

International Intelligence

Britain's Thatcher lets loose against Germany

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on May 15, in a speech to business leaders in The Hague, Netherlands, launched a virulent attack on the European Community and said it would not be strong enough to contain Germany.

"A reunited Germany can't and won't subordinate its national interests in economic or in foreign policy to those of the Community indefinitely," she said.

"Germany is too large just to be another player in the European game, but not large enough to establish unquestioned supremacy over its neighbors.

"And the history of Europe since 1870 has largely been concerned with finding the right structure to contain Germany. . . .

"If Germany or any other power then pursues a policy to which other countries object, it will automatically invite a coalition against itself. It would be idle to deny that such a balance of power—for that is what I have been describing—has sometimes broken down and led to war."

Aoun calls for new Lebanese resistance

Exiled Lebanese leader Michel Aoun broke his forced silence and called for a new chapter of "resistance" of Lebanese patriots against the sellout of the country to petrodollars and to the Syrian and Israeli occupiers. The appeal was published in the French daily *Le Monde* on May 13.

This was General Aoun's first major political statement since having been forced to keep quiet, as part of the dirty deal made by the French, Syrian, and other governments that allowed him to leave the French embassy in Beirut in 1990, where he sought asylum after Syria occupation forces began a drive to wipe out his forces.

Several Lebanese observers see Aoun's statement as a prelude to his return to the Lebanese scene, especially in light of the

recent anti-austerity uprising in the country which forced the resignation of the Syrian-backed government of Omar Karami.

"The situation in Lebanon is very grave," Aoun wrote. "The leaders in place, after having undermined the national identity, want to ruin the people, to the advantage of the holders of petrodollars. They would even be ready to sell off the gold reserve, which is the wealth of all, to add to the coffers of anonymous international enterprises.

"In this way, the collaborator government is committing itself to a new phase in the war which has as its aim, the annihilation of Lebanon. . . . There had been the war of bombs and cannons, but this did not bring an end to our resistance. There had been the attempts to play each of the communities of which our nation is composed against the other. . . . But these attempts have only reinforced our national feeling. There had been the regional conspiracy and the international silence, in order to serve Lebanon up to its enemies, each party abroad feigning to believe that an army of occupation could bring good fortune to a people."

Syria scorns Bush's new world order

Syria and the United States are headed for confrontation amid fears in Damascus that it is next on the "new world order" target list after Iraq and Libya, the London *Guardian* reported on May 16. Syria had supported the American-led war against Iraq, in hopes of being on the winning side in President Bush's new order.

One Baath Party official was quoted: "If there is going to be a new world order, this order should be fair. We will accept that arms will be seized, but do not prevent us from having arms when our enemy Israel is armed to the teeth. We are not asking for a honeymoon. We are asking the Americans to be [neutral]. But even this is not achieved." The same official expressed fear of being next on Bush's target list. "With the sanctions against Iraq and Libya, of

course we should be worried. We are next. That's the general feeling."

The next point of confrontation is expected to be Syria's position in Lebanon, with the United States pushing for Syria to withdraw its troops to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, prior to the holding of elections in Lebanon.

Ecuadoran government cedes land to Indians

Ecuador's social democratic President Rodrigo Borja has agreed to grant 3 million acres of land in the country's oil-rich Amazon region to Ecuador's "indigenous communities," the *Washington Post* reported on May 14. This brings to 7 million acres the total amount of land ceded during Borja's administration.

According to Indian leader Luis Macas, the act is of "transcendental importance for Ecuador and the indigenous communities, not just here but across the Amazon." The action takes place on the eve of the Earth Summit in Brazil, where the question of Indian rights will be high on the agenda.

Ecuador's Armed Forces charge that the government grant is a violation of national security, since the area involved is on the border which is disputed with Peru. Borja has promised that the military will have unrestricted access to the area. Additional disagreement was expressed by the daily *El Comercio*, which stated that "the groups of pure aborigines are very small, and mestizos predominate in a country where the races mixed centuries ago. Inciting one group against another is destructive and against the national interest."

Club of Rome meets in Japan

The Club of Rome inaugurated its new Asia Division with a 300-person meeting in Japan's Fukuoka Prefecture May 12-14, the first regional meeting of the Club ever in Asia. Twenty-six Club of Rome members

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addressed a large audience of Japanese academics and government officials. The malthusian grouping is notorious for its 1972 study *The Limits to Growth*, one of the bibles of the world environmentalist and anti-population movement.

Asia regional chairman Richard Diaz Hochleitner told the gathering that "environmental destruction must be our priority. The rapid destruction of the planet by rapid and uncontrolled human development must be halted."

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita, chairman of the new Japan Club of Rome, stressed in his speech that Japan must support the upcoming "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Okita was one of the Stanford University-linked group that shifted Mitsubishi's famous Global Infrastructure Fund (GIF) from a world development program, to an environmentalist think tank. He recently became Japan director for the Washington Economic Strategy Institute, which is writing new economic austerity plans for the United States.

Rutskoy warns of war between Russia, Ukraine

Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy stressed the need for continuing good relations between Russia and Ukraine, in an article reported by Federal News Service on May 20. He also warned of the danger of a fratricidal war, if this is not done.

"Rousing hatred with the help of nationalism," he said, "is nothing but encouraging base instincts of human nature, and because of this, the political struggle for sovereignty becomes a struggle for total destruction.

"The attempts of the Ukrainian separatists to break ties with Russia, to separate from the Russian political expanse, will result in creating a permanent focus of national and religious conflict in Ukraine. It is not by chance that the Orthodox Church has become a subject of violent attacks in Ukraine. It hardly needs explaining what it will mean for Russia, Ukraine, for the Russians and Ukrainians. Instead every-

body should ponder it, before relations entered descending spiral. . . .

"The interdependence of Russian and Ukrainian industry and economy is very significant. Russian industry is 12% dependent on supplies from Ukraine, Ukraine is 67% dependent on Russian supplies. . . . We are so interdependent that it became impossible to untie this knot, although another way of solving insoluble problems remains—to cut the Gordian knot with a sword. However, this solution will hardly provide an answer to even part of the most burning issues."

British jury finds U.S. pilots guilty

A coroner's jury in Britain on May 18 found two U.S. pilots guilty *in absentia* of unlawfully killing nine British soldiers during the Persian Gulf War—a ruling that could pave the way for the pilots' criminal prosecution.

The families of the victims of the "friendly fire" incident charged that the true nature of the circumstances were hidden from them by the U.S. and British militaries, and demanded that the pilots testify at the hearing. The United States refused to allow the pilots to testify. According to the press accounts of the trial, it was determined that the pilots were operating without target coordinates (cruising for targets of opportunity) and misunderstood, or perhaps disobeyed, the instructions of British ground controllers, who directed them to targets 13 miles away from the point they ultimately attacked. The pilots fired their missiles at a British armored personnel carrier, causing the casualties.

The coroner, Nicholas Gardiner said the pilots' written statement, proffered in lieu of personal testimony, "may be partly true, it may be partly untrue. But what is clear beyond any doubt is that it is not the whole truth."

A lawyer for the families castigated their refusal to testify. "I think this is a matter of cowardice. I think men of honor would have come here and given evidence. Unfortunately, these men have shown themselves to be without honor."

● **'COLUMBUS:** Science and Evangelization in the Discovery of the New World," was the subject of an international conference in Rome on May 26, sponsored by the Schiller Institute, with the patronage of the Urbaniana Pontifical University. The conference dealt with the epistemological battle which led to the discovery of America.

● **THE AMERICAN** political system may be heading toward an "Italian-style impasse," in which none of the candidates receives a majority in the Electoral College, wrote Siegmund Ginzburg in the Italian daily *L'Unità* on May 14. If the Ross Perot candidacy continues to pick up steam and Perot deprives either Bush or Clinton of a sufficient total to win in the Electoral College, there could be a "gridlock" in the American campaign.

● **PERUVIAN** President Alberto Fujimori refused to meet with the Organization of American States' Inter-American Human Rights Commission in mid-May. Fujimori's is the first high-level rejection the commission has suffered in over 30 years, complained its Venezuelan head, Marco Tulio Bruni Celli. The commission was also denied access to the prison where the Shining Path narco-terrorists staged a riot the week before.

● **NEO-NAZI** leaders met in Madrid May 16-17, following an invitation by the Spanish organization Cedade. The meeting was attended by, among others, Ernest Zuendel from Canada, Manfred Roeder from Germany, Thijs Christopherson from Denmark, and Horacio Punset from Argentina.

● **BOSNIAN** President Aliya Izetbegovic vowed that his country will break the Serbian siege of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo "by force," in an interview with French journalists, which was published in *Le Figaro* on May 19. Izetbegovic calls the situation in Bosnia "a test of the new international order."