

International Intelligence

Kohl hits 'pessimism' over Germany's future

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that he is fed up with all the pessimism and defeatism over the perspectives for a reunified Germany in a TV interview on Oct. 23. In full awareness of all the problems, he said, he is firmly convinced that within three to five years, the economy of eastern Germany will be whipped into shape and will be highly productive.

Kohl mentioned the urgent need to build up the infrastructure of eastern Germany, adding that "here, the railways are very important."

In remarks before the Christian Democratic parliamentary group the same day, Kohl called on his party to campaign for an absolute majority in the Dec. 2 national parliamentary elections, so as not to be hamstrung by coalitions and alliances. The party should get "a strategic majority that makes it impossible for any other party combination to form the government without the Christian Democrats," he said.

Kohl based his call on the evaluation that after eight years of coalition government, political differences have grown between the Christian Democrats and their small partner, the liberal *Frøe* Democrats—on the issues of abortion and defense policy issues, for example. He is not optimistic that another such coalition would hold for the full next term. Kohl evidently takes quite seriously the rumors circulating in Bonn that instead of placing their hopes on a difficult election victory now, the opposition Social Democrats are opting for a mid-term split of the ruling coalition.

Noriega says U.S. is behind Endara lawsuit

Attorneys for Gen. Manuel Noriega say the U.S. government instigated a \$6.5 billion law suit brought against the former Panamanian leader by the drug-tainted Endara government of Panama, installed there by George Bush's invasion. The suit, alleging

that General Noriega turned the Panamanian Defense Forces into a racketeering enterprise, has frozen Noriega's personal bank accounts, stymying his legal defense against the criminal charges for which he is now awaiting trial.

The lack of funds could force a postponement of the trial and could even lead to Noriega having to defend himself against the charges without a lawyer of his choice, but having to rely solely on a court-appointed legal defender.

The administration also instigated a media scandal, claiming that Noriega's prison facilities were a virtual country club, complete with an exercise bike, a paper shredder, and a computer. Noriega's lawyers countered that the facilities were imposed on their client by the government's own security requirements.

The information was leaked to coincide with revelations published in the *Baltimore Sun* on Oct. 23 and the London *Independent* on Oct. 24, that the Bush administration knew that a bank co-owned by Guillermo Endara, installed to replace Noriega as head of Panama's government, had "ties to the Colombian cartels since 1984, but chose to ignore them in its efforts to oust General Noriega. Instead, the U.S. helped finance Mr. Endara's 1989 presidential campaign," reported the *Sun*.

Israeli policy toward Palestinians criticized

The vicious crackdown of the Israeli government against Palestinians is drawing sharp criticism from some unexpected quarters within Israel.

On Oct. 25, Yossef Harmelin, the former head of Israel's Shin Beth security service, told the French daily *Libération* that the crisis with the Palestinians and the Occupied Territories did not begin in recent weeks, but 23 years ago, following the 1967 war. Israel is trying to control 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories, who are all against the occupation.

The latest decision, to close the border between Israel and the territories, can only

make things worse, since it will create "intolerable unemployment, bitterness, and frustration," he said. A "political solution" is required, and the "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" mentality must be rejected.

Libération also reports that the biggest opposition to the government's policy is now coming from senior officers in the Israeli military who have drawn the lesson from the *Intifada* (the Palestinian uprising) that Israel cannot indefinitely afford to keep its hold on the Occupied Territories. Correspondent Shalom Cohen reports that high-ranking officers have the most "dovish" views on the Palestinian question, and are most in favor of a political, negotiated settlement with the Palestinians.

Schiller Institute maps African development drive

The international Schiller Institute held a conference in Paris on Oct. 26, on the problems of African development and how to overcome them with a perspective for economic reconstruction.

Held at the Dauphine University, the meeting was attended by 150 people, including representatives of the embassies of several African countries, of French engineering companies operating in Africa, as well as African economics professors, radiologists, biologists, engineers, and architects.

Among the many speakers, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, outlined the dangers of the world strategic situation, and the urgency for action to stop genocide in Africa. Jacques Cheminade, president of the French branch of the institute, shocked the audience by showing a political map of the world published by the *Financial Times* recently, in which the entire African continent had been eliminated! Other panels focused on the health crisis in Africa, and a reconstruction program for the continent.

Reverend James Bevel, a guest speaker and civil rights leader from the United States, stressed in his talk that Africans, French, Americans, and others should not

Briefly

● **HUNGARY'S** Constitutional Court voted on Oct. 24 to abolish the death penalty, on the grounds that it violated human rights. Officials made the point that Hungary knows well what the death penalty is, as hundreds of political prisoners and common criminals were executed under communist tyranny, since the end of World War II.

● **AN ITALIAN** parliamentary group has requested intervention on behalf of Lebanon. The group, led by Christian Democratic parliamentarian Lino Armellini, issued a formal request to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and to Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis for Italy to intervene "in order to break the silence on the massacre that is being perpetuated in Lebanon in the Christian districts."

● **YASUHIRO NAKASONE**, the former Japanese prime minister, went to Iraq Nov. 1 to meet with Saddam Hussein. "Judging from the recent development of the Gulf situation, I don't think Japan should be watching from the sidelines any longer," Nakasone declared before his departure. He was accompanied by a delegation of lawmakers from Japan's ruling LDP party. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu welcomed Nakasone's initiative.

● **KGB HEAD** Vladimir Kryuchkov and other Soviet officials gave a press conference on Oct. 22, warning that the U.S.S.R. was faced with a dangerous increase in organized crime, and that they were no longer able to cope with it. Kryuchkov said that "well-established gangs" were taking over important sectors of the economy, and that these maintained contacts with criminal gangs abroad. He stressed that they could "gain political power" in the future.

● **THE SOVIET ARMY** will be restructured so that each republic will soon have its own units, for internal security purposes. This was announced by Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin on Oct. 22.

limit themselves to concern for their own nations, which limits the scope of their action, but become universal citizens, sitting on top of the world and looking at problems "from above." Calling on members of the audience to join the mobilization, he asked, "Are there any scholars here? Are there any workers here? Are there any revolutionaries here?"

Armenian leaders on hunger strike

The Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, in the Soviet Union's Azerbaijan republic, is now in the third year of a total economic and communications blockade. Two members of the Soviet Supreme Council of Armenia went on hunger strikes, in protest against Moscow's failure to act to remedy the situation.

According to a letter from V. Gurzadyan of the Yerevan Physics Institute to the editor of the British journal *Nature* published Oct. 8, one of the hunger strikers is the 82-year-old world-renowned astronomer Victor Ambartsumian, former president of the International Astronomical Union and currently president of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. Ambartsumian, in Moscow, joined the writer Zori Balayan, who began his hunger strike on Sept. 10.

"The time has come for the international scientific community to protest strongly at these terrible circumstances," Gurzadyan writes.

Peru's terrorists speak French

Paris-trained anthropologist Alfredo Torero was arrested on Oct. 4 by Peru's Directorate Against Terrorism (Dircote), along with 15 others constituting the central propaganda apparatus of the Shining Path terrorists. Torero was the former vice-rector of San Marcos University, a stronghold of the terrorist group. Trained in ethnology and linguistics, he is a specialist in Quechua, the Incan lan-

guage spoken by many Peruvian Indians.

The police asserted that Torero had Shining Path propaganda in his possession, and that "among those captured are those responsible for leading the ideological struggle and nationwide subversive psychological penetration." A week later, a Lima judge dropped the charges.

Torero's "professional" interests would provide him with an ideal cover for terrorist coordination. His specialty in Incan gods and cults would give him the material with which to compose synthetic ideologies for the anti-Western crusaders.

Another French-trained anthropologist, Abdon Yaranga, arrived in Paris in 1964 to teach at the Andean highlands university where Shining Path was born. He taught the future terrorists that Western medicine was inferior to the home remedies of the Indians.

Who killed Egypt's Speaker of Parliament?

The assassination of Egyptian Speaker of the Parliament Rifaat al-Mahjoub on Oct. 12 has sparked widespread speculation about "who benefits."

One prominent hypothesis is that the Israeli Mossad was behind the murder, in an effort to blame Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and provide the pretext for setting off war against Iraq. Jordanian television news on Oct. 15 carried a story from Cairo that four men were arrested attempting to flee the country after participating in the assassination, and have been identified as agents of the Mossad. The four were reportedly attempting to leave on phony Australian, British, Syrian, and Canadian passports.

Al-Mahjoub, a close associate of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak since 1982, was murdered as he was about to meet with his Syrian counterpart at the Hilton Hotel. The professional assassination was perpetrated by four gunmen, who also killed Mahjoub's bodyguards and another driver, escaping before the police (in that heavily guarded area close to the U.S. embassy) had time to intervene.