

International Intelligence

Australia blackballed from human rights meet

Asian nations have blocked Australia from voting at a United Nations regional conference on human rights that will be held in Bangkok at the end of March, the *Melbourne Age* reports.

Forty-five countries from Syria to Japan will have voting rights at the meeting, which will coordinate the Asian position for the U.N. human rights conference set for Vienna in June. "The Asian members appear to be closing ranks against the West on human rights," the *Age* quotes diplomats.

Australia's foreign policy has always been a "cat's paw" for Anglo-American interests in the region. The mechanism used by the Asian countries to exclude Australia from full participation in Bangkok was the fact that the U.N. technically groups Australia and New Zealand with western countries. The countries that pushed the hardest to keep Australia out included India, Pakistan, Syria, and Yemen.

At a U.N. workshop on human rights during the last week in January, Indonesia, currently head of the Non-Aligned Movement, emphasized that the right to economic development is the most important issue with respect to human rights. This seems to be the theme that the Asian bloc is adopting going into Vienna. Indonesian Foreign Ministry official Wiryono Sastrohandjojo explained, "The West takes the view that development is not a right but the result of your efforts. We think otherwise."

Zambia proclaims state of emergency

The government of Zambia declared a state of emergency the first week in March, and arrested seven senior Army officers, amidst charges spreading throughout the country of a coup plot against the regime of President Frederick Chiluba, which has been imposing a draconian austerity policy at the behest of the International Monetary Fund and

World Bank.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reports that the *Times of Zambia* has had sensational revelations about the opposition UNIP party plotting a "zero option" scheme for overthrowing the government, through a national campaign of strikes, industrial disruptions, and the like.

The Zambian press quotes former President Kenneth Kaunda claiming that he was forced out of power as part of an "American plan" for the overthrow of his regime. Chiluba came to power in October 1991, in what was touted as a "trend-setting" democratic free election. Before that time, Zambia had been a one-party state.

Expert on Balkans rejects 'British myth'

"It's a myth invented by the British, for political reasons, that an intervention against Serbia would require hundreds of thousands of troops prepared to engage in a long ground war," an Austrian-based journalist said in a discussion on March 5. "This was repeatedly said, to create an atmosphere that it was not possible to do anything against Serbia, whereas, in reality, it would be very easy to stop the Serbians."

"How else can you explain that the great military apparatus of the West, which for years was bragging about its capability of keeping the Warsaw Pact in check, is so afraid of a military force whose equipment is not so good, and which is extremely vulnerable to effective air attacks by the sophisticated airplanes that the West has in its arsenals? All this has nothing to do with military thinking, but everything to do with politics, and the British and the French are just playing their usual role as 'Munich' powers."

The source emphasized that for months, there has existed a perfectly viable "Balkans Storm" military plan for defeating Serbia within a short period of time, but the plan has not been implemented because of political obstruction from Britain and other quarters. He said the plan would be "very cheap

in terms of loss of lives," since it would mostly rely on surgical strikes on easily identifiable Serbian targets, including Serbian emplacements around Sarajevo; Serbian military bases, including in Bosnia; bridges over the Drina River used by the Serbian forces; Serbian gasoline dumps; the military airport outside Belgrade; and the lightly protected headquarters of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

The only immediate obstruction to carrying out this plan, ironically, is the United Nations itself, since the U.N. troops on the ground "are now hostages, since they will be targeted if there is action against Serbia, but they are self-created hostages, created by the U.N. itself."

Thai destabilizer Sulak proposed for Nobel Prize

The godfather of the synthetic "democracy movement" in Thailand, known to be run by western intelligence services, Sulak Sivaraksa, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Northern Ireland peace campaigner Mairead Maguire, a Nobel laureate, wrote in a letter to the Nobel Institute in Norway, released in Bangkok on March 6: "For more than 30 years he has been working non-violently for peace, social justice, and a form of development which truly expresses the culture and answers the needs of ordinary people."

Sulak, then in exile, was the key figure behind the demonstrations that erupted into violent action last May, resulting in confrontation with the Thai military and killing of several hundred people. The demonstrations resulted in bringing down the government and a significant weakening of the Thai military, a key Anglo-American goal for the region.

An interview with Sulak published in *EIR* on June 12, 1992 made clear that Sulak's program for "development" is to deny the Thai people access to even the most primitive kinds of technology, in favor of the "joy" of backwardness and poverty.

Sulak returned to Thailand from abroad

once a government more to his liking was sworn in six months ago. He no doubt met with Maguire and other Nobel Peace Prize winners who were in Bangkok in February for the purpose of putting pressure on the Thai government to treat Burma as a pariah state—much the same way that Asian countries are being encouraged to treat North Korea.

Major parties lose in German state election

Municipal elections in the German state of Hesse on March 7 resulted in losses for the largest parties, and substantial gains for the right-wing populist Republikaner party. The vote reveals a fragmentation of the electorate that is also evident in Italy, France, and other European countries.

The Social Democratic Party lost 8% statewide, with losses as high as 13% in Wiesbaden and 21% in Kassel.

The Christian Democratic Union, the second-largest party, which forms the opposition in most Hesse municipal parliaments, lost 3% statewide. The most significant gains were made by the Greens which went from 9% to 11% of the vote, and the Republikaner party, which jumped from 0.7% to 7.8%. The Greens gained 25% in Darmstadt, and the Republikaner gained 13% in Wiesbaden.

Part of the story behind the shift in votes is the low voter participation of 71.3%, which is the lowest since World War II, and 7% lower than four years ago.

Solzhenitsyn calls for presidential rule

A statement by novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn supporting strong "presidential rule" in Russia was read out over Russian television on March 7. Solzhenitsyn said that in a huge country like Russia, it is impossible to rule without a strong President.

His statement came in the form of an

"Open Letter to Ambassador Lukin," who represents Russia in Washington. Some analysts believe it is intended to bolster the strength of Boris Yeltsin.

In another comment on the crisis, Valeri Zorkin, the head of Russia's constitutional court, said in an interview published with the German weekly *Der Spiegel* on March 8 that an institutionalized roundtable involving all parties is the only way out of Russia's crisis.

There is no perspective for governing the country with one political camp against the other, which would only lead to a new form of dictatorship, Zorkin said. He hinted that the fate of President Yeltsin will be determined either by his ability to launch such an all-party roundtable, or his failure to do so.

Mubarak denounces Islamic fundamentalism

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak joined Israel and the Anglo-American media in calling for an international effort against Islamic fundamentalism, in an interview with the *Washington Post* published on March 5. Mubarak defended his government's "very heavy hand" against Islamic groups in Egypt.

Referring to the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, Mubarak said, "This proves that terrorism is becoming a plague spreading all over the world, and it would call for international cooperation to resist this unhealthy phenomenon.

"For a certain period of time, it was thought it's some sort of local phenomenon concentrating in the Middle East. But now we believe this shows it's not a local phenomenon. It's spreading," said Mubarak.

The same line came from Islam Karimov, the President of the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, in an interview with foreign correspondents on March 4. "Islamic fundamentalism threatens Uzbekistan," he said. "Fundamentalism begins when religion starts interfering in politics. . . . It does not suit our country."

● **EGYPT AND TURKEY** have both sent senior diplomats to Baghdad to take up diplomatic duties, against the wishes of the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition in which both countries play a leading role. Turkey will reopen its embassy in Baghdad, while Egypt will be sending a senior diplomat at the consular level. The move is said to indicate their belief that Saddam Hussein is not expected to leave power in Iraq for some time.

● **JOHN DEMJANJUK** conducted a three-day hunger strike in his Jerusalem prison March 1-3, to protest a nine-month delay in the Supreme Court's ruling on his appeal. His lawyer Yoram Sheftel accused the judges of a "double standard," and said that Israel's legal establishment would be "the happiest in the world" if the elderly Demjanjuk died in prison. Demjanjuk was sentenced to death for war crimes that he did not commit.

● **FIVE MEMBERS** of an Israeli military intelligence unit died when a missile exploded with which they were practicing to murder Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, according to the London *Sunday Times* of March 7. The incident occurred Nov. 5, 1992 in the Negev Desert, and after the accident, the operation was canceled, according to the report.

● **AFGHAN** rival groups reached an agreement on March 7 that would let President Burhanuddin Rabbani remain as head of state for 18 months, while his rival, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, would serve as prime minister. The post of defense minister was not decided upon yet. A cease-fire is to take effect immediately.

● **THE JAPANESE** Socialist Party has vowed to oppose Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's proposal for Japan to assume a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Such a move would mean building up Japan's military strength, the chairman of the largest opposition party said. "We are completely against such an idea."