

International Intelligence

Referendum quashed, cooling Crimea crisis

At the eleventh hour, the Parliament of Crimea voted to cancel the planned June 25 referendum on the future status of the region. At stake was the question of whether Crimea, which has an ethnic Russian majority, should remain part of the independent nation of Ukraine. Also, voters were being asked to recognize the previous Crimean Constitution.

In the May 31 vote, the Crimean Parliament also adopted a resolution instructing their committee on constitutional questions to continue its work "on the basis of the laws of Ukraine." These are very conciliatory votes and signal that some arrangement was reached between Moscow and Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, to cool out the crisis, according to *EIR's* Ukrainian sources.

The next nodal point in Russian-Ukrainian relations was expected to be on June 9, at an informal summit between Presidents Yeltsin and Kuchma at the Black Sea resort town of Sochi.

Greenie author: Use cults to curb violence

Mankind can't eliminate violence, but it can try to contain its excesses by cults, is what a new book, *Hot Peace*, by Antje Vollmer, a founding member of the Green party and (since November 1994) deputy chair of the Parliament of Germany, states. Advocating a "third phase of civilization" to cool down the "hot peace" after the end of the Cold War, Vollmer confesses her belief that "sacrificial cults, myths, and rites not only have been instruments of enslaving human souls by magic but very often also have been regulatory systems of great wisdom and understanding of man."

As far as the "third phase of civilization" (the first, in her view, is the entire ancient/medieval period before the Thirty Years' War; the second, the period from the end of that war to the present time) is concerned,

she states that its prime promoters will be the Woodstock Generation, "the stars of rock music that belong to the long-desired avant garde of the new *citoyens*, the arrival of which has been awaited much too long."

The three world religions born in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—are worn out, in Vollmer's view: "That which has been thought there, dreamed about, inherited, and written down as rules of social conduct, commandments, standards, and values, has nearly been used up. Also morals and ethics of the peoples are a limited resource, they are like natural resources, like rain forests, arable land, the ozone layer, coming to an end through unbridled exploitation."

Vollmer is a theologian of the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD), and thus the book documents the advance of the counterculture inside the EKD.

Australian death bill seen as 'national shame'

Australia's Northern Territory (N.T.) government has passed a bill which makes it lawful for a doctor to administer a fatal substance to a terminally ill adult patient of sound mind. This is being described in Australia as "the first such bill passed by a parliament anywhere in the world." The mainstream media did not give the "Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill" a chance, but an immense amount of pressure and lobbying on members turned the bill from certain defeat (11-14), to passage on May 25 by 15-10 votes, after 14 hours of debate and 13 pages of amendments.

The extraordinary stakes involved were exemplified by the dramatic resignation from politics, including his parliamentary seat, by N.T. Chief Minister Marshall Peron, the bill's sponsor, in order to push the bill through, "free from politics of any kind," just 75 minutes before debate on the bill began.

From the United States, Gail Ateberry of the Oregon Right to Life said, "I believe the Northern Territory will become not only

the suicide capital of Australia, but the world." Robin Fletcher of the U.S. Hemlock Society applauded: "It's a test law and I'm sure the whole world will watch."

One of the key death lobbyists was Dr. Phillip Nietschke, a member of the Doctors for Change. He foreshadowed the "establishment of specialist euthanasia clinics" in the N.T. Nietschke described the strategy: "It was much simpler to get [the bill] up in the Territory with smaller numbers and without an upper house, but now that it has actually happened, it will make it so much easier elsewhere." All other states and territories except Tasmania are set to introduce their bills.

Mrs. Margaret Tighe, chairman of Right to Life Australia, issued a press release on May 26 accusing "the 15 legislators who voted in favor of the bill of deliberately ignoring the recommendations of bodies like the U.K. House of Lords Committee on Euthanasia, the Canadian Supreme Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the New York Task Force on Life and the Law—all of which rejected the concept of legalized euthanasia." She called May 25 "a day of national shame."

Cisneros being squeezed out of Venezuela

The Organization Diego Cisneros (ODC) of Venezuela, which represents the political and financial interests of the Cisneros family in that country, is being formally eliminated, as the various members of that family are actively selling off the majority of their assets inside Venezuela. According to author Florencio Tovar, writing in the May 31 issue of *Economía Hoy*, the group has decided to withdraw from all of its holdings except Venevisión and Telcel (television and cellular telephones), and focus on rebuilding its empire outside the country. Tovar makes no mention of the legal cases pending against Ricardo Cisneros.

Brothers Ricardo and Gustavo are reportedly in Chile and Spain, respectively, from which they plan to recover economic

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and political ground. Inside Venezuela, they have sold off such major holdings as Helados Tio Rico to Unilever; the juice-processing company Yukery went bankrupt and they are trying to sell it to Heinz Corp.; and the chain stores CADA and Maxys have been sold.

In April 1994, the Cisneros interests used their power to frame up their most outspoken political critic, Alejandro Peña, leader of the Venezuelan Labor Party and a longtime collaborator of American economist Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. The attempt backfired and Peña was exonerated of the heavy criminal charges in May 1994.

Pope: 'Image of God' key for women's conference

Pope John Paul II expressed his views on the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in September, in a meeting with Gertrude Mongella, the conference's secretary general on May 26, the Vatican Information Service reported.

If solutions to the issues and problems raised at the conference are to be honest and permanent, the pontiff said, they "cannot but be based on the recognition of the inherent, inalienable dignity of women, and the importance of women's presence and participation in all aspects of social life." In fact, he added, "the recognition of the dignity of every human being is the foundation and support of the concept of universal rights. For believers, that dignity and the rights that stem from it are solidly grounded in the truth of the human being's creation in the image and likeness of God."

Alluding to the agenda that radical feminists hope to bring to the conference, the pope argued that "no response to women's issues can ignore women's role in the family. . . . In order to respect this natural order of things, it is necessary to counter the misconception that the role of motherhood is oppressive to women."

He added that the Holy See has no inten-

tion of trying to limit the influence and activity of women in society, but emphasized that economic development in particular will allow for "equitable access not only between the least developed, developing and richer countries . . . but also between men and women."

Pope John Paul II told Mongella that "we must hope that the conference will set a course that avoids the reefs of exaggerated individualism, with its accompanying moral relativism, or, on the opposite side, the reefs of social and cultural conditioning which does not permit women to become aware of their own dignity, with drastic consequences for the proper balance of society and with continuing pain and despair on the part of so many women."

Swedish ADC confronts the Rolling Stones

The Rolling Stones, one of the most notorious pro-drug rock groups, conducted a tour through Sweden in the first week of June. The high point of the tour was to be a mass concert, held on June 4, at the Arena Stadium in Stockholm. This stadium, which was built at the beginning of this century, features as its sculptured decor, the swastika, an ancient cult symbol which the Nazis later adopted.

On the occasion of the Rolling Stones concert, Ulf Sandmark, editor of the Swedish Anti-Drug Coalition's magazine *Stoppa Knarket*, issued the following statement under the headline, "The Rolling Stones Hit Stockholm."

"The only feature of the Rolling Stones' haunt of Stockholm which is appropriate, is the fact that no one has yet removed the 13 swastikas from the gallery poles of the Arena Stadium."

The coalition distributed 3,000 back issues of *Stoppa Knarket* the day before the event, featuring an article by Don Phau unmasking the satanic nature of the Rolling Stones and other such groups. The Anti-Drug Coalitions movement was co-founded by Lyndon LaRouche in 1978.

● **IN MOSCOW**, the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture has just printed two issues of its *Bulletin*, featuring Russian translations of reports from *EIR*: "Lord Palmerston's Multicultural Human Zoo" (April 1994) and "Prospects for Russian Economic Recovery," by Lyndon LaRouche (February 1995).

● **ARGENTINA**, in yet one more display of declining sovereignty, will let the British government join the Organization of American States in September with official observer status. Since the 1982 Malvinas War, the OAS has admitted so many tiny Caribbean "nations," that Queen Elizabeth II is now head of state of 14 OAS members.

● **LYON, FRANCE** will have 14 candidates on the New Solidarity Federation slate in the first round of local elections on June 11. They are supporters of former French presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade (a frequent contributor to *EIR*). The candidates are stressing the solution to the international financial breakdown as primary, while also addressing such local concerns as housing, drugs, and culture.

● **HAITI** graduated its first class of new "depoliticized" police officers on June 3, after four months of training. President Jean-Baptiste Aristide, in his speech, let the cat out of the bag by leading the class in the chant, "Alone we are weak, together we are strong, together, together we are Lavalas." Lavalas was the name of Aristide's "necklacing" gangs before he was reimposed on the island by a U.S. invading force.

● **JAPANESE** Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, who has been pressing for a "rethinking" of the collapsing world monetary system, was threatened with assassination by "rightists," Japanese officials told *EIRNS* on June 5. At the time of the threat, he was speaking in favor of the resolution that Japan apologize for its conduct in World War II.