

International Intelligence

Italian parliamentarians ask liberty for LaRouche

A parliamentary delegation composed of Carlo Palermo (La Rete party) and Raffaele Tiscar (Christian Democracy), was received on July 28 at the United States embassy in Rome by the ambassador's representative, Ben Tua. The delegation presented him with 62 letters to President Clinton from Italian parliamentarians, representing the entire spectrum of the political parties, demanding the liberation of Lyndon LaRouche, who has been jailed in Minnesota for nearly five years, following a judicial frameup desired by then-President George Bush.

Emma Bonino, secretary of the Radical Party, and Nicola Colajanni (Party of the Democratic Left) had announced their intention to be part of the delegation, but were unable to attend.

Palermo told Tua that he had begun to become interested in LaRouche and *EIR* in 1983, when he was a judge. Convinced that LaRouche was not a criminal, as certain American press try to depict him, but rather a political figure whose anti-establishment ideas may rub some the wrong way, Palermo added that he had studied the legal case carefully and found serious procedural irregularities.

Foreign hand seen in Italy's terrorism

"Somebody wants to bring our country to its knees," wrote journalist Piero Ostellino in a front-page editorial in the Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* on July 30. Ostellino suggested that those looking for the authors of the ongoing terrorist destabilization of Italy should "not only look into the national garbage, but also beyond the national borders."

Ostellino polemicized against those who simply interpret the recent bombings as "a reaction of the old regime against the new one," and stated that one has to "look for those who already have an organization able to operate at a moment's notice, and with

utmost efficiency." What is at stake, Ostellino wrote, is "whether Italy will domestically be a colony of its criminality, and externally a colony of world speculation."

Since February of this year, reports from *EIR* have been circulating widely in the Italian media, documenting the role of Anglo-American financial and intelligence circles in destabilizing Italy.

Orthodox Church plays greater role in Greece

The fervor of the Orthodox Church is increasingly defining the direction of politics in Greece, reported the French daily *Libération* on July 28, stressing that Orthodoxy is the tie which binds Greece and "Greater Serbia."

Correspondent Elie Ravanno wrote that the historical fights of the Orthodox Christian Church against the Roman Catholic Church and Islam are very much on the minds of today's Greek Orthodox Church leaders and politicians.

Ravanno stressed that Greece is a theocracy, with the Constitution formalizing the "dominant" role of the Orthodox Church in relation to other religions, which are considered to be "foreign dogmas." Non-Orthodox Greeks have their patriotism questioned, according to the head of the Catholic Church in Greece, Archbishop of Athens Foscolos.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic was given royal treatment on his visit to Greece in June, during which he proclaimed, "Serbia only has two friends: God and the Greeks."

Chinese generals denounce corruption

The two most senior officers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army warned of "a growing tide of corruption, money worshiping, and hedonism" in the Army in an article in the official *People's Daily* the week of July 26. The PLA celebrated its 66th anniversary on Aug. 1.

Gen. Liu Huaqing, who is a member

of the Communist Party Politburo Standing Committee, and Gen. Zhang Zhen, a vice chairman of the Communist Party Central Military Commission, wrote that "unhealthy tendencies and negative phenomena . . . are posing a threat to the development of the military."

The previous week, the Central Military Commission issued a directive published in all the national press, which banned PLA speculation in foreign currencies and land, and expressed particular opposition to some groups in the military being involved in projects involving "high-class hotels, office blocks, and holiday villas." The directive also said that "military funds must not be put into personal savings accounts."

The PLA has been going "into business" for itself for years, as part of the Deng Xiaoping "free-market" reforms and in order to raise enough funds for modernization of the military.

Japan weighs nuclear threat from N. Korea

Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said that it is important for Japan to have the will to build nuclear weapons. Muto's remark was made to Japanese reporters at a news conference in Singapore on July 28, according to the *Nihon Keizai* newspaper, after he had "assured" the Southeast Asian nations and the United States that Japan would support an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). At the Group of Seven summit in Tokyo in July, Japan had refused to give unqualified support for such an extension. However, Muto told the Japanese reporters that "there is a clause in the NPT allowing the withdrawal from the treaty. If North Korea develops nuclear weapons and that becomes a threat to Japan, first, there is the nuclear umbrella of the United States upon which we can rely. But if it comes down to a crunch, possessing the will that 'we can do it' is important."

Also at the end of July, Tokyo's annual Defense Agency White Paper warned that

North Korea's reported development of a long-range missile poses a serious threat to Japan. "If the development of nuclear weapons is matched by a development of missiles, this could pose a very dangerous situation," the paper said. It said that North Korea test-fired the missile in May over the Sea of Japan. It also cited concerns about the confused political situation in Russia and the continued modernization of the Chinese military.

In a press conference on July 30 on the release of the White Paper, Defense Counselor Masataka Suzuki said that "it was judged that it's appropriate for Japan to continue to improve its defense capability." He added that Japan is "currently introducing U.S.-made Patriot missiles" and said that six batteries of Patriots are being installed under the 1991-95 defense program.

Solzhenitsyn may become 'most influential' man

Novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn "may become the most influential voice in the public life of Russia" when he soon returns home, senior Russian politician Sergei Stankevich asserts, as quoted in the July 26 London *Economist*.

Solzhenitsyn is expected to return to Russia from exile abroad within the next few months. "The interesting question is what role he will play in Russia's political drama between his return and his death," wrote the magazine. It quoted Stankevich, who has recently been a senior adviser to Boris Yeltsin: "It's stupid to claim that it will be like the return of Khomeini to Teheran. Russia is not a country of fundamentalists, no one will hit the soil before him. But Solzhenitsyn is a spiritual symbol and he will be heard. He may become the most influential voice in the public life of Russia."

The themes Solzhenitsyn will strike were outlined in his 1990 book, *How We Should Remake Russia*, and repeated in a September 1992 television documentary aired on Russian television, in which Solzhenitsyn said: "We are now going through a stage of the collapse of communism in

which its upper floors have fallen in, but the middle level is still alive and well and busy laying its hands on everything around it." He warned of an alliance between the former *nomenklatura*, the KGB, "financial sharks," and "raging nouveaux riches," which could exploit Russia not just for 70 years, as Bolshevism did, but for 170 years.

The *Economist* expressed concern about Solzhenitsyn's anti-democratic and totalitarian tendencies, i.e., his "archaic" solutions to the internal political crisis based on a combined strong presidency and local village councils, which, if introduced, "would take Russia back to where it was immediately after the 1905 Revolution."

Pakistan's Beg admits nuclear bomb capability

Former Pakistani Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg said that Pakistan had already carried out successful nuclear tests and had acquired the capability for conducting nuclear tests back in 1987. In an interview with the *Daily Awaz International* in London July 24, Beg said that by acquiring a nuclear capability, Pakistan had reduced the chances of a war in the subcontinent, adding that the Pakistani nuclear program would work as a deterrent for any possible armed conflict in the region.

Pakistan has all the technical knowledge and required technology to manufacture nuclear devices at the shortest possible notice, Beg said. He reported that the nuclear tests were carried out in "cold laboratory conditions" which are as good as "hot explosions." Beg said that the nuclear research was being carried out under the responsibility of the prime minister's office.

Beg made his statements as he was returning to Pakistan from a visit to the United States, where he had met U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Mellot. He also said in his interview that the United States had plotted to assassinate President Gen. Mohamed Zia ul-Haq in 1987, and he called for a criminal inquiry into the 1988 plane crash in which Zia died.

● **NIGERIAN** leader General Babangida charged Great Britain with trying to "seize control over Nigerian internal affairs," and with telling the military in Nigeria what to do. Babangida declared that Nigerians were perfectly capable of solving their own problems. A separate Nigerian government declaration charged both the British and the Americans with interfering in Nigerian internal affairs.

● **ISRAEL'S** outgoing ambassador to Argentina, Yitzhak Shefi, called the Argentine Condor II missile "dangerous" to Israel. In an interview in the July 26 *Página 12*, he said that "sophisticated weapons in the hands of irresponsible elements are a danger which causes Israel's political leaders to lose sleep."

● **BRITISH** Prime Minister John Major suffered a "crushing defeat" in elections in the district of Christchurch in southern England on July 29, according to the BBC. Major's Conservative Party lost by more than 16,000 votes to the Liberal Democrats in a traditionally "safe Tory district."

● **THE UNITED NATIONS** Security Council voted on July 29 to condemn Armenia for its offensives on the territory of Azerbaijan, demanding that Armenian forces surrender the city of Agdam and all Azeri territory taken this year. The resolution did not directly address the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan.

● **CAMBODIA** is experiencing an upsurge of violence, as the United Nations "peacekeeping forces" begin their withdrawal, the BBC reported on Aug. 3. Khmer Rouge guerrillas held 12 U.N. personnel hostage for a day; ten people were killed when a train was bombed in central Cambodia; and the Khmer Rouge also overran a checkpoint on the Thai border and launched a mortar attack on the city of Siam Reap.