

# International Intelligence

## ***Franco-British Air Group holds 'rescue' exercise***

The first maneuvers of the Franco-British Air Group took place over Sept. 24-27, under the title "Volcanex '96." Indicating the Entente Cordiale nature of the group, the exercise involved a simulated airborne rescue by special commandos of French and British citizens trapped in a "hostile country." The group is made up of combat aircraft, anti-air defense, air transport, and special units, and is based at High Wycombe in England. Italy has indicated it would like to join the air group.

More "discreet," reports *Libération* in its coverage of Volcanex 96, is France's buildup of British nuclear capacity, giving Britain "technical and scientific assistance . . . in nuclear weaponry." *Libération* continues: "Though never officially confirmed, this cooperation takes place within the framework of the 'very great proximity of our vital interests' which President Chirac mentioned on June 8, 1996." *EIR* readers may remember, better than M. le Président, that British-backed eco-terrorists threatened to kill Chirac, after he authorized the nuclear bomb tests in the French South Pacific.

## ***Izetbegovic demands justice for Bosnia***

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic sternly warned the UN General Assembly on Sept. 25 that the Dayton Accords, if not justly implemented, "will grow from a small and bearable injustice to a huge and intolerable injustice. And intolerable injustice leads to new conflicts." Izetbegovic continued: "The main deficiency is not in itself but in its implementation. All of the bad aspects of this agreement could be improved if it is very completely and consistently implemented. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

"According to that provision of the agreement, Herceg-Bosna, established as a federal state during the war, should cease to exist, but it still exists and impedes the building up of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Dayton peace accord envi-

sions that the second entity, the Republika Srpska, should facilitate the return to their homes of more than half a million expelled Bosniacs and Croats. This is not going on, but expulsions are continuing. . . . If there is no return of the expelled, there is no Republika Srpska. . . .

"I will complete this brief analysis of the implementation of the Dayton agreement by stating that the main war criminals—Karadzic and Mladic—are still free in spite of Dayton, in spite of the orders of the Hague tribunal and the elementary demands of justice."

The President stressed that "Bosnia and Herzegovina is still a recovering patient and it needs the world's support. The presence of the international military forces will be indispensable for a certain and limited period of time, and economic assistance is necessary for a longer period." He also scored the UN itself, "irresponsibility," in allowing the war to continue, for which Bosnians "have paid an infinitely high price."

## ***Rigged Armenian elections spark mass protests***

Some 150,000 Armenians demonstrated in Yerevan, on Sept. 24 for the second day, against the heavy vote fraud that secured the reelection of President Levon Ter-Petrosian on Sept. 22. An even larger mass protest took place on Sept. 25, as many people from the regions arrived in Yerevan, despite the lengthy travel and high cost, about two weeks' pay.

The opposition National Democratic Union announced that on the basis of the results it has seen, in 65% of the districts, their candidate, former Armenian President Vazgen Manukian, had won the elections, with 50-70% of the vote. Moreover, between 500,000 and 1 million expatriate Armenians, who have fled the nation's unspeakable economic conditions since 1992, were denied the right to cast absentee ballots. It is likely that they would have voted for Manukian.

Ter-Petrosian is clearly not sitting pretty with his "reelection": After the second round of protests, he sent tanks, troops, armored

personnel carriers, and riot police into central Yerevan. Manukian and several other opposition MPs were arrested. Ter-Petrosian accused the opposition of "attempting a coup." An emergency session of parliament voted for "criminal investigations" against Vazgen Manukian and seven other opposition MPs. The President then proclaimed on national TV that there had been "a threat of fascism from a group of mentally ill who planned to rule you."

## ***Political crises keep Southeast Asia unstable***

Over late September, ongoing political crises throughout Southeast Asia have continued to heat up, keeping the region's nations off-balance. In Myanmar, Indonesia, and Thailand previously reported destabilizations worsened over Sept. 26-27. In the Philippines, opposition to the recent peace accord in Mindanao took a bloody turn.

**Thailand:** Prime Minister Banham Silpa-Archa has decided to exercise his power to dissolve parliament and call a snap election on Nov. 17, after his six-party coalition failed to reach agreement on choosing his successor from among their ranks.

**Myanmar:** Very early on Sept. 27, police cordoned off the road leading to the home of Aung San Suu Kyi, declaring that her National League for Democracy had failed to get permission to hold a 200-person convention at her residence. A police captain said no one other than Suu Kyi would be allowed to enter the premises for 72 hours, and that would-be conference participants would be taken to "guesthouses" for questioning. Authorities said Suu Kyi has *not* been re-arrested.

**Indonesia:** As expected, authorities closed down the headquarters of Megawati Sukarnoputri's faction of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), although it appears that her attorneys had reached a compromise so as to avoid any confrontation.

**Philippines:** Front-page stories on Sept. 26 reported a major ambush of guerrillas allied to Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, and signator to

the Sept. 2 Mindanao Peace Accord. The ambush was carried out by 100 guerrillas linked to a breakaway group of eight MNLF commanders, who oppose the peace plan. The attack has not been reported outside of the Philippines.

## **Vatican spokesman blasts Australian euthanasia law**

Father Gino Concetti, a Vatican moral theologian close to Pope John Paul II, issued a statement Sept. 26, denouncing the world's first "legally assisted suicide," in Australia's Northern Territory. "No law of the state can justify euthanasia. This would mean the end of human civilization based on love and justice," Concetti said.

He was reacting to the case of an elderly cancer patient who became the first victim of the voluntary euthanasia law in Australia's Northern Territory.

"We must rail against the culture of death, because life, even that which is in a terminal state because of an atrocious and incurable illness, is inviolable and sacred," Concetti said. He rejected assertions by proponents of euthanasia that a life reduced to pain was essentially worthless. "Pain can be relieved by the appropriate drugs and . . . in Christian teaching it can even be the means for the redemption of the individual and for others," Concetti said.

## **South Korean President rattles the sabre**

South Korean President Kim Young-sam told journalists Sept. 23 that he is "seriously considering reviewing our policy toward North Korea" following the grounding of a North Korean submarine in the South on Sept. 18.

Kim told reporters that if a submarine sneaked into Osaka or Washington, "The United States and Japan would have probably started a war against the aggressor. The country should have disappeared, as the United States would have launched an attack." This is a direct reference to Bill Clinton's unfortunate early-1993 remarks, when

mis-briefed by Bush holdovers shortly after taking office, that if North Korea didn't stop its nuclear program, the U.S. would bomb it and North Korea "would cease to exist."

The North Koreans officially stated on Sept. 23 that the submarine was on a training mission with no intention to cause armed conflict and went aground in South Korean waters after engine failure. The North has demanded the return of the ship and crew, including the bodies of 18 men killed by Kim Young-sam's forces.

On Sept. 24, Seoul's Defense Ministry demanded the resumption of "Team Spirit" joint war games with the United States, which simulate an invasion of North Korea. Team Spirit exercises were dropped in late 1994 at the request of North Korea, as part of the Clinton peace agreement with North Korea.

A source close to the White House stressed to *EIR* that Clinton, in his Sept. 24 address to the UN General Assembly had "said he wants a comprehensive peace on the Korean peninsula, and he meant it."

## **Mandela holds firm against death penalty**

South African President Nelson Mandela said on Sept. 23 that he would not consider reinstating the death penalty, despite polls indicating that most South Africans want its return. "There will be no review by this government. We have outlawed the capital sentence," Mandela told a news briefing. Mandela reiterated that the death penalty went against fundamental human rights and was an outdated answer to crime.

There is increased pressure on the African National Congress to reinstate capital punishment. As trade union leaders have regularly pointed out, the crime rate has drastically increased, because there have been no credible economic solutions to deal with the 40% unemployment rate, and other economic dislocation. The crime wave recently prompted Justice Minister Dullah Omar to announce recently that the ruling ANC would reassess its opposition to the death penalty.

**JAPAN** will probably hold elections in late October, after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told his coalition government on Sept. 26 that he will dissolve the Lower House of the Diet on Sept. 27. Hashimoto's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is riding high in the polls, following the peaceful resolution of the crisis over U.S. bases in Okinawa.

**FRENCH INTELLIGENCE** was tied up with drug-running by the "Afghansis," according to *The War That Everyone Lost*, by ABC News correspondent John Cooley. Flora Lewis writes in the *International Herald Tribune* of Sept. 28, that Cooley, who cannot find a publisher, "tells how French intelligence gave the CIA the idea of encouraging the sale of drugs, to demoralize Soviet troops, [and] . . . to finance the war. . . ."

**A TOP CHINESE** general, Fu Quanyou, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, began an official six-day visit to Indonesia on Sept. 10. In a speech at Indonesia's National Defense Institute, Fu sharply criticized the line that China is a threat, which is "aimed at containing the development of China, sowing discord between China and its neighboring countries, and facilitating their arms sales."

**IRAN'S SPIRITUAL** leader Ali Khamenei told Teheran radio that he is against proposals to change the constitution to allow President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to run for a third term next July. "Rafsanjani has sincerely served the revolution and the state. When his Presidential term ends . . . we will assign him to other missions in the service of the revolution," he declared.

**A CAR BOMB** in late September exploded in the market of Boufarik, Algeria, 35 kilometers south of Algiers, killing 17 and wounding 75. No terrorist group has taken responsibility.