

# International Intelligence

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## ***Hapsburg sees threat of explosion in Russia***

Europe must become more unified in order to meet the threat of a "great explosion from the ex-Soviet Union," Count Otto Hapsburg told the French daily *Le Figaro*, in an interview published Oct. 10-11. "I don't know when, but it will come," he said. "I see it as an extremely alarming sign that Boris Yeltsin did not go to Japan. This is a decisive victory of the new alliance between the Army and the communist forces which are hostile to him. . . . Even though divided up, the ex-Soviet Army still possesses 30,000 nuclear warheads."

Recently returned from a visit to the Baltic states, Hapsburg reports that he saw the "Red Army" in Latvia, "still flying the red flag, with hammer and sickle. Do you know that they reject the Russian flag? That is symptomatic enough. One can see in Riga, in the center of the city, a district totally in the hands of the Russians. In the middle, there is the colossal fortress of the KGB, equipped with listening devices, which today cover the totality of the Baltic countries, registering all phone calls. It is the same control as in the good old days of the Soviet Union. These are the realities."

He also asserts that certain factories in Riga, which are in the hands of the Red Army, are facing money shortages because they are not receiving adequate funds from Moscow. So, what they are doing, in collaboration with the Armenian mafia, is cutting down Latvia's forests, to make money in illicit operations in the international timber trade.

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## ***Assault on Jerusalem's Temple Mount predicted***

The Israeli government is believed to be planning a new assault by Jewish fanatics against the Islamic holy sites at the al-Haram al-Sharif, site of the Dome of the Rock Mosque, Palestinian sources told *EIR*. Over the last several weeks, the Israeli Shin Bet intelligence service has been circulating the

line among Israeli journalists that the Ateret Coahim yeshiva, responsible for previous incidents at the so-called Temple Mount, is building an underground organization. The yeshiva is well known to be led by Shin Bet agents and funded by state agencies.

Lyndon LaRouche issued a statement on Sept. 27 (published in *EIR*, Oct. 9) warning that a move was afoot by the Temple Mount fanatics to blow up the al-Haram al-Sharif, as part of a destabilization drive against Jordan.

*EIR* sources believe that the new operation will be timed to coincide with the impending announcement by Israel and Syria of a "breakthrough" in talks relating to a separate Israeli-Syrian deal. An Israeli announcement of the partial return of the Golan Heights will be depicted as treason by the Israeli hardliners around former minister Ariel Sharon; destruction of the Al Aqsa Mosque or Dome of the Rock following the announcement will "blow up everything."

On Oct. 11, Israeli soldiers killed two Jordanian Palestinians infiltrating Israel from Jordan near Jericho. An unprecedented hunger strike of 10,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israel ended that day, after the Israeli police commissioner agreed to review their demands. It is expected that the strike may start again, however, adding to the climate of tension.

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## ***Aoun calls for boycott of Lebanese government***

Exiled Gen. Michel Aoun, the former President of Lebanon, urged Lebanon's Christian opposition leaders to boycott the Syrian-backed administration of President Elias Hrawi. Aoun's call came in an interview published on Oct. 12 in Beirut's leading daily *An-Nahar*, to mark the second anniversary of his fall from power in a Syrian-led Lebanese Army offensive.

Asked what were the future steps of the opposition after boycotting Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years, Aoun said: "Boycotting the state totally. . . . In practice that would materialize by resigning from senior government posts. The whole state

should be brought to a standstill." Most Christian groups, including Aoun's followers, have vowed not to recognize the newly elected Parliament. Aoun said new elections should be held and called for an international conference on Lebanon, attended by Syria and Israel, to set a schedule for the pullout of Syria's 35,000 troops from the country. He said an alternative should be found to the 1989 Taif peace pact, which established the basis for continued Syrian domination of the country.

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## ***France, Sweden move against Shining Path***

As the Peruvian Supreme Court on Oct. 15 ratified the life sentence given to Abimael Guzmán, the leader of the Shining Path terrorists, several European governments began, finally, to crack down on his genocidal organization.

Sweden has denied asylum to 17 of the 18 Shining Path guerrillas who had applied. In response, they went underground, and the newspaper *Expressen* reports that the Swedish authorities are now searching for them. Peruvian Justice Minister Fernando Vega complimented Sweden for "positive and agreeable" action.

The Prefecture of Paris banned a pro-Guzmán demonstration, scheduled for a site near the Peruvian embassy. One of the worrisome things for French authorities was the possible linkage between Shining Path and the Kurdish terrorists of the PKK.

Spain is also starting to take measures to control Shining Path activities.

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## ***Finland to purchase U.S. fighter planes***

Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn, in Washington on a "private" visit, announced at a press conference at the National Press Club on Oct. 15 that Finland will be purchasing the U.S.-made F/A-18 Hornets for its next generation of fighter aircraft. This is the first time that Finland has ever purchased U.S. fighters.

She said that Finland continues to take a "Bismarckian view" of its immediate security environment: "that Russia is never as strong—or as weak—as it seems." She said that "there has been a steady numerical buildup of Russian troops along the Finnish border," which the Russians insist represents a "temporary" situation due to their withdrawal of troops from the Warsaw Pact countries and from the Baltic states.

Rehn said that there have been improvements in the quality of Russian ground-attack aircraft and attack helicopters, as well as in tanks.

In a discussion with *EIR*, Rehn mentioned that the Finns had not yet been able to set up a meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. They are advising their Estonian colleagues to establish civil rights for Russian-speaking people in Estonia, in order to eliminate any pretext for a Russian reaction.

## German union leader hits 'new world order'

The vaunted "new world order" hasn't brought anything but more exploitation of the Third World, charged Hermann Rappe, chairman of the German chemical workers union, in a report before his union's council in Hanover on Oct. 12. If the new order that the states of the North have been pushing had meant anything positive, the relationship between the North and the underdeveloped South would have been changed fundamentally, but this has not occurred, he said.

Rappe charged that there is much international hypocrisy around the issue of aid for Somalia. "I want to remind people that international solidarity requires more than just a momentary donation for relief to the hungry in Somalia and elsewhere," he said.

Rappe further underlined the threat to world peace represented by the economic crisis in the former Soviet bloc. "Three years have gone by," he said, "since the collapse of the communist bloc. It is becoming ever clearer that the hopes that were

nourished by many, even if they were very optimistic, are in danger of bursting apart over the rough realities. If things are not turned around energetically, however, the great chance of a peaceful and socially just new world order will be frittered away for a foreseeable period of time.

"A total economic collapse in eastern Europe would have global consequences that can hardly be foreseen today. The horrendously high jobless rate in the new [east German] states, which is partly caused by the collapse of their eastern markets, would then only be the comparatively harmless prelude to a bigger catastrophe. This is what we have to prevent from happening."

Rappe called for emergency measures such as extended export credit guarantees for east German exporters of industrial goods and chemical products to the former Soviet Union.

## Cameroon opposition decries election fraud

Cameroon's leading opposition party, the Social Democratic Front of John Fru Ndi and Dr. Siga Asanga, is charging fraud in the elections that were held on Oct. 11, the first election in 30 years. The country's strongman Paul Biya, they charge, rigged election ballots, disenfranchised whole sections of the population, and strangled the press in the days leading up to the vote. The government circulated rumors that the SDF would kill all members of the government party if it got into power, and that the SDF is "fascist, Nazi."

SDF leaders told *EIR* that Biya originally canceled the counting of the vote, because it showed him losing, but then under pressure was forced to resume the official count.

Observers on the scene speculate that Biya, who is a supporter of the austerity programs of the International Monetary Fund and has been kept in power by the political networks of French President François Mitterrand, may not give up power voluntarily if he loses the election, and civil war may follow.

● **A JAPANESE** Army officer, in an article published Oct. 15, called for a military coup d'état. "History has shown that a military solution is the only way left when democracy does not work properly and justice is not done," Maj. Shinsaku Yanai wrote in the weekly *Bunshun*. Yanai is an instructor at Japan's Military Academy. His statement was denounced by Japan's defense minister.

● **THE RUSSIAN** daily *Izvestia* has charged that if India does not give up its "dogmatic stand" on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation, "it may prove a stumbling block during the Russian-India summit talks planned for early 1993." By persisting in its refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the paper said, "India risks seeing its economic links with western Europe dramatically weakened."

● **SPECIAL UNITS** of the Russian "Omon" are fighting on the side of the Serbs in the Balkan war, Otto Hapsburg told the daily *Le Figaro*. He said these units were formed by the KGB, and were first put into action in the Baltics. This Russian involvement makes the idea of any effective internal resistance to the Serbian regime less likely.

● **MACEDONIAN** President Kiro Gligorov warned on Oct. 16 that a conflict like that in Bosnia may spill over into his country, unless it is urgently granted international recognition.

● **THE VISIT** to Turkey in mid-October of the head of the Iraqi Parliament, Sadi Mehdi Saleh, suggests that Ankara is moving toward reviving relations with Baghdad, according to the *Washington Post*. "We have to talk with Saddam," a senior Turkish official is quoted. "It's so easy for Britain and France and the Americans. But for countries like Turkey and Syria, Iraq is a neighbor."