "For instance, America produces ten lawyers per one engineer, while the proportion in Japan is the exact reverse.

"The most alarming" thing, says Montbrial, is that even the "melting pot" concept of the American society is falling apart. "Racism is back in force. Justice is being hurt by this phenomenon, as we were able to see recently in the court case of the mayor of Washington, Marion Barry. . . . The fact is, unfortunately, that the situation of blacks is massively worsening."

Montbrial concludes: "One thing is sure: In spite of the military deployment in the Gulf, America is no longer what it was."

## ***Papandreou sees North-South 'hot war'***

Former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, a leading light of the Socialist International, contributed a commentary published in the *Hindustan Times* on Sept. 7, drawing attention to the likelihood of war between North and South.

"In a few short months, the post-Cold War peace between East and West has given way to the new danger of war between North and South," he writes. The Gulf crisis is rapidly becoming such a conflict, as a general fight between the West on the one side, and Arab nationalism and Islam on the other, could turn into a "hot confrontation between North and South." There is no ready way of containing a shooting war in the Gulf, since "the Arab nation" would back Iraq in the event of war with the United States, whatever Arab leaders may say now.

Papandreou says that the common view in Europe, is that Washington is moving so intensely into the Gulf, because control over that region and its oil would give the U.S. a "strategic lever over world affairs." Looking at matters from this standpoint, Europe is equally opposed to Iraq or the United States controlling the Gulf energy resources, since this would give "one power center" too much control. "Total control of the Gulf by the U.S. would provide the

Americans with a decisive competitive advantage not only over Europe, but over Japan as well," asserts Papandreou.

He concludes that the United Nations must solve the Gulf crisis, not the U.S. unilaterally.

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### **Havel calls for 'security system' in the Mideast**

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, in an interview in the French daily *Libération* published on Sept. 13, denounced both the "expansionism" of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the danger of Islamic "fundamentalism" spreading to the whole region, and called for the emergence of a regional security system to deal with the problem.

"We condemned very forcefully the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait," he said, pointing out that Czechoslovakia was one of the first nations to join the embargo and to call for application of all relevant U.N. sanctions.

Havel denounced the "spreading of fundamentalism in the Arab world" as a "worse danger than the expansionism" of Iraq, and called for a regional security system which could deal with the "excesses which could appear out of the emergence of such intransigent fundamentalism." "The United States and the Western powers will not be able to eternally save peace in this area and play the gendarmes," he said.

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### **Blockade of Aoun's forces plays into Syria's hands**

While President Bush and Prime Minister Thatcher were organizing the blockade to starve Iraq and Kuwait, Gen. Michel Aoun's forces in Lebanon were being given the same treatment. Tens of thousands of Lebanese gathered in mid-September in Baabda, headquarters of the Prime Minister and nationalist leader General Aoun, to support him as the legitimate head of the country, against the efforts of the puppet regime

of President Elias Hrawi to starve him out. They carried slogans which read: "United we will defeat the blockade," and, "Starving, we find strength in our dignity, but we will not sacrifice our freedom."

The Hrawi regime, backed by the Syrians and the so-called Taif Accords, has imposed a complete blockade on East Beirut—inhabited by 1 million people—because that is the center of General Aoun's support. Lebanese organizations are warning that the next step of the corrupt President Hrawi, will be to officially request Syrian assistance in invading the enclave.

According to the Council of Lebanese American Organizations, "To pave the way for the Syrian invasion, the militias have started heavy shelling of the free enclave, thereby giving Syria the 'restore the peace' excuse to invade."

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### **Denmark rejects NATO out-of-area deployments**

Both of Denmark's major parties have decisively rejected the Anglo-American push for NATO to deploy troops outside its treaty-mandated area. Demands by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Europe supply ground troops to the Gulf triggered an abrupt shift in the political support for the U.S. policy within Denmark in mid-September.

On Sept. 12, Conservative Party Defense Spokesman P.S. Moeller stated, "NATO is a *defensive* alliance. We can't go around the world deploying troops. If we did, it would be a return to the period before World War I, when Europe thought that it could exert its power anywhere it wanted to. This would lead to totally unacceptable conflict between North and South, were we to do this today."

His views were echoed by Socialist defense spokesman Hans Haggerup, who stated, "In this present crisis, it is important we not forget the very good original reasons that NATO was composed with limitations. Were that not the case, although I do not like to say this, Denmark would have likely been pulled into the Vietnam War."

## **Briefly**

● **IGOR ANDROPOV**, the son of the late Soviet President Yuri Andropov, has been appointed liaison to the Vatican to discuss "the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Middle East and the crisis in the Gulf," according to the daily *Le Monde*. The head of the Soviet representation to the Holy See says that on the matter of the Gulf crisis, "the views of the Soviet Union and the Vatican are very close."

● **HENRY KISSINGER** had a 90-minute meeting with Chinese Premier Li Peng on the Gulf crisis the week of Sept. 10. He also met with Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, whom he told that "U.S.-China relations are particularly important in the present international situation."

● **THE BATTLE** for a scientific musical tuning has arrived in the Dominican Republic. On Sept. 3, the daily *Hoy* reported that a new group, called Kalmus, has been founded to promote a campaign to lower the pitch to the classical tuning of C=256 (A=432). Kalmus is circulating a petition to this effect.

● **NORTH KOREAN** President Kim Il Sung made a secret visit to Beijing, the Deutsche Presse Agentur reported on Sept. 13 from North Korea. South Korean media reported that Kim was on a secret trip by train through north China, on his way to meet Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin and other officials. The issues to be discussed would be the North-South Korean negotiations and relations between South Korea and the U.S.S.R.

● **A SHARP INCREASE** in executions has occurred in Communist China, with at least 1,000 people put to death in the last 12 months, Amnesty International charges. There were 350 executions carried out in June and July alone, which the Chinese press said were intended to secure "a safe and happy environment" for the Asian Games this month.