

International Intelligence

Soviets leery of U.S. military moves in Gulf

Chief of the Soviet General Staff, Gen. Mikhail A. Moiseyev, in an interview with the *New York Times* published on Oct. 3, said that the economic sanctions against Iraq were working and that no force should be used in the Persian Gulf without the approval of the United Nations. "We cannot view the resolution of any crisis like this by means of using arms," he said.

General Moiseyev, during a tour of the United States, traveled to New York with his American counterpart, Gen. Colin L. Powell, after meeting with President Bush on Oct. 1. The *New York Times* pointed out that there were "sharp differences" between Moiseyev and Powell.

Moiseyev described Saddam Hussein as "finding himself in economic and political isolation" such that he "can't survive very long that way." "You can't keep an army together just by using fear and intimidation against your own troops. . . . There are rumors beginning to abound about people who are going to make attempts against Saddam Hussein's life, forcing Hussein to begin to look for ways out of this crisis," Moiseyev said.

The Soviet general pushed for activation of the United Nations Military Staff Committee. General Powell said the United States would consider the suggestion.

Civil war looms in Yugoslavia

"It is only a matter of time before civil war breaks out in Yugoslavia," was the unanimous view of a group of British experts just returned from a tour of Albania and Yugoslavia, according to one British source who attended a meeting in London on the Balkans during the first week in October.

The scenario discussed at that London meeting is the following: The Croatian authorities try to contain political unrest among Serbians living in Croatia. This re-

calls, in the Serbian popular mind, the anti-Serbian repressions by Croats of the 1941-43 period. The Serbs go to the rescue of their brethren in Croatia. This begins a "low-level but bloody military conflict." At this point, the Albanians send their army into the Albanian-populated Yugoslav region of Kosovo, "in support of Croatia," in anticipation that the Croats will then support Albanian claims in Kosovo against the Serbs. Thus commences a two-front campaign against the Serbs. "All the experts just back from that region believe there is no other way out," the source commented.

Another source, an adviser to the Inter-Action Council, an international policy group, commented that there has been much discussion about "isolating" the international effects of a civil war in Yugoslavia. "There will be civil wars in various places in Yugoslavia," he said, "but nobody's worried any more, because the country has no longer the strategic significance it once had. The situation would have been different 10 years ago, then it would have been very very dangerous."

The source reported that the cynical position taken by senior military spokesmen at a conference at Ditchley Park in England earlier this year, was, "The way to deal with the Yugoslavs, is to isolate them as the Lebanese have been isolated, and then let them enjoy killing each other. As long as they don't affect anybody else, we wish them full enjoyment if that's what they want to do."

Vietnamese in Iraq face 'desperate' situation

The ambassador to the United Nations of Vietnam, in a statement on Sept. 21 addressed to the U.N. Security Council, called urgent attention to the plight of his country's citizens in Iraq, many of whom are facing imminent starvation.

"There are 17,000 Vietnamese working in Iraq under agreements and contracts previously signed between the two governments," he said. "They are now facing a desperate situation of acute food shortage. Over 50% of them are sick or facing hunger.

An imminent state of starvation may occur to them within a matter of days. Furthermore, as of 1 October 1990, the supply of food to them by Iraq is ended. . . . For the immediate time, 500 tons of food are urgently needed. I would also like to ask assistance in providing the means of transportation to bring those people back home."

The playboy of the Mideastern world

According to well-informed Arab sources, Kuwait's ousted Emir Jaber el-Sabah, whom President Bush hails as a bastion of freedom and democracy, has married at least 275 women. According to these sources, who cite coverage in the Arabic-language press, Emir Jaber is notorious for his habit of marrying a new bride every Thursday. These wives were allegedly always virgins and most often between 16 and 18 years of age, and were ordered up by the Emir according to specifications of eye color, hair color, skin color, somatic type, nationality, and other considerations.

After a wild weekend with the sybaritic Emir, the bride would generally be divorced on Monday. The Emir would then rest on Tuesday and Wednesday before starting a new fling on Thursday. Only those wives who became pregnant could hope to be given any sort of permanent allowance or child support. The Emir is further reported to have numerous offspring that he has not acknowledged, including some 30 daughters whom he abandoned in Kuwait when he fled before the advancing Iraqi troops.

At a meeting of the Arab League in Cairo in August, the Emir is reported to have fainted when Iraqi representative confronted him with photocopies of 95 marriage certificates which Iraq intends to make public.

Top 'Lockerbie' lawyer dies in auto accident

The top British lawyer for the American families of victims of the December 1988

Briefly

plane crash over Lockerbie, Scotland, was killed in a car accident on Oct. 2, only hours after results of the inquiry into the terrorist bombing had begun to be heard. Glasgow lawyer Michael Hughes was killed when a truck lost control and smashed into his vehicle.

Hughes was a feisty Scottish lawyer who believed in fighting for a just cause. Through his efforts, American lawyers representing the families of victims of the Pan Am crash were for the first time ever allowed to perform their duties in a Scottish court. Hughes was the central lawyer in the team of lawyers representing the families, and his death will undoubtedly harm the case.

No evidence has so far surfaced to indicate that the car crash was anything but an accident; but the timing of Hughes's death is truly breathtaking. The U.S. and British governments are desperately anxious to hush up the Lockerbie affair, in order to appease their terrorist friend in Damascus, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, whose thugs were responsible for the murder of 270 persons in the Lockerbie crash. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III was in Damascus in September, and the Anglo-Americans regard Syria as a key ally in their imperialist adventure in the Gulf, particularly if Assad can arrange a terrorist "Gulf of Tonkin" incident that could be blamed on Saddam Hussein and used as the pretext for launching the invasion of Iraq.

Bush, Thatcher turn blind eye to terrorism

Friendship with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad is a top priority for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is teaming up with President Bush to ensure that the story of Syria's role in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing is suppressed, wrote the British magazine *Private Eye* in the first week of October.

"One casualty of the Gulf crisis appears to be Mrs. Thatcher's policy of No Dealing With Terrorists—particularly Syria," according to the article.

"Military advisers have warned her that success in the Gulf depends very much on

the friendship—or at worst the neutrality—of the Syrian government under its Saddam-style dictator, President Assad.

"It is not long since Britain and the United States cut off diplomatic relations with the country because of its connections with terrorism; but all is now forgotten and once more sweetness and light.

"Thatcher and Bush have already agreed that they will not pursue any further the terrorists who bombed the plane over Lockerbie, since they are known to be close to the Syrian government."

The magazine says this policy of appeasing terrorists also extends to the Iranian-run Lebanese Hezbollah group.

Africa plunges deeper into tribal warfare

The crisis in South Africa took a turn for the worse during the first week in October, as Zulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi refused to attend a meeting with representatives of the African National Congress. The invitation would have brought the ANC's Nelson Mandela together with Buthelezi, who heads the rival black group Inkatha. Buthelezi had requested a one-on-one meeting with Mandela, but the ANC rejected that.

Elsewhere in Africa, the five-nation West African force sent to impose peace in Liberia attacked one of two local forces and forced them to retreat toward the eastern suburbs of Monrovia. The fighting began after Charles Taylor's rebel forces attacked the rival rebel forces of Prince Johnson. The five-nation force was backed by soldiers of Liberian leader Samuel Doe and by Prince Johnson.

Finally, a coup attempt against the government of Rwanda, in central Africa, was suppressed by the forces of President Habyarimana, assisted by elements of the French Foreign Legion, the French Army, and Belgian military forces. The rebel forces allegedly were composed of members of the once-dominant Tutsi tribe, and were led by Fred Rwigyema, a refugee who is a general in the Ugandan Army.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** will tour Ibero-America in 1992, visiting Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the evangelization of the continent. He hopes to follow the same route as the first Spanish missionaries who began the conversion of the indigenous peoples. His stop in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, is specifically to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the landing of Columbus.

● **SOVIET GEORGIA** and Ukraine should be accepted into the European Community, said Jim Fairlie, a leader of the Scottish National Party, in a motion put to the party's congress the first week in October. "A developing Europe cannot be restricted to the Baltic states—the aspirations of Soviet republics such as the Ukraine and Georgia have to be taken into account."

● **ITALIAN** Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis called on Oct. 5 for Israel to initiate discussions with the Palestinians. He warned that there would be uprisings in Tunisia and Algeria, should there be no solution to the Palestinian problem. De Michelis also invited Israel to play an active role in the new Mediterranean security and cooperation discussions that are being promoted by Italy and Spain.

● **THE JORDANIAN** daily *Al Dastour* carried a statement by Lyndon LaRouche, "The Middle East: A Strategic Turning Point," in its Oct. 1 issue. One prominent Jordanian told *EIR*: "You know the Arab readers of your publications in Canada and the U.S.—Canada especially—are very active. They have been sending clippings from your publications to newspapers throughout the region for a long time, demanding that there be coverage of LaRouche."