

International Intelligence

European Community says 20,000 raped in Bosnia

A study released by the European Community in January documents the brutal raping of Bosnian women and children, and affirms that this is a fully integrated part of Serbia's military strategy of "ethnic cleansing."

"The repeated feature of Serbian attacks on Muslim towns and villages was the use of rape, or the threat of rape, as a weapon of war to force the population to leave their homes," the study reports. "Rape is part of a pattern of abuse, usually perpetrated with the conscious intention of demoralizing and terrorizing communities, driving them from their homes and demonstrating the power of the invading forces. Viewed in this way, rape cannot be seen as incidental to the main purpose of the aggression but as serving a strategic purpose in itself."

The report confirmed that "Muslim women undoubtedly form the vast majority of rape victims." Serbian forces carried out the rape of Muslim women "in particularly sadistic ways to inflict maximum humiliation on the victims. Many women, and more particularly children, may have died during or after rape."

Although the report was authored by a British member of the European Parliament, Dame Anne Worsburton, and by former French Health Minister Simone Weil, it was blacked out of the British press. It is intended to be used as evidence for the convening of a war crimes tribunal.

Prince Philip loosens ties to Orthodox churches

Britain's Prince Philip is backing away from his links to the Orthodox churches, and is postponing his planned visit to Russia, out of fear that this could be used against the royal family, a source close to the royal consort reported on Jan. 14. He said that various groups think Philip's religious activities and convictions are a "perceived vulnerability" that could be used against the monarchy.

Said the source: "Various evangelical and fundamentalist groups have begun to attack Philip as a pagan, and anti-New Age groups are also on the offensive. This could create a problem, not only for Philip, but also for Charles and Diana. Do you know that matters have gone so far, that a number of Christian journals, self-professedly anti-New Age, have claimed that the fire at the Windsor Castle was an act of God, divine retaliation, because the monarchy was straying from Biblical revelation, and because Philip was allegedly involved in pagan rituals with his ecological ideas?"

He further reported that under conditions where "the monarchy as a deity is starting to crumble in the popular mind," all sorts of "conspiracy theories are making the rounds in Britain. There are even those, here in Britain, who are picking up on that story coming out from the U.S., that the royal family has been running the drug trade, and is sapping the moral fiber, after having originally made its wealth from the Opium Wars. This kind of stuff is now making the rounds, and is surfacing in all sorts of comments, coming from what I call 'lumpenproletariat Christianity.'"

Bonner hits 'genocide' in Nagorno-Karabakh

Russian human rights activist Yelena Bonner, the widow of physicist Andrei Sakharov, held a press conference on Jan. 11 with Lady Caroline Cox of the Netherlands-based Christian Solidarity International, drawing attention to the crimes being committed against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"What we are now seeing in Karabakh," said Bonner, "is what is happening in former Yugoslavia—ethnic cleansing, *genocide* of a nation, mass abuses of human rights, which developed because when we tried to draw world public attention to these facts, the West did not pay due attention. The West ignored such gross violations of international agreements as a blockade of Karabakh since 1988, [and] a blockade of Armenia

since 1989, which resulted in a situation in which this state looks very much like besieged Leningrad in World War II."

Baroness Cox followed with a call for the United Nations to ensure that the corridor through which humanitarian aid is shipped is kept open.

The Russian ambassador to Armenia, Stupishin, also spoke. "People are suffering in the process of an undeclared war," he said. "Civilians are being deliberately murdered—military installations are not being targeted, not military units, not front-line positions, but people walking in the streets. . . . People are hiding in cellars—women and children. There is no bread because the only bakery was destroyed. There is no electricity, no running water. . . . I believe that it has been correctly said here that if this continues in the eyes of the international community, then this may soon put an end to the international community itself. What will we leave to our children if we are just watching this calmly?"

Japanese minister seeks to change law on troops

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said on Jan. 2 that Japan should amend its Constitution so that it can play a more active role in U.N. "peace-keeping" operations. The law "constitutes an obstacle to Japanese activities in Cambodia. . . . If the Constitution hinders, it should be amended," Watanabe told supporters. The U.S.-imposed Constitution bans settling foreign disputes by force. Japan has 600 engineering soldiers in Cambodia, but they are forbidden to enter areas in which fighting is occurring.

Watanabe went further on Jan. 5 and said that the entire Japanese Army should be converted to a U.N. police force. "From now on, the role of the Self-Defense Force [(SDF)] should be to maintain global peace and order, under the leadership of the U.N., rather than continuing with its main business," now limited to the defense of Japan, he said. Watanabe also said that Japan need-

ed more long-range transport aircraft and ships to boost its ability to move equipment and personnel overseas to expand its peace-keeping role.

Government officials said Watanabe was stating his personal opinion only. The newspaper *Nihon Keizai* reported on Jan. 6 that the government was considering a review of the SDF law, but the Defense Ministry and prime minister's office denied this.

Russia blames Bosnia for Balkan 'violence'

Although Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Yastrzhembsky on Jan. 13 condemned the assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hakija Turajlic, he immediately attempted to shift the blame for violence onto the Bosnian forces. "It is with most profound concern," he claimed, "that we learned from the mass media reports that just on the eve of the Orthodox Christmas the Muslim forces in Bosnia and Hercegovina captured a number of Serbian villages lying to the west of the town of Bratunac, killing scores of civilians, mostly women and old people.

"If the mass media reports are true to facts," said Yastrzhembsky, "then we naturally must resolutely condemn such acts of violence at any time, but especially now."

Danish prime minister resigns over scandal

Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter, a Conservative, resigned on Jan. 14 after more than 12 years in office. The resignation was triggered by the long-delayed release of a special parliamentary report into his government's handling of Tamil refugees. The scandal, which goes back to the late 1980s, forced the resignation of the justice minister for forcing expulsion of a group of Tamils seeking asylum in Denmark—a brazen violation of Danish refugee laws.

According to Danish observers, the key

question now will be whether the present fragile, minority coalition of Conservative and Liberal parties, with tacit support in Parliament of several smaller parties, will be able to form a new government without the influential Schluter. Finance Minister Henning Dyremose has been proposed by Schluter's Conservative Party to replace him, and is Schluter's choice as well.

If such a government does not emerge, a Social Democratic return to power after 12 years, under ambitious new party head Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, is possible.

The resignation adds a new element of uncertainty into the European Community.

German challenge to Maastricht Treaty

The Maastricht Treaty for European Union has been brought before the constitutional court in Germany, on the grounds that it violates the inalienable sovereign rights of the German people by imposing supranational structures upon the German state.

According to observers in Bonn, the treaty is not very likely to survive, as the Bonn government itself is ostensibly looking for an excuse not to put it into effect but to rather go for a "core Europe" of six states grouped around a Franco-German axis. A majority of the German population doesn't want it either, as indicated by several opinion polls.

The treaty, which has been signed by the member states of the European Community, was defeated in a referendum in Denmark last summer, and barely squeaked through in a referendum in France in the fall.

The legal initiative in Germany, first launched by four senior members of the Green party and by Manfred Brunner, the former cabinet chief of European Community commissioner Manfred Bangemann, has now been joined by Alfred Seidl, a former minister of the interior of the state of Bavaria and senior member of the Christian Social Union party, which is one of three partners in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Bonn government coalition.

● **BOSNIAN** President Alija Izetbegovic on Jan. 12 compared the current Geneva Conference on former Yugoslavia to the Munich Conference of 1938, at which British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain gave Czechoslovakia to the Nazis. "There are many analogies to Munich," he said. "Cyrus Vance and David Owen in Geneva behaved like Chamberlain; they are pursuing a false peace."

● **SERBIAN** war criminal Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, let loose with a broadside against Germany in an interview with the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* of Jan. 14. Germany "has Slovenia and Croatia under its influence, and is going to dominate Europe," he raved, calling for former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to be tried for war crimes.

● **UNITED NATIONS** Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali "should resign," and progressive leaders "should reconsider the position of the United Nations," said the West Asia Peace Committee in a statement released on Jan. 15. Either the U.N. should stop being manipulated by "the international bandits and gangsters" or it should simply go "the way of its predecessor, the League of Nations."

● **THE LAWYER** of Abimael Guzmán, the imprisoned leader of the Peruvian Shining Path terrorists, was arrested on Jan. 16. Alfredo Crespo was charged with coordinating recent terrorist attacks. On his person was found information about top military men and their whereabouts, to target them for hit squads.

● **CAMBODIAN** head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk accused the United States of working against him and attempting to prevent presidential elections. Sihanouk spoke on Jan. 7 at a press conference in Beijing, where he has been since November. "For more than one year, the U.S. has led an anti-Sihanouk movement," the prince stated. The U.S. supported a coup against him in 1970.