

# International Intelligence

---

## ***Britain's Tory party suffers election losses***

The Conservative Party of Prime Minister John Major suffered massive losses on May 5, in municipal elections throughout the United Kingdom. With approximately 5,000 candidates vying for 1,500 seats in local councils around the country, BBC reported that these are the "worst ever" results suffered by the Tories in local elections.

The Conservatives lost in various local councils that they have controlled for over 100 years. They also lost in Basildon, an area where Prime Minister Major campaigned personally. Overall, the Tories are credited with a meager 26.5% of the vote, in contrast to the Labour Party's 40%. The Liberal Democrats gained most, relative to the last local elections.

Labour Party head John Smith said that the Conservatives had been "humiliated" by the results. There is widespread discussion, according to BBC, that Major may have to step down soon, and will face a leadership challenge within Tory ranks "in the next months." Conservative Party chairman Sir Norman Fowler hurriedly dismissed reports that Major would resign.

---

## ***Tarpley: British out to wreck U.S. and Mexico***

Webster Tarpley, the president of the Schiller Institute in the United States and a member of *EIR's* editorial board, told a press conference in Mexico City on May 4 that the same British intelligence operation that is running the "Whitewater" destabilization of the U.S. presidency is also out to destroy Mexico.

According to the Mexican daily *El Herald* on May 5, Tarpley said, "There is a British intelligence network plotting in Mexico and the United States to destabilize both countries and to destroy such solid institutions as the Catholic Church and the Mexican Army, with the primary beneficiary being PRD presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas." Tarpley presented

an analysis of the Chiapas insurrection and the murders of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio and Cardinal Juan José Posadas Ocampo, and said, "None of the principal intellectual authors of those events is a Mexican," reported *El Herald*. "Mainly, these involve members of the Hollinger Corp., such as former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who are orchestrating a campaign to discredit important institutions in both countries."

Tarpley said that Mexico "is important to London because of its proximity to the United States and its leadership role in Latin America." The Hollinger Corp., he said, according to *El Herald*, "the same group that concocted the Whitewater scandal against Clinton, includes at least 80 American newspapers, and the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sunday Telegraph* are part of that corporation." He added that "the British want to remain as the arbiters of international diplomacy, politics, and finance, and they have even forecast that Clinton will remain in the presidency only until the end of this year."

---

## ***Spain hit with more scandals, resignations***

The political crisis in Spain intensified during the first week in May, with new scandals, arrests, and resignations by the day. During the 24-hour period of May 4-5:

- Agriculture Minister Vicente Albero resigned, having been implicated in a financial speculation scheme together with Madrid Stock Exchange chief Manuel de la Concha.

- De La Concha and former Bank of Spain head Mariano Rubio were arrested, charged with involvement in tax fraud and falsifying public documents. Current Bank of Spain head Angel Rojo is also being named as involved in illicit activity.

- The former and current interior ministers resigned their parliamentary seats, as did the parliamentary whip of the Socialist Party (PSOE), Carlos Solchaga.

- The head of the Catalan National Par-

ty, Jorge Pujol, who steered his party into the ruling coalition that keeps the government of Prime Minister Felipe González in power, declared that he now supports early general elections.

- The Spanish stock exchange fell by nearly 2%, and Spain's debt rating was lowered.

- Prime Minister González told a press conference that he was prepared to face a vote of no-confidence in the Parliament. Rumors are rife that he will step down, however, perhaps to be replaced by another Socialist as President for an interim period.

---

## ***Yemen civil war worsens; foreigners are leaving***

Fighting is escalating between north and south Yemen, as both Sanaa, the national capital located in the north, and the former southern capital of Aden came under military attack during the first week in May. Southern forces launched a Scud B missile which hit Sanaa, while northern forces continue their drive south to the port city of Shuqrah, which would isolate Aden from the rest of southern Yemen.

Northern military leaders are said to be committed to capturing Aden and have branded the southern leaders loyal to Ali Salem al-Biedh, former President of South Yemen and former prime minister of the United Yemen, as "war criminals." Over 400 foreigners have been evacuated, including French, British, German, and Russian nationals. U.S. State Department mediator Robert Pelletreau was reported to be stranded in Sanaa.

British intelligence sources are blaming Saudi Arabia for fomenting the fighting. Interviewed by BBC on May 5, the *Economist Intelligence Unit's* Andrew Smith said that the Saudis were "not happy about seeing Yemen unified." A unified Yemen has, by far, the largest population of any country in the Arabian Gulf, and also has oil reserves. The Saudis, he said, have been "actively undermining Yemeni reunification."

The Saudis are also angry at Yemen for

its opposition to the Gulf war, although Smith did not mention that. They further resent the fact that Jordan's King Hussein, who heads the Hashemite dynasty that is traditionally a rival of the Wahhabites of Saudi Arabia, had, some months back, successfully mediated between north and south in Yemen.

Smith said that what was unfolding now was "the beginning of the end of a unified Yemen; there is an absolute drift toward separation."

---

## ***New crackdown on dissent in China***

The Chinese National People's Congress has promulgated 18 new repressive measures to reinforce the country's arsenal of juridical security measures, in an obvious sign of growing nervousness about social and political unrest in the country. This was reported by Agence France Presse (AFP) from Beijing on May 6.

These measures, announced by Prime Minister Li Peng, are intended to "reinforce the struggle against political opponents" and to bolster the Jan. 1, 1987 law on measures to be taken against "threats to public order." The new decrees are directed mainly against "dissidents, Muslims, and Tibetans," according to AFP. Among the actions that can be considered as "undermining public order" are: activities by "non-registered associations"; activities by "superstitious sects and secret societies," which undermine the health and well-being of the population; and "fomenting conflicts between nationalities and promoting separatism."

The French daily *Libération* added that, according to information from human rights groups, there has recently been a new round of arrests of dissidents, and condemnations to hard labor in "reeducation camps," despite Beijing's propaganda about softening up and releasing dissidents.

In what is apparently a related development, Reuters reported on a legal order issued in Beijing, to weed out older army commanders and place the officer corps un-

der greater control of the communist government. The Central Military Commission, headed by President Jiang Zemin, decreed that the rank of first-grade general will be eliminated, in a move designed to reinforce the country's supreme commander, who would have no peer. Also, it was decreed that officers' pay would be raised, and that the mandatory retirement age would be lowered. These are seen as moves to placate restless second-ranking officers.

---

## ***German politicians reject myth of 'Islamic threat'***

Politicians across the political spectrum in Germany are indicating that they don't buy the idea of an "Islamic threat" to the West, and are calling for a dialogue to prevent conflicts between the Christian West and the Islamic South.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and his Dutch counterpart agreed in public, at a joint German-Dutch conference in Mannheim on May 3, that the Islamic states do not automatically constitute a "fundamentalist threat." Kinkel added that the German population opposes religiously motivated crusades.

Defense Minister Volker Rühle declared in Washington, D.C. on May 3, after meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, that Germany is committed to participate in U.N. "Blue Helmet" missions in the future, including outside Europe, but on condition that it does not occur in the context of "religious" wars nor in another war like the 1991 war against Iraq, which he said would not find a majority of Germans to back it today.

Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt declared at a presentation of his new book in Berlin on May 3, that he disagrees with Samuel Huntington's thesis of the religiously motivated "clash of civilizations," especially where it is based on the assumption that Islam as a whole constitutes a threat to the Christian West. Schmidt said that if the West did not keep a dialogue with Islamic countries, such a "clash" might become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

● **GEN. RATKO MLADIC**, commander of the Serbian forces in Bosnia, threatened in an interview with the Belgrade journal *Duga*: "I have only liberated what belongs to the Serbs. But I haven't yet finished my job. Trieste is an old Serbian city. This war will end somewhere between Trieste and Vienna."

● **RUSSIAN** Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev harshly rejected NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program on May 7. It "does not suit Russia," he said. "Russia needs a more serious program of cooperation, one that corresponds to its status and special conditions."

● **THE GERMAN** Ministry of Justice has charged Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, former director of the East German Commercial Coordination agency, with spending 37 million marks (\$22 million) of public money on furnishing the villas of former communist leader Erich Honecker and others. Schalck-Golodkowski, a key link in the East-West arms trade, has already been charged with arms smuggling.

● **LAVRENTI BERIA**, Stalin's security chief, may be rehabilitated, according to an article from the London *Sunday Times* reprinted in *The Australian* on May 3. Beria's son Sergo has written a book claiming that his father "was no worse than any of the other Politburo members who took part in Stalin's purges."

● **THE DUTCH** Christian Democratic Party (CDA) suffered heavy losses in parliamentary elections on May 3, as a result of growing disgust with the government's austerity policies. The CDA lost 35% of its voter support, dropping from 54 seats in parliament to 34 seats. Its coalition partner in the government, the Labor Party (PVDA), lost 25% of its constituency, going from 49 seats to 38.