

International Intelligence

New Russian military doctrine causes concern

The new Russian military doctrine may seem to some to be reassuring to the West, but looked at carefully, it provides the Russian military with an "all directions" capability, giving the chief of the General Staff and the government a vast "latitude for action" and raising the likelihood of many interventions, particularly in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States, writes Prof. John Erickson of the University of Edinburgh in the French monthly *Le Monde Diplomatique* in January.

He says that for the first time in history, the Russian military has been given full control over all matters of military production, something which they could not achieve even under the czars. Troops will be stationed "forward," namely along the frontiers of the former Soviet Union. The air forces are greatly upgraded, as well as capacities in "precision weapons." Battalions and rapid deployment forces are increasingly to be relied upon.

The Moscow Military District is being upgraded, as the core of the first strategic echelon, drawing upon forces from the west and northwest. Elsewhere, unified command structures are being put in place, immediately in the Far East, and next in Siberia and Trans-Baikal. Such a group of forces already exists in the Caucasus. Considerable capabilities are being developed toward the south, for intervention in "local conflicts."

Bonn looks to Irangate ties in Barschel death

The case of the 1987 death of Uwe Barschel, the prime minister of the German state of Schleswig-Holstein, has been reopened, with reports in the German press on Jan. 6 indicating that Barschel was meeting with top people in the international arms trade right before he died. Although these accounts never explicitly call into question the

official "suicide" story, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and other papers hint that Barschel may have been murdered.

The stories have been provoked by an official response to a parliamentary question put forward by a leading official of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) in Schleswig-Holstein. The response affirms that "the German government has several hints that Uwe Barschel, before he died, met several persons in Geneva."

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* adds that "it is now known" that at the time Barschel died, he had been involved in meetings with arms traders, the which meetings included participation of Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmed. Two top-level Iranians, Kashani and Habibollahi, bought an airport in Schleswig-Holstein to which Barschel's brother Haike is connected. Companies at this airport, which have also been bought up by these Iranians, are involved in electronics and aerospace deals with Iran. A third factor is that Schleswig-Holstein itself is the center of international arms-trafficking to eastern Europe, South Africa, and the Mediterranean. Fourth, the Beau Rivage Hotel in Geneva, where Barschel's body was found, is owned by Pakistani arms traders who are connected to a Schleswig-Holstein industrial network. Finally, the medicine that killed Barschel is produced only in eastern Europe.

On Oct. 23, 1987, soon after Barschel was found dead, *EIR* published an article titled "Uwe Barschel Affair May Upset New Yalta, Irangate Arrangements," with the kicker, "Is German Politician's Death Tied to North Network?" referring to Irangate's Lt. Col. Oliver North.

Yeltsin's policies seen as like Zhirinovsky's

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is pushing imperialist policies not so different from those of Third Rome ideologue Vladimir Zhirinovsky, while cynically claiming to be a bulwark against what Zhirinovsky represents, wrote the Moscow correspondent of

the Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* on Jan. 4.

"President Yeltsin, in his New Year's speech, emphatically assured Russians living outside Russia of his solidarity," the journalist wrote. "Moscow is defending the common interests, and will further defend them, and, indeed, 'with more energy and greater decisiveness.' With these words, Yeltsin once more demonstrated that he is not inclined to relinquish, without a fight, the arena of chauvinism to the nationalists of Zhirinovsky and the communists. From this standpoint, not only is it worrisome that the latent imperialist posture that the head of state thereby has again adopted as his own, but above all the fact that he is not decisively battling the extremists, but is rather partially taking over their postulates.

"This is, however, playing with fire. If today there is still anybody who would be in a situation to formulate a counterposition to the aggressive Great Russian Zhirinovsky, it is Yeltsin. However, the head of state has been playing, even before the election success of the right-wing extremists, the game of confrontation with foreigners. For a good year already, the President has let his ministers deal ever more harshly with the states of the CIS and the Baltics. Simultaneously, he presents himself abroad as a type of bulwark against reaction and hatred of foreigners in Russia."

The article points to the absurdity of supporting as legitimate, a man who seems to make imperialism "respectable," when that can, at any time, turn into an "open and aggressive imperialism."

Russian troops built German mafia networks

Berlin's special prosecutor handling cases of illegal smuggling by Russian troops in Germany says that Russian officers are building criminal mafias that will stay behind after the last Russian troops leave the country as scheduled in the fall of 1994. Prosecutor Ulf Hagemann stated, "the supposed political advantages are overshadowed

Briefly

owed by the mammoth damage to Germany," a reference to the clauses in the Germany-Russian Treaty regulating troop withdrawal.

The treaty forbids German police from inspecting Russian bases and transport vehicles. The Russian troops, like NATO units, are allowed to import customs duty- and tax-free cigarettes, alcohol, stereo equipment, etc. Import-export companies in Berlin and other eastern German cities procure the goods for supposed sale to the Russian military procurement offices on the bases, but then divert the goods into the black market in Germany. These companies are the legitimate fronts for the Russian mafia that will stay behind once the troops leave.

According to Hagemann, Russian officers control this procurement, which has already run into billions of deutschemarks in losses for the government.

China warns against independence for Kashmir

The People's Republic of China has told both India and Pakistan that it opposes any form of independence for Kashmir, because it fears the United States could use Kashmir as a base to destabilize China, the London *Daily Telegraph* reported on Jan. 4 from Lahore, Pakistan. High-level Chinese military delegations have visited both India and Pakistan in recent weeks, and have told their counterparts that although China would like a negotiated settlement to the Kashmiri problem, it is absolutely opposed to independence.

India and Pakistan have fought three futile wars over Kashmir. Two-thirds of it belongs to India and one-third to Pakistan; it also borders on China. Talks on the Kashmir crisis between India and Pakistan ended recently with no solution.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto did not get the "traditional" support from China on Pakistan's stance on Kashmir when she was in Beijing in December. According to a diplomat accompanying Bhutto, "The Chinese said that the Americans

are already undermining them through Tibet and Xinjiang, and Kashmir would become another hotbed of anti-Chinese activity."

China has at other times likened an independent Kashmir to "another Israel in the heart of Asia." Beijing has also said that with three wars ongoing in the region—in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kashmir—China is also concerned about the spread of Islamic radicalism in Xinjiang, the westernmost central Asian region of China. Soldiers from Xinjiang are fighting in Afghanistan, and hundreds were trained there during the Afghani war against the Soviet Union.

Belarus finally joins Russian-led community

Belarus agreed early in January to join the Russian-led Community of Independent States, when the old communist nomenklatura that controls the government and parliament forced President Stanislav Shushkevich to abandon his opposition to joining the security pact. Given the correlation of forces in Belarus, Shushkevich could have been forced into capitulation much earlier, but Moscow chose to time the event with the eve of the NATO summit and with President Clinton's visit to Moscow and Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

The decision means that Russia has for all intents and purposes militarily expanded westwards to the main part of the Polish eastern border.

The decision was also timed to coincide with the Moscow meeting between Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, which resulted in signing an agreement which brings Belarus into an economic union with Russia. Under the terms of the agreement, Belarus surrenders its sovereignty in all crucial areas of economic and financial policy, putting these under the control of the Russian government and central bank.

This Russian reconquest of Belarus will be used by Moscow, with Anglo-American support, to increase the pressure on Ukraine in the coming weeks.

● **YELTSIN IS DYING**, alleged the Swedish daily *Expressen* on Jan. 5, citing sources close to the Swedish government. The article reports that the Russian President is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, "a sickness which first and foremost hits alcohol abusers." Swedish intelligence services are reportedly discussing how to deal with "a world without Yeltsin."

● **TURKISH** Prime Minister Tansu Ciller announced that plans to reduce the size of the Turkish military have been reversed, due to continuing fighting with the Kurds. "We need at least 110,000 troops in the southeast for the fight," she said. The move will reverse plans to cut the conscription period from 18 to 15 months. Commentators claimed that the move was also a response to the instability in Russia and possible increased tensions with Greece.

● **LITHUANIA** on Jan. 4 became the first former Soviet republic to apply to join NATO. President Algirdas Brazauskas said in a televised address that he had written to NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner formally presenting Lithuania's membership application.

● **BOSNIAN** Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, visiting Pakistan on Jan. 9, charged that "the international community, which had promised peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has done nothing." Those who have imposed the arms embargo "should either act or let us act," he said. "We should be given an opportunity to defend ourselves."

● **BRITISH** Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd dismissed the idea of extending NATO, in a speech reported by the *Financial Times* on Jan. 10. "Are the U.S. Congress, the House of Commons, the French Assembly, the [German] Bundestag solemnly ready to guarantee with the lives of their citizens, the frontiers of, say, Slovakia? If not, or if not yet, then it would be a deceit to pretend otherwise," he said.