

# International Intelligence

## **Russian elites ask Yeltsin to end war**

On Jan. 6, one hundred prominent Russian intellectuals published an open letter imploring President Boris Yeltsin to stop the "fratricidal war" in Chechnya, the *Washington Post* reported on Jan. 7. Meanwhile, heavy combat is reported between Russian troops and rebel forces there. The "unusual" letter was published on the front page of *Izvestia*. The conflict has taken an estimated 20,000 lives and is considered to have been the result of poor policies by the Yeltsin administration.

"At the end of the 20th century, when the principle of political settlement even unravels such knots as those in the Middle East and Ulster, the Chechen war appears for the Russian and world community to be a wild anachronism," the letter said. Defense Minister Pavel Grachov, meanwhile, predicted that the fighting would intensify.

## **Polish premier accused of espionage**

Under pressure from the opposition and public opinion, Polish Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy announced on Jan. 8 that he would take a week's leave of absence due to the pending investigation of espionage allegations against him.

On Dec. 19, then minister of internal affairs, Andrzej Milczanowski, a close collaborator of Lech Walesa, presented the allegations and passed documentation to the Prosecutor's Office. A special Sejm committee had been investigating the case since then.

Prime Minister Oleksy confessed that he made a mistake keeping close personal contacts with a Russian agent, but he insisted that the contacts did not involve spying and that he was innocent. Oleksy indirectly admitted in a television interview that his friendship with Vladimir Alganov, a Moscow diplomat and an intelligence officer in Warsaw in 1981-92, was very close and in-

involved joint hunting trips.

Wiktor Fonfara, head of the Internal Affairs Ministry investigation department, said ministry documents on Oleksy are "fully credible" and were compiled during an investigation into the "foreign spy network."

In a private conversation, one Polish deputy of the Sejm told *EIR* that the charges came from a western intelligence service in autumn 1995. The deputy is convinced that the scandal, which is one more involving SLD deputies, may lead to the destruction of the coalition (the government is based on two parties: SLD and PSL).

## **European-wide pattern of government reshuffles**

Shifts in government are expected all over Europe this year, due to the escalating process of decomposition of the political elites and their parties, under the impact of economic depression, fiscal and debt crises, and increasing social unrest.

- France: A reshuffle of the Alain Juppé cabinet and maybe even his replacement cannot be ruled out, as none of the problems that provoked the November/December mass strike wave have been solved, and nationwide discontent with the new round of tax increases beginning on Jan. 1, is certain to again hit the government.

- Britain: With Prime Minister John Major commanding a tiny parliamentary majority of only three seats in the parliament, and with the certainty that more than three of the aged members of the Tory group in the parliament will die and that Major's party will lose the required by-elections, it is generally expected that Major won't escape the necessity of calling early elections ahead of the scheduled spring 1997 date. .

- Spain: Elections for parliament will be held on March 3, one year ahead of schedule.

- Greece: The expected passing of hospitalized President Andreas Papandreou will not only pose the question of his replacement, but also of early elections for parliament.

- Italy: A decision is still pending for early general elections, although President Lamberto Scalfaro refused to dismiss Prime Minister Luigi Dini at present.

- Germany: Even in the "European beacon of stability," early mid-term elections (December 1996 or before) are considered possible. This hangs on the uncertain fate of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic-Free Democratic coalition beyond the three state-level elections March 24, which will see 25% of the nation's electorate voting on the future of the Free Democratic Party liberals in the state parliaments of Rhineland-Palatinate, Schleswig-Holstein, and Baden-Württemberg.

It is generally expected that the FDP will be thrown out of all three parliaments. It has been leaked that Kohl and top executives of his Christian Democrats met before Christmas to discuss alternatives to the continuation of the coalition with the FDP.

## **Say Cossiga covered up 1980 Ustica tragedy**

Former Italian President Francesco Cossiga has been accused of having directed the cover-up of the downing of a civilian airliner over Ustica (Palermo), which occurred June 27, 1980, when Cossiga was prime minister. It resulted in 81 deaths. The Itavia airliner was hit by a French missile in the course of an air battle involving French and U.S. fighters on the one hand, and a Libyan plane, supposedly with Muammar Qaddafi on board.

The allegations are contained in dossiers found by Italian prosecutor Rosario Priore in the house of the former counterintelligence chief of the Italian military service (SISMI), Gen. Demetrio Cogliandro. Cogliandro's house was searched last December, but only on Jan. 5 was the information released to the press.

The main source for the new revelations is journalist Andrea Purgatori, who has worked in the past in collaboration with prosecutor Priore, and with the association of victims of the Ustica "accident." Purga-

## Briefly

**RICHARD LEAKEY** is called a "Master of Deceit," in a new book released in Britain, which accuses Leakey of fraud, theft, blackmail, and racism. Leakey recently formed a political party to overthrow Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, who, the book says, was personally prevented by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip from firing Leakey as head of the National Museums of Kenya.

**CONFESSED** assassin Yigal Amir told Israeli interrogators that there were "several strange" aspects to the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli radio reported Jan. 3. Amir reported that his brother had suggested including Avishai Raviv, the leader of Eyal, their terrorist group, in the plot, but "I objected because we knew Raviv was from the security service."

**MITTERRAND**, the former two-term President of France who died Jan. 8 after a long illness, was eulogized around the world—but not in Sarajevo. Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic said that François Mitterrand "falls into the category of politicians who did not stop the genocide in Bosnia, and Bosnia has no reason to commemorate him."

**RAFAH KEBIR**, the exiled leader of Algeria's FIS (Islamic Salvation Front), will not be expelled from Germany as an alleged "FIS extremist" despite an effort by the Aachen foreign affairs office to lift his political asylum status.

**THE BRITISH** royal family is "the biggest family of narcotraffickers who ever existed," wrote *Corriere della Sera*, Italy's largest daily, in an editorial Jan. 2. Editorialist Emilio Tadini points out, "There have been two wars between England and China in the last century . . . and both have been called 'Opium War'; . . . As if today the government of Colombia declared war against us and—were they able to do it—sent their army to invade us and force us to import their heroin and their cocaine."

tori, who writes in *Corriere della Sera* on Jan. 6, was also author of a movie on the case, "The Rubber Wall." According to Purgatori, on June 27, 1980, the following scenario unfolded: "Qaddafi's plane flying in the Tyrrhenian sky, false Libyan fighters to intercept and down it in the framework of a secret operation, Colonel Qaddafi's escort reacting, American and French fighters take off, and then the air battle, followed by the Italian Air Defense radars. The Itavia DC9, having taken off from Bologna with two hours delay, flying to Palermo with 81 persons on board, was in the wrong place at the wrong time. A missile (French) hits it, while a Libyan MiG is also hit and crashes in the Sila mountains" of Calabria.

According to Purgatori, "The details contained in the 15 files on the Ustica massacre, written by former SISMI Counterintelligence chief Demetrio Cogliandro, reconstruct a real war scenario, attributing to then-government head Francesco Cossiga the decision to hide the truth; they also draw our allies and our Libyan neighbor heavily into the game."

### **Venezuelan President: 'sweat, but not blood'**

Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera, in his televised speech to the nation Jan. 1, emphasized that he would not ask "blood, sweat, and tears," in the spirit of Winston Churchill, from his countrymen. "There has already been too much blood and many tears, but what I will ask for is 'sweat' from everyone"—that everyone work very hard to resolve the country's problems.

His speech reflected the pressure on Venezuela to cave in to the International Monetary Fund's austerity demands in exchange for a bridge loan. He placed great emphasis on the creation of an Oil Investment Fund (FIP), which appears to be a mechanism for increasing "domestic savings"—a typical demand of Wall Street and the IMF. Caldera emphasized that the oil fund will be a way of "democratizing capital, because it will allow the savings of smaller and medium-sized in-

vestors to be directed toward the oil industry."

Meanwhile, Venezuela's labor federation is demanding at least a 50% wage increase, up from 15,000 bolivars to 40,000 bolivars. With subsidies for transportation and food added in, the total would be 56,000, or \$193.

To ease the burden of new austerity measures and price increases, on Jan. 5 the Caldera government announced a new system of subsidies that will cover more than half of the 21 million Venezuelans. Three million families will receive a monthly "family subsidy" of 2,800 bolivars (\$9.66), intended to replace the existing system of food stamps for milk, rice, and flour. As of Jan. 1, prices on many food staples and medicines increased by as much as 50%. According to Family Minister Mercedes Pulido, 49% of Venezuelans now live in poverty.

### **Swedish king admits nuclear energy needed**

"If we want to keep our welfare and protect the environment, it will be very difficult to liquidate nuclear energy," Swedish King Carl Gustaf XVI stated in his Christmas address on Dec. 16, 1995. The leader of the Green party, Birger Schlaug, denounced the king at once, but many other politicians, including one from the very green Center Party, approved of the statement.

By 2010, all Swedish nuclear power plants are supposed to be turned off. That in itself presents a big threat to national interests, such as the paper-mill industry and other energy-intensive industries. The king chose to emphasize the need to save the remaining four big "natural" rivers from being exploited for water power.

The king is honorary chairman of the board of the Swedish World Wide Fund for Nature, where nuclear energy's future is a hot factional issue. The same goes for the "greenhouse effect"; even the staunchest foe of nuclear energy in the Swedish WWF board admitted that global warming "is a complete bluff."