

International Intelligence

Portillo: NATO will face 'high-intensity' wars

Britain's Defense Secretary Michael Portillo told the Belgian Royal Institute of International Relations on Oct. 23 that NATO must be geared up for "high-intensity conflict" and listed 53 potential wars. The Balkans bloodletting (which Britain and France had done so much to keep going), had never presented NATO with a real threat, he said. "There are many armies in the world more capable than the Bosnian factions." Rather, he said, "future high-intensity conflicts may be short and sharp. There will be no opportunity for us to generate conscript reserves, or to manufacture new weaponry. The equipment is too sophisticated. You cannot build it fast, or quickly train people to use it. We must plan on the basis that what you start with, is all you'll get."

Portillo continued: "The likelihood of conflict is, if anything, increasing. . . . The last assessment I read had 53 entries, including the Balkans, the Transcaucasus, Algeria, Libya, Iraq. Seventeen of the potential troublespots are within 200 miles of NATO's borders. . . ." The speech coheres with Britain's concept of a reorganized NATO, centered on an Anglo-French Entente Cordiale, leading the London *Independent* to characterize it disingenuously as stressing "the importance of NATO as the link between a greater European defense identity and the U.S."

Algeria referendum to rubberstamp dictatorship

In a statement issued from Germany on Oct. 18, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) abroad, denounced the continuing civil war in Algeria, which it described as rapidly degenerating day by day. The communiqué further denounced the "referendum" to be held on Nov. 28, called by the military-installed President, Liamine Zeroual. The referendum seeks approval for a set of constitutional amendments to legitimize the dictatorship installed in 1992, after the 1991

elections were annulled.

According to the FIS communiqué, the country has been divided into "colonial" sectors: "One finds the zones 'under high-level protection,' constituted by the military zones and the cities reserved for the nomenclatura, and the 'high-surveillance zones,' which cover those poorer neighborhoods in the big cities, where there was a very high vote for the FIS candidates in the free and pluralist parliamentary elections of 1991. There are also the 'exclusion zones,' formed around the oil and natural gas sites, as well as free zones created to be given over to foreign capital interests. The Algerians who live within these exclusion zones are allowed to move about with a special pass, and are known as 'natives.' The 'natives' are not allowed to go outside these 'exclusion zones.' The rest of the country has been left in a condition where one finds again the famous *bled essiba* [zones of rebellion] of the colonial era, left outside the control of the central power."

Aleksandr Rutskoy elected governor of Kursk

Former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy was elected governor of his native Kursk region on Oct. 20. Rutskoy received 78.9% of the vote, according to Itar-Tass wire service. He registered as a candidate only on Oct. 17, after the Supreme Court overruled the decision of the Kursk Electoral Commission to disqualify him because he did not meet residency requirements, and easily defeated his main opponent, Gov. Vasil Shuteyev. Rutskoy was helped by the fact that the Communist and Agrarian Party candidates, whose parties have had good showings in previous elections, withdrew in his favor on the eve of the polling.

Rutskoy will automatically receive a seat in the Federation Council, the upper house of the national parliament. Sergei Belyayev, head of the Our Home Is Russia caucus of the lower house, the Duma, howled that Rutskoy's victory was "a serious defeat for democracy": a bit of double-speak, since Rutskoy was forced from office in October

1993 in a hail of bullets, when he, as elected vice president, stood with the elected parliament of that time, the Supreme Soviet, in defiance of Yeltsin's dissolution of the Constitution and the parliament.

ASEAN holding firm on admitting Myanmar

Reports from the senior ASEAN officials' meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Oct. 19, strongly suggest that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is not having second thoughts on Myanmar's membership in the regional organization. ASEAN had come under heavy pressure from the intense global campaign against Myanmar (Burma) from the George Soros/International Republican Institute circles (see *EIR*, Oct. 25, "Myanmar and the Opium Trade"). Malaysian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Abdul Kadir Mohamad told reporters at the end of the two-day meeting that neither the Philippines, which had signaled some doubt, nor any other member, had expressed reservations.

On Oct. 21, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad arrived in Yangon (Rangoon) for a state visit, where conditions for Myanmar's membership were to be discussed. Malaysia has consistently said it would maintain ties with Yangon, despite the global campaign. Mahathir's trip began two days after a highly successful state visit by Myanmar's senior military officer, Gen. Than Shwe, to Cambodia, as a result of which Cambodia gave Myanmar a full endorsement to enter ASEAN "very soon."

China affirms commitment to peace between Koreans

Following the September incident in which a North Korean mini-sub became lost and ran aground in South Korean waters, China officially reaffirmed its friendship with both North and South Korea and its commitment to peace on the peninsula. In an Oct. 15 broadcast, China Radio International explained that China had not vetoed a UN Security Council "presidential statement" critical of Pyongyang, because the statement

Briefly

PRINCE PHILIP is resigning as chairman of the World Wide Fund for Nature after 25 years. For the last time, he presided over the WWF conference, held in Berlin on Oct. 21-23. Prince Philip is being replaced by Sayed Barbar-Ali, a Pakistani businessman who founded the WWF branch in his country.

100,000 ARMENIANS marched in Yerevan on Oct. 25 to support the opposition's demand that the recent national elections be invalidated because of vote fraud. The case has also been brought to the Supreme Court, which accepted it on Oct. 25. One of the three opposition speakers before the court was Hrant Khachatrian, who has been frequently interviewed in *EIR*.

HSIEH CHANG-TING, who was the vice-presidential candidate of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party last March, has been exposed as a member of the Sung Chi-li Transmogrification Society. The group's guru, Sung Chi-li, has confessed that he tricked people into believing he had healing powers and could make himself appear in several different places simultaneously, taking over \$100 million from his duped followers. The DPP backs Taiwan's independence, and is tied into the U.S. "Project Democracy" mafia.

GERMAN Defense Minister Volker Rühle made the first visit ever by a German defense minister to India on Oct. 24. His talks with Indian Defense Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav serve the "intensification" of a "security dialogue" with the "biggest democracy of the world," Rühle's office told the German press.

PAKISTAN'S special envoy Zafar Helali met Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in Teheran Oct. 21, and expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran to establish peace in Afghanistan. Helali also carried a message from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Iranian President Rafsanjani.

had not censured North Korea, and had "urged both North and South Korea not to take any action that might aggravate the emergency situation."

Initially, the broadcast explained, "the Chinese delegation did not consent in principle to a presidential statement, or any other action by the Security Council, because this was not necessarily beneficial to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula."

However, "the statement urged the two sides to fully abide by the Korean Armistice Agreement and to not take any action that might aggravate the emergency situation on the Korean peninsula or destroy peace and stability. . . . It called on the two sides to peacefully resolve unsettled issues through dialogue."

A member of the Chinese UN delegation told Radio China International that the submarine affair was "an isolated incident" which should not stand in the way of the peace talks.

Does a British 'tailor' run U.S. Panama policy?

In the latest espionage novel, *The Tailor of Panama*, by longtime British spook John Le Carré, the title character is a British intelligence operative, posing as a tailor to the Panamanian elites, whose mission is to ensure that the United States retain its military bases in Panama past the year 2000, when the current treaty expires.

With imperial smugness, the Oct. 5-6 *Financial Times* of London wrote in its review that, "The book's conceit . . . centers on a Britain that continues to 'punch above its weight' in international affairs, a Britain of global significance, but above all a Britain still sorely needed—though Washington may not know it—by the U.S."

The plot fits the current situation closely: In real life, British-born John Dimitri Negroponte has just been appointed a U. S. special envoy to negotiate an extension of the U.S. military presence in Panama. Negroponte, who was born in London, is a Bush protégé. As U.S. consul in Honduras from 1981-85, he was one of the key figures in the narco-Contra scandal, at the height of the Contra

resupply operation, run by Vice President George Bush. After a stint as Colin Powell's deputy at the National Security Council, President Bush appointed him ambassador to Mexico, as "a reward for past services," where he presided over the efforts of Bush ally President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (now a fugitive from Mexico), to dismantle his country's economy.

Negroponte's wife, Diana Mary Villiers, a British aristocrat related to the earl of Clarendon, is herself a former intelligence operative of the Tory Party.

Burundi bishop greets World's Day of Atonement

The President of the Burundi International Peace Committee, Bishop J. Alfred Nduricimpa, sent greetings to the 100,000 people gathered at the World's Day of Atonement outside United Nations headquarters in New York on Oct. 16; the bishop also held an Atonement Prayer Service in Nairobi, Kenya, attended by 1,000 Burundians and Rwandans. The World's Day of Atonement celebrated the first anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington.

Bishop Nduricimpa told the rally: "There are different ways of killing, but many people see killing in one way. I personally see killing in two ways: There are those who use spears, machetes, stones, bamboos, arrows, and sophisticated weapons. We find this everywhere in the world, particularly in Africa. . . . We find the second way in industrialized nations. These nations give loans accumulatively and when they give such loans, they send their own technicians to come into our countries to spend that money. Our nations pay them more than what a national can get, yet we are expected to pay back such loans. . . ."

"As our theme is: 'I do not want to kill, therefore I do not want to be killed,' let me add that I do not want to oppress others, therefore I do not want to be oppressed. . . . We are here to invoke our Almighty God to give peace to Africa, particularly our countries in the Great Lakes Region and especially Burundi, Rwanda, and Zaire."