

# International Intelligence

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## ***Turkey proposes Armenia, Azerbaijan deal, or war***

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin called for an "exchange of territories" between Armenia and Azerbaijan as the key to a "settlement" over the Armenian-inhabited enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan, in remarks to the July 22 Spanish daily *El Pais*. The alternative, he warned, is a large-scale and spreading war: "If there is no solution, there will be a new 'Middle East crisis,' which will create problems for Turkey, for the region, and for Europe."

Cetin, in anticipation of an upcoming international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, proposed that Armenia have a land corridor to Nagorno-Karabakh in exchange for the creation of a land corridor linking Azeri-populated Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan proper.

For Armenia, such an exchange would mean giving up sovereign Armenian territory and cutting off its land link to Iran, upon which it depends for crucial supplies. It would be left geographically dependent on Turkey and Georgia.

Cetin stressed that peace and stability in the Caucasus is "vital for Turkey," and that, since Armenia is so geographically dependent on Turkey, if Armenia does not agree to a solution amicable to Turkish interests, it will be "difficult for Armenia to enter into Europe."

The tripwire for military action by Turkey, Cetin said, is Nakhichevan. If Armenia moves against this enclave, Turkey will respond, and the restraint of the Demirel government, which has until now resisted calls from President Turgut Özal for more interventionist action, will come to an end.

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## ***Italy acts against mafia after murder of judge***

The Italian cabinet has approved a decision to send 7,000 Army troops into Sicily, after Judge Paolo Borsellino and five escorts were murdered by a car bomb in Palermo on July 19. The decision, the largest deployment of Army troops against the Sicilian mafia since

the late 1940s, is intended to carry out the combined task of protecting potential targets, such as airports, highways, railroads, and courthouses, and conducting searches for both weapons caches and mafia mobsters.

Three thousand troops, which include crack paratroopers and mechanized brigades, will remain in Sicily indefinitely, and the others will rotate every 40 days. Justice Minister Claudio Martelli said, "This is not muscle-flexing or showmanship. . . . This will guarantee greater control and security of the territory and multiple protection against organized crime."

Pietro Arlacchi, an adviser to the Italian Interior Ministry, hinted that the assassination of Borsellino was an international operation. "Not the mafia as such was involved here, but a part of it, the so-called Cosa Nostra, an international crime organization, which is working together on the closest terms with non-mafia circles ranging from criminal secret lodges to right-wing terrorist groups," he told the Berlin daily *Tageszeitung* on July 21.

A call for "a real resistance against the mafia takeover," which mentions the international component of the destabilization of Italy, was issued on July 21 by the Sicilian regional government, a local version of the "national unity" government which was formed shortly before the assassination of Borsellino. The call read: "It is time to . . . expose the national and international dark powers; to find and isolate all of the numerous mafia collaborationists who hide themselves in politics, in bureaucracy, in business, and society."

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## ***Israel will continue settlements construction***

The Israeli moratorium on construction of new settlements in the Occupied Territories, which was announced by the new Labor Party-led government of Yitzhak Rabin in order to secure \$10 billion in housing loan guarantees suspended by the Bush administration, is a public relations ploy.

Israel's new government has given the go-ahead for the completion of 8,700 settle-

ment units now under construction, calling only for the cessation of future settlements which neither the Shamir nor the Rabin governments had the funds to complete, the July 24 *New York Times* reported. This will mean housing for 50,000 new Jewish settlers to move into the Occupied Territories.

Although former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir denounced the freeze on new settlements as "a nightmare," the actions of Rabin's government fall far short of the desire by Palestinians and other Arab states for a complete cessation of settlement building. Also being preserved, although they are not yet under construction, are plans for 1,000 new apartments for areas around Jerusalem that Rabin, like his predecessor Shamir, considers to be an integral part of Israel and not negotiable.

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## ***Russia seeks greater naval role in Pacific***

Russia has opened negotiations with Vietnam on an agreement for continued access to the naval base at Cam Ranh Bay, the July 23 *International Herald Tribune* reported. Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said in an interview from Manila, the Philippines, where he was attending the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) security conference, that the Russian Navy would be "another element of stability" in the Pacific rather than serve as an agent for confrontation.

Kozyrev said that he had reached "a clear understanding" with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam that Russian warships operating from Cam Ranh Bay would not "confront" U.S. or other naval forces in the area.

Kozyrev also said that, as of July 26, the Russian Navy would be sailing under the old Russian flag. He said that if the ASEAN nations were favorable, he would encourage the Russian ships to make port calls, as the U.S., British, and Australian ships do, and joint Russian exercises with other navies in the region could follow.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said that the ASEAN nations consider Russia a "Pacific power," and are interest-

ed in measures that will help maintain the "balance of forces."

## **Lebanese government calls for elections**

The Lebanese government has called for national elections to be held in three stages over August and September. The Christian parties, including backers of Lebanese nationalist Gen. Michel Aoun, who is now in exile in France, are demanding that elections be held only after Syrian and Israeli troops withdraw from the country. These would be the first elections in nearly 20 years.

Amid the controversy, Lebanese government troops and tanks moved in to take over the Christian militia headquarters in Beirut. The government claimed the move was part of their program of disarming all local militias.

## **Albania signs cooperation agreement with Greece**

Albanian envoys signed a cooperation agreement with Greece concerning the flow of refugees from Albania to Greece, and the joint fight against terrorism, organized crime, and smuggling of illegal drugs, in Athens following talks July 18-19. The talks were attended by, among others, Ibrahim Rugova, the president of the Albanians in Kosovo, the Serbian province with an Albanian ethnic majority, who was selected in underground elections in early June. The effects of the U.N. embargo against Serbia-Montenegro on inter-state trade on the Danube River was also discussed.

There were rumors in Athens that the Turkish government wants to sign a number of special relation agreements with Kosovo Albanians, to be added to mutual assistance agreements already signed between the Turks and the Albanians. It is said that Rugova will be in Ankara soon for that purpose.

Meanwhile, the underground government of Kosovo and the Albanian government signed an economic assistance treaty in talks in Tirana, Albania in mid-July, cov-

ering joint projects in energy development, agriculture, and construction.

Rugova, who the Belgrade regime in Serbia considers "illegal" but has either been unwilling or unable to arrest, negotiated the agreements with Albanian President Aleksander Meksi. Kosovo will not be able to implement the agreements without the consent of Belgrade, which has the region under tight military occupation. The Rugova-Meksi accords may, therefore, involve aspects of Serbian policy that have not yet been made known.

## **Economy sweeping away world leaders, says Mogg**

The "frenzy" being caused by the worst economic-financial crisis since the 1930s is sweeping away leaders from all nations, Britain's Lord William Rees-Mogg wrote in the July 21 London *Independent*. The world today is reminiscent of the time of the French Revolution when there was a "quality of frenzy in which individuals suddenly appear, seem to play an important but momentary role, and are then swallowed up and thrown like discarded dolls into the toy-box of history. Now a Gorbachov, now a Kinnock, now a Perot; each plays a part, is defeated, retires."

Rees-Mogg wrote that "the four years of the Bush presidency are the worst four years for the United States since the presidency of Herbert Hoover in the early 1930s," and that "the Tokyo boom [has] exploded like the Dutch tulip bubble of the 1630s or the South Sea and Mississippi bubbles of 1720, or the Wall Street bubble of 1929."

According to Rees-Mogg, "we are living through a world economic crisis, more severe in some places than in others, but like nothing the world has known since the Thirties. The Europeans have repeated that decade's mistake of deflating in a depression; they will regret it bitterly. The U.S. has not made that mistake, but is still suffering from the world crisis, and has a worse debt problem than Europe. The crisis will eventually resolve itself, leaving much damage in its wake. But where are the political leaders who have begun to take its measure?"

## **Briefly**

● **TURKEY** has lifted the 68-year ban imposed by Kemal Ataturk on the Ottoman family, allowing Mehmet Orhan back into the country. In another step in the present government's return to Ottoman traditionalism, the 83-year-old son of the last sultan, Abdulhamid II, received his Turkish citizenship under the old dynastic family name of "Osmanoglu."

● **THE ISRAELI** Mossad failed in a recent attempt to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the July 28 *Sunday Times* of London reported. The failure points to the fact that not only is Saddam's security almost air tight, but that no one in his regime would want to even try to breach it.

● **CYRUS VANCE**, the former U.S. secretary of state, was appointed U.N. envoy for South Africa on July 17. The move is being described by the African National Congress as a victory.

● **THE GERMAN** cabinet approved the Maastricht Treaty for European Union on July 21 and sent it to the Bundesrat, the upper house of Parliament, for final approval, Reuters reported July 23. The ministers also approved changes in the German Constitution which will transfer elements of German sovereignty to the European Community.

● **THE FREEMASONRY** in Mexico has reunified after 16 years. At a recent conference of the Unity of Mexican National Rite attended by a personal representative of President Carlos Salinas, it declared itself the irreconcilable enemy of the Catholic Church and "the gravediggers of the old clerical-colonial era."

● **A 'NEW MODEL'** of democracy was mooted by former Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, in an interview with the July 26 Vienna daily *Die Presse*. Democracy built on causality is void, and rebel movements like the smaller Italian parties, the Le Pen factor in France, and the Ross Perot experiment were but "first, crude populist attempts to build a new model of democracy," he said.