

International Intelligence

French Socialists in 'damage control'

Until the national elections on March 18, the leading circles of President François Mitterrand's Socialist Party are engaged in efforts to "control the damage" to the party, according to reports from senior Socialist sources. The Socialists are trying to preserve at least 60% of their present number of parliamentary seats, though this itself may be overly optimistic, according to informed observers.

Knowing the extraordinary dissatisfaction with Socialist policies among the electorate, the government has not even sought to gain votes and hold its rule through short-term Keynesian public project spending. They realize it would be "wasted," with the opposition conservatives reaping the political credit. Recent press headlines around the banks' need for as much as an 80 billion franc [U.S.\$14.55 billion] state "bailout" for their bad real estate loans, are reportedly a cynical effort by the Socialists to salvage their financial base before turning over power to a conservative or liberal regime in March.

For some weeks, Mitterrand's government has had a consensus on key aspects of foreign policy with the liberal UDF party of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The centerpiece of this consensus, intended to remain in place after March 18, is the importance of maintaining the Franco-German core relationship inside the European Community. Otherwise, the Socialists are preparing for at least two years out of power until the 1995 presidential elections.

OAS changes its charter over Mexico's protest

The Organization of American States on Dec. 15 voted to amend its charter, as proposed by Argentina and the United States, to allow for suspension of member states charged with violating democracy. The vote was 30 to 1, with Mexico opposing, and one abstention.

The action has drawn an angry response in Mexico, including from the government. Speaking before the meeting of OAS foreign ministers in Washington, D.C., Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana warned that Mexico "will not subject foreign policy to foreign definitions or to democratic concepts. In no way will we support modifications in the bases of the OAS that relegate to it nearly supranational powers. While Mexicans recognize the necessity of improving the political systems of many of our countries, we consider that it is the exclusive responsibility of each people to decide how it will do so."

He warned that the proper job of the OAS is to aid development, to attack at their root the most urgent and lacerating problems of the region, "without an interventionist character."

The Mexican Senate and House on Dec. 16 rejected the modification of the charter. The Senate passed a seven-point resolution, affirming national sovereignty as a fundamental principle, and insisting that the norms of the international order are based on an accord among members of the community of nations, but which requires the unrestricted respect for the sovereignty and independence of each State.

The House of Representatives likewise rejected any attempt to modify the OAS charter in a way to make the body a judge over member states, or to turn it against the essential principles of international law, such as non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples.

Separatists win in several Italian cities

The separatist Northern League won elections in several Italian cities on Dec. 13-14. The voting involved about 1 million voters.

The government parties collapsed: In the northern city of Varese, the Christian Democracy (DC) went from 29.9% to 17.7%; the Socialist Party, the DC's main partner, went from 15.6% to 4.2%. The Northern League jumped from 20.8% to 37.3%. The PDS, the main national opposi-

tion party, went from 9.3% to 8.1%. In Monza, another northern city, the DC got 16.8% (-19%), the Socialists 5.5% (-12%), the League 32.1% (+28%), the PDS 10.3% (-1%).

The government parties collapsed also in the southern city of Reggio Calabria, where voters went to the fascist MSI, which got 16.7% (+10.7%).

A nonlinear phenomenon is the rise of La Rete, the party led by former Palermo mayor Leoluca Orlando, born as an anti-mafia movement but soon developed as a nationwide anti-establishment party. La Rete won 8.2% in Reggio Calabria, 6.5% in Monza, and 5.5% in Varese, more than doubling its former results. In November, Orlando had sent a message of support to the founding meeting of the "Solidarity" civil rights movement in Germany (a movement launched by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, leaders of the U.S. civil rights movement, and other international human rights advocates). Another Rete representative, Sen. Carmine Mancuso, had previously endorsed Lyndon LaRouche in his campaign for President of the United States.

Bosnian castigates world for indifference

"Bosnia has become the prism in which all tensions are reflected," warned Bosnian Foreign Minister Dr. Haris Silajdic, at a press conference at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 18. The world "does not fully understand the impact of destroying such a successful model of cultural civilization as Bosnia is," he said.

"We warned those who either do not care or do not know, that Bosnia is going to be paid heavily [sic]. They thought it was far-fetched, it's just a small place; it may be a small place, it's only 5 million people, but then, it carries a great weight, historically, civilizationally, and culturally. We warned about that, and now the time is coming when we can say, 'They did not listen to us, and because of Bosnia, or encouraged by Bosnia, there are dangerous movements in Eu-

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rope, in Asia, in the former Soviet Union.' "

He further underlined that 128,448 persons have been killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of the war—a number equivalent to “an attack by an A-bomb.” “I was asked the other day,” he continued, “how many children died in Bosnia, and I answered: *all* of them. Those who are really dead are dead, sometimes cruel deaths; but those still living are not children any more, because they experienced the rapes of their mothers, deaths of their friends, sisters, and brothers, and they are not children anymore. They’re just young, very old men. . . .

“Whatever we do now is too late, too late for those dead, for those raped, and for Europe, because it has been defaced, dehumanized. Having rape-camps in Europe at the end of the 20th century, having death-camps, having people transported in cattle wagons, and not to yield to that, is indicative of a state of mind of this civilization. . . . It is up to those who can make decisions and who make decisions, to do it. If they can live with this, then they can die with this.”

Iran calls population control a primary goal

The Iranian Foreign Ministry’s semi-official mouthpiece, *Kayhan International*, called for a stepped-up effort to curb population growth, in an editorial published on Dec. 8.

“The vital importance of population control is now recognized by the Islamic Republic of Iran from the highest officials down to the rank and file,” its editorial reads, “we are told that the government efforts in this area have been successful, and the previously madly growing birthrate [under the Shah] is now reduced by 1% or so. But despite the success, Iran’s population growth rate is double the world’s average, and it has been projected that at the present slowed rate the country could reach some 100 million in a span of little more than a decade. That means we are yet to see the ravages and hardships that population explosion can cause Iran.”

The paper argues that “the Islamic Republic should face population explosion in

Iran as the moral equivalent of war,” and that, therefore, Iran should consider following the example of China, “where family size is dictated and its violation is punishable. If the Iranian government does not want to apply downright coercion in this respect, it should at least intensify the message so that parents who indulge in ballooning the size of their family would feel pressure around them.” To this end, the editorial endorses the U.N. Population Fund 1993 conference as a “positive step in connection with this grave Iranian problem.”

South African radicals ‘preparing for war’

Tensions are high in South Africa, in the aftermath of recent incidents of violence. Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel and Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee were scheduled to meet angry farmers on Dec. 22 in Ficksburg, an area on the Lesotho border where a 15-year-old white girl was killed three days before, Reuter reported from Johannesburg.

The president of the Orange Free State agricultural union, Piet Gous, said before the meeting that whites were preparing for a full-scale “black-white war.” The *Johannesburg Star* quoted him as saying the Ficksburg meeting would be “the last time violence will be talked about. We will no longer speak about violence. If we should have to enter a white-black war, I have no problems with it.”

Newspaper reports said guerrillas of the Azanian People’s Liberation Army (APLA), the military wing of the radical Pan Africanist Congress, were suspected of launching at least three attacks on whites in the Ficksburg area in the last two months. APLA claimed responsibility for two recent attacks in the eastern Cape region, in which five whites were killed and nearly 40 wounded.

The Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging on Dec. 21 warned its members to prepare for civil war, and claimed to have deployed a platoon of men on the border with the Transkei tribal homeland.

● **THE BEIJING** Foreign Ministry said on Dec. 28 that “Iraq’s unity and territorial integrity should be respected.” A ministry spokesman, asked to comment on the downing of an Iraqi plane by a U.S. fighter over southern Iraq, replied, “The Chinese government . . . does not want to see the situation in the Gulf region become tense and more complicated once again.”

● **SOUTH KOREA’S** President-elect, Kim Young-Sam, has pledged to bring the U.N. to bear on Seoul’s “nuclear impasse” with North Korea. “I plan to officially address this issue not only to the four powerful neighbors [the United States, Russia, China and Japan], but also to the United Nations Security Council,” he said. Kim, who won the Dec. 18 election, takes office Feb. 25.

● **INDIA** will disqualify new members of Parliament and state assemblies who have more than two children, said a government spokesman on Dec. 18. He said that the cabinet would seek to amend the Constitution “to further the cause of the small-family norm,” and that politicians who have more than two children born one year after the amendments take effect would not be allowed to serve.

● **ARIEL SHARON**, the Israeli version of Adolf Hitler, accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of being “too soft,” and called for the elimination of all Palestinian “terrorist organizations,” in an interview with Germany’s *Der Spiegel* weekly published Dec. 21.

● **THE WORLD** Jewish Congress, meeting in New York City on Dec. 22, expressed “watchfulness and concern” about the current “rise of neo-Nazi activity” in Germany, and expressed “very severe criticism of the German authorities for having taken a very long time to deal with” the neo-Nazi threat, according to a source close to WJC head Edgar Bronfman.