

# International Intelligence

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## ***Stakes high in Poland's elections for Parliament***

On Sept. 21, citizens of Poland will elect a new Parliament. The Democratic Left Alliance (SLD, which is the successor party to the Communists), which currently dominates Parliament, and the Solidarity Electoral Alliance (AWS), are leading in all opinion polls.

Other parties which have a chance to win seats in Parliament are: The Freedom Union (UW), led by the infamous neo-liberal, former Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz; the Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland (ROP), led by nationalist Jan Olszewski; and the Polish Peasant Party (PSL), which has some commitment for protectionism. However, Thatcherite neo-liberalism has wormed its way into the platforms of most parties. Exemplary is AWS, which has been very much influenced by the Windsor Group (comprised of the U.S.'s International Republican Institute, Britain's Conservative Party, and the like).

Deputy Wojciech Blasiak from the KPN party, who is running on the AWS slate, remarked to *EIR* that he actually fears an AWS victory, because the party is so mixed between nationalists, like himself, who want to protect Poland's economy and break with the International Monetary Fund, and Thatcherite liberals. Many Poles believe that much depends on which individuals win, rather than which party: The parties, being so far from homogeneous, would be hard put to form a stable government coalition with stable majority support in Parliament.

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## ***FAO, Unicef alarmed by North Korea famine***

On Sept. 13, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director General Jacques Diouf renewed aid agencies' "very serious alarm" over the increasing starvation in North Korea. Diouf spoke after he and other UN officials met with North Korean Vice Premier Kong Jin-tae in Pyongyang. They repeated that 80,000 children are severely

malnourished, and Unicef Deputy Director for Emergency Operations Peter McDermott said thousands of children had already died, and many more were at risk from diarrhea and pneumonia. "Guarded optimism expressed earlier for some recovery in food production this year, is now replaced by very serious alarm," the FAO, the World Food Program, and Unicef urged in a joint statement. The agencies said that the 1997 fall harvest has been nearly lost to this year's drought and the aftermath of Typhoon Winnie—all on top of two years' record floods in 1995-96, which covered 30% of the country's farm land with silt.

"There is enormous cause for concern" over the spread of infectious diseases exacerbated by malnutrition and broken-down sanitation, McDermott said. "Providing food to famine-hit areas has historically not been sufficient to treat the problem. . . . There is a real danger that we might undermine the effectiveness of food aid by not providing the limited resources needed to improve health care and purify the water supply," he said. He praised the North Korean government for its help, but said that the official policy of *juche*, or self-reliance, "means that everyone gets a little bit of aid—they don't realize that a sick child needs proportionately more of what's available."

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## ***Military patriots call for Seineldín's pardon***

Brazil's most prominent military journal *Ombro a Ombro* editorialized for the Argentine government to pardon Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín. In its September issue, *Ombro a Ombro* wrote that were Seineldín to be released from jail, this could signal the beginning of a process to rebuild the nations and armed forces of Ibero-America. The editorial, "The Price of Military Weakness," characterizes recent spats between Argentina and Brazil as a consequence of the demilitarization policy, applied so harshly in Argentina, under both Presidents Raúl Alfonsín and Carlos Menem. It was in response to the demilitarization policy, the editorial adds, that Argentina's Army nationalists or-

ganized several uprisings, the last of which, in December 1990, led to the imprisonment "of Malvinas hero, Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín."

*Ombro* argues that what is required is not a return to the 19th-century "intrigues and divisions of British geopolitics," but rather a "continental integration which respects the peculiarities of each nation-state, and offers true perspectives for common development, with the participation of the armed forces." Rather than playing into a foreign-manipulated game, "Argentina would do more for its national dignity by releasing . . . Seineldín, whose only 'crime' was to fight the causes of the deliberate weakening of his country. His freedom could mark the beginning of the reconstruction of the valued Argentine Armed Forces, whose strengthening, as understood by Brazilian patriots, offers a greater guarantee of collective security, than its current deplorable state."

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## ***Bosnia citizens vote in municipal elections***

After Bosnia's Croats and Serbs dropped their plans to boycott, Bosnia was finally able to hold its long-awaited municipal elections on Sept. 13-14. About 2.5 million Bosnian citizens, including 400,000 outside the country, were registered to vote for 136 municipal councils. The results were not expected before Sept. 20, at the earliest. The elections have been already postponed three times, and removing the final roadblocks took place after meetings in Zagreb, Croatia between representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which organized the elections, and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. The leaders of the Bosnian Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), which Tudjman heads in Croatia, were also present. After three hours of talks, Kresimir Zubak, the Croat member of the Bosnian collective Presidency, said that all the important issues had been solved.

The Bosnian Serbs connected to the SDS party of war criminal Radovan Karadzic also dropped their threat of boycott. The Serb member of the Bosnian Presidency, Mom-

## Briefly

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA** is suffering a terrible drought which has already killed 47 people who died of thirst and hunger in the highlands and outlying islands. Tens of thousands are in search of food and water as the worst drought in 50 years takes its toll. Because of the forbidding terrain, many villages are isolated and the death toll from cold and famine is expected to be even higher. The unusual weather is attributed to the El Niño currents in the Pacific.

**SERBIA'S** Information Minister Dr. Radmila Milentijevic, at a Washington, D.C. press briefing on Sept. 12, let slip that George Soros has given millions to set up radio stations on the eve of what she called "the most democratic elections" ever. After playing down media influence, because Serbian dictator, President Slobodan Milosevic is already so popular, she added: "Yes, the Soros Foundation has given money for radio stations. It helps the balance; we welcome that."

**AUSTRALIAN** Justice James Wood, in a 1,200-page "Pedophile Inquiry," part of the Royal Commission investigation into the New South Wales Police Force, recommended that the age of consent for male homosexual activity be lowered to 16. Wood also recommends that males having sex with boys no younger than 14, could claim they "mistakenly but reasonably" believed the child had consented.

**THE COMMONWEALTH** Parliamentary Association opened its annual gathering on Sept. 14, in Mauritius. Some 300 individuals, representing the 49 countries of the Commonwealth, were in attendance, with an untold number of observers. The head of the CPA is the Canadian Arthur Donahue.

**SPANISH BASQUES** 50,000 strong demonstrated in Basauri on Sept. 8 against the murder of a policeman who was killed two days earlier in that city by a bomb from the Basque separatist ETA terrorists.

cilo Krajisnik—who has sided with Karadzic against Republika Srpska President Biljana Plavsic—also ended his boycott of the Bosnian Presidency meetings on Sept. 12, which he began on July 10, after a Serb war criminal was shot by British NATO troops who had been serving a warrant on him. Krajisnik has been also a main organizer of the recent mob stonings against NATO forces.

### **London Times gloats over Philippines crisis**

Under a headline, "Manila Faces Civil War under Ramos," the London *Times* of Sept. 17 reported on the fight developing in the Philippines over the proposed "charter change" of the 1987 Constitution to allow President Fidel Ramos to run for a second term in the 1998 elections. Ramos told the *Times* he can't understand why he's being "demonized," just because he has simultaneously denied being behind the initiative, while saying he will "submit to the will of the people" if they proceed with the "cha cha" initiative, as it is called in Manila.

Leading the opposition is Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila, who warned that "there will be another Cambodia," i.e., civil war, in the Philippines, if Ramos seeks a second term. Sin told the *Times* he has always opposed Ramos as President, and believes former President Corazon Aquino now regrets having designated Ramos her successor. Sin believes Ramos knows who killed Aquino's husband, Benigno Aquino, whose August 1983 murder was the opening shot in the three-year "people's power" campaign, backed by the International Monetary Fund, that ousted President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

### **Vatican takes stronger stance vs. death penalty**

The Vatican on Sept. 9 issued the definitive Latin language version of its Universal Catechism, in which the Roman Catholic Church comes closer than ever before to calling for a ban on capital punishment. The new Cate-

chism, issued in 1992, is the most extensive revision of its rules since the Council of Trent 400 years ago. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's top doctrinal official, told a news conference that the new Catechism invoked "principles which do not exclude capital punishment absolutely, but give very severe criteria" for its use.

The articles on the death penalty were changed to reflect Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *The Gospel of Life*. The new version reads: "The traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude . . . recourse to the death penalty when it is the only practical way to efficiently defend the lives of human beings from the unjust aggressor. If, instead, bloodless means are sufficient . . . authorities should limit themselves to these means because they better correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity with the dignity of the human person. . . . [T]he cases where it is absolutely necessary to suppress the guilty are today very rare, if not practically nonexistent."

### **'Ice' drug plague scourges Australia**

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) recently seized a 4.5 kg shipment of the synthetic drug pink ice, in Melbourne, while 200 g of white ice was seized in Sydney early this year. Police have been warned to watch for the new ice, which comes in pink, green, or blue. "Ice," the street name for methamphetamine hydrochloride, is regarded as one of the most dangerous new drugs internationally. The stimulant is extremely addictive, and causes loss of appetite, paranoia, mood disorders, hallucinations, and an extreme rise in body temperature. Long-term use can cause fatal kidney and lung disorders, brain and liver damage, and stroke.

The AFP warned that ice is much more potent and more dangerous than amphetamines, or "speed," which is Australia's second most used illicit drug next to cannabis. Ice is reportedly manufactured in Russia, Thailand, Burma, and northern China, according to the *Canberra Times*.