

# International Intelligence

## **Sweden worries about Russian military move**

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, in a speech to the Swedish Foreign Policy Institute on Nov. 17, said that "we would support the Baltic countries if they were attacked" by Russia, as Russia attacked Finland in 1939. "Neutrality is not self-evident in the case of a conflict in the close vicinity of Sweden," he said. Sweden's support to Finland in 1939 was of a logistical nature, not military.

Bildt's statement triggered a retort by Social Democrat Pierre Schori, the foreign policy spokesman of the opposition party. Schori said that Bildt's statement must have been a very unclear message to the Baltic countries, drawing a historical parallel to America's unkept promise to help Hungary in 1956. He further said that it was "adventurous to compare the situation in the Baltic countries with the Finnish Winter War," adding that "it seems to me that the words of the prime minister are of a Carolingian nature," meaning that Bildt was a nationalist with imperial aspirations, like King Charles XII.

## **Radical parties gain in Italian elections**

The first round of local elections in Italy on Nov. 21, involving more than 11 million voters, saw a radical left-right polarization of national politics. The front led by the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS, formerly the Communists) won in Rome, Naples, Genoa, Venice, and Trieste. In the runoff Dec. 5, they will face candidates in Rome and Naples from the pro-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), which is now the top party in both cities.

Everywhere, the moderate center, represented by the Christian Democracy (DC), has disintegrated, falling below 10%, due to corruption scandals and to its suicidal support of the austerity policy of the Ciampi government. Typical is the case of Rome and Naples, where local DC political ma-

chines, dumped by the "clean hands" policy of Secretary Martinazzoli, decided to go over to the MSI.

Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of Benito Mussolini, who came in second in the race for mayor of Naples, predicted victory over Antonio Bassolino of the PDS in the runoff. Mussolini, who keeps a bust of her grandfather in her bedroom, told reporters that the late dictator was her chief inspiration during the campaign.

The leftist front is represented by candidates whose policies are quite varied. In Genoa, the leftist candidate who won against the Northern League separatists is Adriano Sansa, a Catholic and former prosecutor, who is expected to follow a moderate policy. In Naples, winner Antonio Bassolino is tied to union interests, and is expected to oppose the dismantling of state-owned industry. In Rome, however, winner Francesco Rutelli is a radical ecologist who has been sponsored by Carlo De Benedetti's financial and media cartel.

## **South Africa approves new constitution**

After several days of marathon negotiations, the ruling National Party and the South African Communist Party-dominated African National Congress (ANC) on Nov. 18 announced their approval of a new constitution providing for "one-man, one-vote" majority rule, under which the country will be governed at least through the planned April 27 elections. The prospects for a genuine political settlement, however, remain dubious, and the threat of civil war looms.

A number of thorny issues were left unsettled, including the precise division of power among the nine newly created "regions" and the central government. A great deal of power will reside in the new Constitutional Court, all of whose members will be appointed by whoever is elected President on April 27, which is almost certain to be the ANC's Nelson Mandela.

The country's near-term prospects are grim, despite the rosy coverage of the new agreement by the world's media. Barely

mentioned is the fact that some of the country's major constituencies did not take part in the constitutional process, including the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) of Mangosuthu Buthelezi (the major organization of the nation's 9 million Zulus), and the Freedom Alliance, a black-white alliance representing most Afrikaners, many English-speaking whites, and several of the black homelands. These groups fear a dictatorial ANC government.

Freedom Alliance leader Constand Viljoen said that South Africa was "at the brink of war," that the situation was "disastrous," and that all Afrikaners should begin military training immediately. Buthelezi has also been quoted saying that civil war is imminent.

## **Kozyrev asserts Russia's imperial rule**

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev lashed out against two former Soviet republics on Nov. 22, attacking Ukraine and Armenia for not adhering to Moscow's line.

Comparing Ukraine to North Korea, he said that the decision by the Ukrainian Parliament to attach conditions to ratification of the START-I Treaty could "delay for years" the destruction of nuclear weapons, and place the treaty in danger. After saying that Russia will press Ukraine to abandon its position, he added that Russia has also "begun difficult negotiations with North Korea," on achieving non-proliferation.

As for Armenia, Kozyrev addressed an incident that took place on Nov. 20, where Armenian forces fired on a convoy carrying a Russian mediator in the Armenia-Azerbaijan war. Kozyrev demanded from Armenia a "public apology" for the incident, and "security guarantees" for Russian peace mediators travelling in combat areas. He rejected the Armenian version of the incident, according to which the attack was a response to an Azerbaijani provocation.

The eruption of "Armenia bashing" is linked to Moscow's regional dealings with Turkey. A Russian military delegation arrived in Turkey in mid-November, asking

Turkey to agree to the transfer of three Russian divisions and several independent brigades from the Baltic coast to the Russian North Caucasus Military District.

Russia claims that this is not a violation of the CFE conventional force limitations treaty, because, since the dissolution of the U.S.S.R., Turkey is no longer bordered by Russia, but by independent republics. Therefore, the North Caucasus is no longer a "flank region," but a "rear area," and thus is no longer bound to the force limitations for "flank regions."

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## **Russia, China sign defense agreement**

Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev signed a five-year cooperation agreement in Beijing on Nov. 11. The accord is designed "to restore the close ties that united them before," Grachev told the press. This was the first visit of a Russian defense minister to Beijing since the collapse of the Soviet Union in August 1991.

According to Moscow Itar-Tass, the accord calls for consultations between the defense leaders, information exchange, and avoiding dangerous situations on land and sea. Grachev told the press, however, that "we are not going to conclude a union. We decided to strengthen bilateral and equal ties, not infringing upon the two states' interests. That is a perspective for further development of Russo-Chinese relations."

Regional security issues were discussed, said Grachev, and "we agreed that security in the Asian-Pacific region will be more durable if our bilateral relations are strong."

Grachev claimed that issues of military-technological cooperation were not on the agenda, since arms sales are beyond the sphere of the defense ministries. Last year, China bought \$1 billion worth of arms from Russia. In addition, there are an estimated 1,000 Russian scientists in China. Japan's *Yomiuri Shimbun* has reported that China and Russia are cooperating on the development of a new jet fighter called Super 7, a program included in the Sino-Russian

Agreement on Technical Cooperation in the Defense Sphere. The Chinese had originally planned to use U.S. technology for the jet fighter, but switched to Russia when the United States imposed a military ban on China.

Grachev's visit follows the visit in September of Chinese Defense Minister Chi to Russia, and also the visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles Freeman to Beijing early in November, after which Freeman said that the United States was ready to resume military cooperation with Beijing.

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## **Thai leader backs India on NPT**

Thanat Khoman, Thailand's former foreign minister and deputy prime minister, announced in New Delhi in mid-November that he supports India's stand on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. India did the right thing in not signing the NPT, because of its discriminatory character, Khoman said.

He said he deplored the use of terrorism as a political weapon and accused the West of using it at times to change situations not to its liking. He said the worst form of terrorism was being perpetuated in the former Yugoslavia, and that the West was doing absolutely nothing to stop this.

Khoman was chargé d'affaires at the Thai Embassy in Delhi between 1947 and 1949, and was personally known to Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian independence leaders. He is currently chairman of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Institute of Technology in Bangkok.

Asked what he thought of U.S. security doctrine for the Asia-Pacific region, Khoman expressed puzzlement: "We don't know what the U.S. policy is. From the developments in Somalia and Yugoslavia, one could say that the United States has no definite or well-defined policy on anything, including the Asia-Pacific. . . . We do not understand what they want. I will be happy if anyone explains to me what the U.S. policy on the Asia-Pacific even is."

# Briefly

● **THE IRAQI MAN** arrested as the chief of an alleged Saddam Hussein conspiracy to murder former President George Bush was a participant in the Anglo-American-backed Shiite rebellion seeking to overthrow Saddam following the Gulf war, according to the *Washington Post* of Nov. 22. Wali Ghazali claims that Iraqi intelligence forced him to plot against Bush.

● **FRENCH** Defense Minister François Léotard contradicted the prevailing western line on the new Russian military doctrine, pointing out that there is still plenty of reason to be concerned about Russia's military capabilities. "Within five or six years, any country with the appropriate industrial capacities could turn into a threat to its neighbors," he warned.

● **COLOMBIA'S** Constitutional Court ruled that hospitals should limit their care to those persons they believe can be cured. "It makes no sense to fill hospital wards and beds with people who have been provided all possible services, with no hope that their health will improve, since by doing so you are depriving others of receiving attention which could lead to acceptable results in their cases," said a court spokesman.

● **BOSNIAN PRESIDENT** Alija Izetbegovic said on Nov. 19, "We are not giving up on a unitary Bosnia and Hercegovina. We shall try to achieve this politically. If it's not possible, we have to do everything to achieve it militarily." Izetbegovic spoke after returning from a tour of government-held territory in central and north-central Bosnia.

● **THE VATICAN** announced on Nov. 17 that it was close to reaching an agreement with Israel that is expected to lead to diplomatic ties and clear the way for a historic papal visit to Israel. A brief statement said the work of a commission on bilateral problems set up in July 1992 had gone well and was "close to conclusion."