

International Intelligence

Sharon out to wreck Israeli deal with PLO

Ariel Sharon of Israel's Likud Party is playing a leading role in mobilizing Israeli opposition to the peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the French daily *Le Figaro* reported on Sept. 6. Sharon raved: "The Rabin government should not offer Arafat a summer residence in Gaza or a winter residence in Jericho. It must prepare for him a glass cage, in a tribunal in Jerusalem, where he will be judged as a war criminal. . . . Arafat has more Jewish blood on his hands than any other criminal since Nazism. It is possible to make peace with the Palestinians. There is no reconciliation possible with an assassin of Jewish children or Jewish athletes at the Munich Olympic games of 1972."

Sharon has called for a "rebellion" of opposition forces led by the Likud Party.

According to *Le Figaro*, Sharon is supported by the new head of the Likud, Benjamin Netanyahu, who is warning that an agreement with the PLO constitutes "a renunciation of Zionism. . . . We have not fought for 3,000 years, we have not built the Zionist movement, to come to this."

Poll in Poland shows voter discontent

An opinion poll taken in Poland prior to national elections on Sept. 19 shows growing support for the former communist People's Democratic Alliance (SLD) and the Polish Peasant Party, reflecting voter dissatisfaction with the government's austerity policies.

The third place in the poll is held by the Democratic Union (UD), which has dominated Poland's governments supporting "shock therapy" and International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity since 1989. The UD is headed by Bronislaw Geremek, a close associate of Hungarian-American financier George Soros. One of the leaders of the Democratic Union is former Prime Minister

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who headed Poland's first non-communist government, formed in 1989.

According to the poll, six other parties exceeded the 5% threshold required for entry into the Parliament under the new election law: the right-wing Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN); the pro-free market Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms (BBWR), centered around President Lech Walesa; the pro-IMF Liberal-Democratic Congress; the leftist Labor Union (UP); the UD, which supports the trade union Solidarnosc; and the Fatherland coalition of Christian Democratic parties.

China denounces U.S. over ship incident

The Beijing government has accused the United States of "hegemonism and power politics pure and simple," because of an incident on the high seas involving the Chinese ship *Yinhe*. The U.S. Navy has pursued the vessel since Aug. 3, when it entered the Indian Ocean en route to the Persian Gulf. The United States claimed that the ship was carrying chemical warfare materials to Iran.

On Sept. 5, the U.S. State Department was forced to admit that an inspection of the ship's 600 containers had "revealed no evidence of these chemicals aboard that ship." The U.S. State Department, convinced it had intelligence that two chemicals, thidiglycol and thionyl chloride, were being shipped to Iran for use in chemical weapons manufacture on the *Yinhe*, harassed the ship on the high seas for weeks, and refused to allow it to sail to its destinations in Iraq and Iran. The Chinese, who had repeatedly asserted at the highest government levels that the ship was carrying only harmless cargoes to Iraq and Iran, agreed to an inspection by Chinese, Saudi, and U.S. officials in a Saudi port, where nothing was found.

U.S. officials have refused to apologize, claiming that they acted in good faith on the basis of intelligence from "a number of credible sources." One senior Clinton offi-

cial told the *Los Angeles Times*: "We know it was on the front end, and after that who knows? You cannot track a ship minute by minute." However, other western officials agree that it would have been extremely difficult for the *Yinhe* crew, which was under constant surveillance, to have secretly disposed of any cargo.

A statement published by the official Chinese news agency Xinhua said that "recently, the U.S. has so often willfully brought pressure to bear on other countries on the grounds of its so-called intelligence, which was no more than hearsay or self-invented stories. The *Yinhe* incident is only one example in this regard. The U.S. has acted in an utterly indiscreet and irresponsible manner."

Vatican supports Mideast 'miracle'

Vatican Radio on Sept. 1 urged listeners to welcome "the miracle at the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations." The radio's director, Father Pasquale Borgomeo, made clear that the deal still faced many obstacles. Among those "enemies" waiting to ambush any settlement, he said, were the "extremists on both sides, the blind partisans of 'all or nothing' who seem to have learned nothing from decades of bloodshed and failure." Others include those for whom a "peace between Israelis and Palestinians would mean the end of their political leverage, and the arms merchants for whom every victory of peace on our planet spells doom."

Nevertheless, Father Pasquale Borgomeo concluded, "Peace is possible, despite everything. Peace is near. God forbid that hopes should once again be dashed and that reason, justice, and humanity be defeated."

India and China sign accord to reduce tensions

India and China signed a "milestone" agreement to reduce border tensions on Sept. 7, during Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Beijing. The two nations

agreed to respect the "line of control" that has existed since the end of the 1962 border war, and to reduce forces deployed forward in the border areas.

The agreement does not establish a border in the disputed regions, but could lay the basis for doing so in the future. The two nations also agreed to keep each other informed of troop movements in the border area, and to expand border trade by opening up at least one more border trading point.

Russian paper details Moscow ABM system

The Russian newspaper *Izvestia* on Aug. 25 described Moscow's antiballistic-missile defense system. According to the 1972 ABM Treaty, each side was allowed to have one ABM system to protect one of its cities. Correspondent Viktor Litovkin said this was the first time that the ABM system had been described to the public, and also the first time that its designer's name, Anatoly Basistov, had appeared in print.

"The system will not allow a single nuclear explosion dangerously close to Moscow," Basistov said. "It has been designed to automatically detect warheads in flight without human involvement, distinguish them from clutter—decoys or combined ABM countermeasures—and destroy them unerringly in the air, preventing the charge from detonating."

Litovkin described some of the components of the system: "The 'pyramid' oriented to the four corners of the globe with antennas 16 meters in diameter is perhaps one of the main components in the system. It is this pyramid that is designed to detect and intercept ballistic missiles, track them, and guide antimissile missiles to their targets."

"The radar," reported Litovkin, "is served by a highly productive computer (around a billion operations per second). It enables the 'space wars' algorithm to be tracked in real time, that is second by second, at the same time as events are happening."

Litovkin added that "the ABM defense

system must undoubtedly logically include ballistic missile early warning systems, although they are officially separate. The reader probably knows what I am talking about—the well-known phased array radars in outlying regions of the former U.S.S.R."

Haiti's new leaders move against military

As the new Haitian government takes office, it is moving swiftly to eliminate the influence of the Haitian military as an institution defending national sovereignty. The government is supported from abroad by ousted dictator Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the Organization of American States, and the U.S. State Department.

Speaking from Paris, Aristide charged: "For 200 years, our Army went from coup d'état to coup d'état, maintaining a state of corruption. Each year, some \$200 million enters Haiti because of drug trafficking in which our most senior officers are involved up to their necks. That is why they have money to buy weapons to kill so many people."

The new prime minister, Robert Malval, 24 hours after taking office on Aug. 31, began meetings with the U.N. and U.S. officials on how to subdue and "reform" the Army and the police. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that each police unit will be assigned trainers, as part of the "cleansing of the most offensive members of the police force." As for the Army, a U.S. military advisory group of 50 will be brought in to "retrain what remains of the Army," with the aim "to eliminate the extensive human rights violations that mark military behavior and turn the troops into border protectors and road builders."

The new information minister, Hervé Denis, has begun to dismantle "the military's propaganda apparatus . . . halting all local current affairs programming on state radio or television." U.S. official Lawrence Pezzulo said recently that the military control of the media and its "xenophobic misinterpretation of events" had done a disservice to the country.

● **PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES** captured a member of the central committee of the narco-terrorist Shining Path on Sept. 2, leaving only three more at large. Rosa Angelica Salas de la Cruz was in charge of press and propaganda for the guerrillas, and is believed to have given the orders for the recent massacre of 60 Ashaninka Indians.

● **UNREST IN THAILAND** caused Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai to cut short his planned 10-day visit to China. In Thailand's three southern provinces, schools are closing early and police presence is being strengthened after the latest violent incident in which a passenger bus was attacked. At least six people died in violence in August, which included arson attacks on schools, an attack on a train, and a bombing of a Buddhist monastery.

● **MARGARET THATCHER**, the former British prime minister, said in a speech in Bangkok, Thailand on Sept. 7 that the tragedy in Bosnia shows that the United Nations cannot be relied upon as a world policeman. "The euphoric talks, of which so much was heard just a year or two ago, of the U.N. as an effective arbiter and world policeman, has been shown to be just that—and no more," she said.

● **BOSNIAN** Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, speaking in Turkey on Sept. 2, denounced the partition plan that the Bosnian government had been pressured to accept in Geneva. "The message presented is that of sheer force, genocide, and killing people," he charged. "If you have force, you are able to take other people's property. It's the law of the jungle."

● **CARDINAL** Roger Etchegaray was in Beijing the first week of September, the first visit by a high-level Vatican official since 1958. He said that his trip was unofficial, but would not rule out holding meetings aimed at improving Vatican relations with the Beijing government. The cardinal heads the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.