

International Intelligence

Venezuelan daily covers LaRouche exoneration

An opinion column, on "The Monetary Fund in the Dock," by Mario Torrealba Lossi in Venezuela's *El Globo* daily on Aug. 7, prominently featured Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR*, as the leading opposition to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Torrealba reports that the latest issue of *EIR*'s Spanish edition, *Resumen Ejecutivo*, includes an open letter calling on the U.S. President to restore LaRouche's full rights, "since he now only enjoys limited freedom, after being imprisoned during the Republican government." LaRouche is a tireless opponent of IMF policies, which are bleeding whole peoples, including "the Yanquis," he wrote. LaRouche's warning that "'savage' capitalism would end up digging its own grave, is indisputable. LaRouche was a victim of Kissinger."

LaRouche, Torrealba adds, says that the current economic system is not only "oppressive, unjust, and inhuman, but it is a negative factor for the Americans themselves." India, Russia, and the Southeast Asian countries are beginning to rebel against the IMF. "What does Venezuela think of this? . . . We only recommend to the next government . . . that it begin preparing, psychologically and strategically, for the new order, which the disinherited of the earth are anxiously waiting for, according to LaRouche."

Torrealba is the former president of the Bolivarian Society of Venezuela and a member of the nationalist group Fundepatria, which was set up to stop the privatization of the state sector.

State of emergency in Russia's Pacific regions

On July 31, Valentina Bronevich, head of the Koryak Autonomous District (Northern Kamchatka, on Russia's Pacific coast), introduced a state of emergency for this territory. The population of 32,000 (including 10,000 indigenous) has been cut off from food and fuel supplies. If the problem of

what is called the "northern supply" is not solved, the area will be paralyzed, as everyone will have to be evacuated, except the indigenous, "who have become used to the severe conditions historically," according to *Novoye Izvestia* on Aug. 1.

In order to survive, the district, which is 95% dependent on outside shipments, needs 660 million rubles. The Finance Ministry promised 250 million, but only 20 million has been delivered. Only 3% of the necessary coal and 7% of the necessary oil products have been delivered to the district. Should the balance of fuel and food not be delivered by September, when navigation is no longer possible in the northern part of the peninsula, it will have to be airlifted in, which is more expensive and dangerous, because of the attrition of the aircraft fleet. Local industry is out of operation—including the famous platinum mines. Unemployment is the highest in Russia. The district administration has sent many requests to Moscow to allow the district to keep more than the 5% norm of the local catch of crabs, which could significantly improve the local situation; but they have received no answer.

Is Tony Buckingham the new Tiny Rowland?

The London *Independent* of Aug. 3 ran a front-page comparison of the lives of Tony Buckingham, Her Majesty's leading financier of mercenary operations, and the late scoundrel, Tiny Rowland, Her Majesty's "Africa specialist." Headlined, "Will Tony Buckingham Be the Next Tiny Rowland?" the *Independent* wrote: "Tony Buckingham is a businessman of the hard school, equally adept at running mercenary operations against insurgents as pricing oil and gems out of the ground in the most inhospitable climates.

"A week after the death of the great business buccaneer Tiny Rowland, Mr. Buckingham is his obvious heir apparent, a flash of rude color in among the grey corporate suits. Like Mr. Rowland two decades before, Mr. Buckingham has made a killing by be-friending and helping to power emergent

Third World leaders. He even has Rowland as a middle name." Buckingham's corporate empire includes Branch Energy, Heritage Oil and Gas, and the so-called private security services, Executive Outcomes and Sandline International.

Buckingham has created several mining companies in diamond-rich Namibia, which borders Angola, where Buckingham's operations are also very active. He has teamed up with British businessman Russell Hay, who is said to have been a major supporter of the South West Africa Peoples Organization prior to its coming to power in Namibia. Through Hay's SWAPO connections, the duo were able to get control of mining concessions, where their company has been systematically throwing the local population off the land. Hay told the daily: "We are perfectly within our rights to kick them off."

Britain brewing new Iraq crisis against Clinton

Talks between United Nations weapons inspector Richard Butler and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz broke down on Aug. 3, with Butler leaving Baghdad to brief the UN Security Council in New York. The talks broke down when Aziz demanded that Iraq be declared in compliance with the UN resolutions requiring that it dismantle its weapons of mass destruction programs. The Iraqis also called for the sanctions to be lifted. Butler claimed he did not have the evidence that Iraq was in full compliance.

Last January, Butler had huffed out of Baghdad when Iraq demanded that the murderous sanctions be lifted. The British press geared up its war propaganda, only to be bitterly disappointed when U.S. President Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov managed to avert open conflict.

An editorial in the *Times* of London on Aug. 4 speculates that the collapse of the talks is the beginning of Iraq's diplomatic campaign to have the sanctions lifted when they come under review in October. The *Times* asserts that, by that time, the Clinton administration would be in the worst posi-

INDONESIA and Portugal made headway in talks at the UN on Aug. 4-5, and expressed the hope "that an agreement on East Timor can be reached before the end of the year." They agreed to reopen reciprocal interest sections in friendly embassies, most likely the Thai embassy in Lisbon and the Dutch embassy in Jakarta. The talks led to agreement on broad outlines for increased autonomy for East Timor, broader than currently granted to Aceh and Yogyakarta.

GENERAL DE GAULLE was so hated by the British, reveal wartime archives released on July 22 by the British Public Record Office, that Sir Frank Nelson, head of the Special Operations Executive, wrote in August 1940: "I could see easily a solution to our problems when de Gaulle is replaced." It is "depressing to see a man who so defies the British be the head of the free French."

FRENCH security services are holding a former British MI5 agent whose extradition is being sought by Scotland Yard, hoping to exchange him for Algerian terrorist Abou Fares, who has a cozy safe haven in Britain. Fares is wanted by French authorities in connection with terror-bombings in Paris and elsewhere in France in 1995.

MEXICANS in the state of Zacateca are regularly eating rats as their source of animal protein. What was once a "custom" only in the extremely arid rural areas, has become so widespread in the state, one of Mexico's poorest, that rats are now sold in the markets in the state capital. Researchers trace the origin of this level of privation to 1982, the year the International Monetary Fund took over Mexico.

SOUTH KOREA is experiencing some of the worst flooding on record, which, as of Aug. 10, had left 234 dead, and 91 missing. More than 121,000 are homeless; more than 44,000 homes and buildings have been damaged, along with 779 roads and bridges.

tion to launch a British-instigated war against Iraq: "The damage inflicted to President Clinton by the Monica Lewinsky affair [last January] made it much more difficult for the White House to initiate military action. The President became the prisoner of Pennsylvania Ave., unable to construct a domestic coalition for an attack on Iraq. The Butler findings will probably arrive in New York at approximately the same time as Kenneth Starr presents the results of his inquiries to Congress. Mr. Clinton may be politically incapable of standing up to Saddam."

Tensions rising again between Peru and Ecuador

On Aug. 6, Peru's Foreign Minister Eduardo Ferrero announced that the Ecuadorans have infiltrated troops into Peruvian territory, some 20 kilometers from the demilitarized zone between the two countries. These "provocations" are launched, he charged, precisely at the point that a group of experts commissioned by the Guarantor countries of the Rio Protocol, issued a report which backs up the Peruvian position on the border demarcation. Because of the crisis, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori cancelled his trip to Colombia for President Andrés Pastrana's inauguration, and his plans to attend the Aug. 10 inauguration of the new Ecuadoran President, Jamil Mahuad.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister José Ayala Laso's answer was, that the area of the confrontations is neither in the demilitarized zone, nor in demarcated territory—an implicit admission that the Peruvian charge is true.

Tensions have been rising, with both sides acknowledging that shots were exchanged the previous week. Both militaries were placed on full alert.

In response to the crisis, representatives of the four Guarantor countries (United States, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile) have proposed that the demilitarized zone be "temporarily" extended south another 50 kilometers—i.e., further into Peru—while the charges of Ecuadoran infiltration are investigated. Peru's military is objecting that that

would, de facto, require the Peruvian military to pull even farther back from the border, and would encourage Ecuador, with the idea that they can achieve by provocations, what they could not gain at the negotiating table.

The Peruvian daily *Gestión* pointed out on Aug. 7, that Ecuador had recently, in fact, demanded that the demilitarized zone be *permanently* extended south, which Peru rejected.

The head of the U.S. Guarantor team is the Kissingerian, Luigi Einaudi, even though he officially quit the State Department a year ago. Einaudi promptly joined the staff of the Inter-American Dialogue, a channel for British influence into U.S. policymaking with its southern neighbors.

Islamic countries meet on Jerusalem crisis

The foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference "Al-Quds Committee" concluded their emergency meeting on Jerusalem in Casablanca, Morocco on Aug. 1, issuing a strong statement, stressing that "Israel's practices in Jerusalem pose a flagrant violation of the Middle East peace principles and a menace to international security." It called on all Islamic states to "reconsider their relations with Israel and including closing their diplomatic missions until Israel fulfills its commitment." It also rejected the U.S. House of Representatives resolution calling for Jerusalem to be recognized as Israel's capital.

The Jerusalem Committee resolution "expressed its support for the peace process and called on Israel to implement the signed agreements reached according to the Madrid Conference principles and Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 which demand from Israel withdrawal from all the Arab lands it occupied since the 1967 war, and to restart negotiations with Syria from the point they had stopped."

The Jerusalem Committee is headed by Morocco's King Hassan II, and includes the 51 member-states of the Organization of Islamic Conference, which is currently headed by Iran.