

# International Intelligence

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## ***French analyst: 'Europe has a duty toward Russia'***

Alexander Adler wrote a dramatic editorial in the French weekly publication *Le Courier International* in mid-February, painting a tragic picture of the Russian situation, "a country forsaken by God, staggering into the 21st century with its small Belarussian, Armenian, Tajik and Serb allies, losing its blood drop by drop." The West is doing nothing, or almost nothing, to help Russia, said Adler, because "Russia, contrary to the Islamists, no longer provokes fear. Therefore, we do not respect it." But "Europe has a duty toward Russia, a mission to accomplish, lives to save, a hope to revive," he insisted. "Let us take hold therefore of the small Primakov miracle and use it to negotiate a true alliance with this people who are so close to us, in order to come out of the crisis. Because the daily comedy should not make us forget the imminence of a tragedy, which is human before being geopolitical. To the contrary, the systematic organization of a renaissance for Russia would be, for our aging Europe, a well-ordered charity: This is, after all, an authentic frontier for our civilization, which could support our economic growth during a good century."

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## ***Vatican may return nunciature to Beijing***

Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Sodano said that the Vatican would move its embassy from Taipei to Beijing, if the Chinese government allowed it, according to a report in the Feb. 13 *South China Morning Post*. Sodano said that moving the nunciature would not mean breaking relations with Taiwan. "The Taipei nunciature is the nunciature in China," Cardinal Sodano said at a reception at the Italian Embassy at the Vatican marking the 70th anniversary of the Lateran accords between Italy and the Vatican. The Church would move its embassy back to Beijing, "not tomorrow, but this evening if the communist authorities permitted," he said. "Before, the nunciature was in Beijing, from where the nuncio was forced out, first to Nanjing, then Hong Kong and finally Tai-

wan," after the communists took power in 1949. The Vatican is the only European state to recognize Taipei.

Cardinal Sodano expressed his appreciation to the Italian authorities for always raising the question of religious freedom in their contacts with Beijing, and urged Prime Minister Massimo d'Alema, who was at the reception, to do the same when President Jiang Zemin visits Italy in March. "The Catholics on the mainland are faithful citizens of the state like all the rest, therefore the idea of broad religious freedom should advance," Cardinal Sodano said.

In a related development, Shanghai's Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian said that the Vatican had opened a dialogue with Beijing on appointing a representative to China. In an interview with the Italian monthly *30 Giorni*, he said, "We are praying for a full understanding in the near future that would lead to a joint declaration and the establishment of a papal nuncio in Beijing rather than Taiwan." He added that Bishop Coadjutor of Hong Kong, Joseph Zen, was "making every effort" to arrange for the Pope's visit to Hong Kong, where he would announce the results of the synod held on April 12-May 14. Due to Chinese travel restrictions, "It may be difficult for us to travel to Hong Kong to see the Pontiff," the Bishop said.

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## ***Drug conference sounds alarm on amphetamines***

A two-day Asian Drug Law Enforcement Conference sponsored by Japan and the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention opened in Tokyo on Feb. 2 with a speech by UN anti-narcotics chief Pino Arlacchi, who said that amphetamine manufacture, trafficking, and abuse have outpaced both heroin and cocaine in the 1990s. Tokyo has vowed to contribute \$1.8 million to support deployment of 200 "liaison officers" from participating conference nations (Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) to block drug smuggling in border areas.

Arlacchi underlined that Japan itself is the biggest amphetamine market in the region, with an estimated 1.1-3.3 million abus-

ers. Japanese police seized 549 kg of amphetamines last year, up 219% from the previous year. Arlacchi cited progress in eradicating opium crops in Turkey, Thailand, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Laos, while looking for political commitment from Myanmar and Afghanistan to move to eradication.

Earlier, on Jan. 12, Thailand and Myanmar held their second bilateral anti-drug meeting, also sponsored by the UN Drug Control Program. Shortly before they had made a successful raid on a warehouse in Tachilek, in the heart of the Golden Triangle opium zone, in which 400,000 amphetamine tablets and precursor chemicals were seized, leading to the arrest of a Taiwanese woman.

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## ***Hun Sen visit to China seals strong relations***

Cambodia's Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen made his first state visit to China as sole Prime Minister on Feb. 9-12. Hun Sen went directly into a meeting with Premier Zhu Rongji upon his arrival on Feb. 9, during which meeting five cooperative and financial assistance deals were signed, including an extradition treaty, cooperative agreements on economics, tourism, and culture, and a framework for discount loans to Cambodia from China, according to Xinhua. On Feb. 10, he met President Jiang Zemin, and then traveled to Kunming in the Mekong River development zone on Feb. 11.

Xinhua news agency quoted President Jiang as telling Hun Sen: "It is pleasing that the new parliament and government have been formed in the spirit of national reconciliation and unity. . . . We are fully confident of a bright future in bilateral relations."

The Chinese also reaffirmed their stance that any trial of the Khmer Rouge is an internal Cambodian issue. During a three-day visit to Thailand at the beginning of February, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan stressed: "How to deal with Khmer Rouge matters should be decided upon by the Cambodian government and the Cambodian people. These are internal problems of Cambodia; the problems should be left to the country and the people. . . . China be-

lieves that other countries should not intervene in the issue. . . . The setting up of the international tribunal has not yet gone to the UN Security Council. To my understanding, such an establishment is not the only proposal put forward to the UNSC in dealing with the Khmer Rouge.”

At the same meeting, Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan concurred, saying: “They are the internal problems of Cambodia and its people—they should deal with the problems by themselves. The trial should not drag other countries into getting involved.” The U.S. State Department has urged Cambodia to pursue a trial of top Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, who surrendered in December to the Phnom Penh government.

Meanwhile, Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary, currently governor of the semi-autonomous district of Pailin, declared on Feb. 6, that any attempt to try Khmer Rouge leaders in a genocide tribunal could re-ignite the country’s long civil war. Ieng Sary’s surrender and amnesty deal with Phnom Penh in 1996 was the beginning of the wave of defections/surrenders that now includes all but perhaps 100 or so Khmer Rouge soldiers loyal to former Defense Minister Ta Mok, a.k.a. “The Butcher.” Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea have taken up residence in Pailin.

## **Germany wants CIA to release Stasi files**

A government spokesman in Bonn confirmed on Feb. 4 that Chancery Minister Bodo Hombach planned to ask the United States to release the files it holds from the international espionage network run by East German spy-master Markus Wolf. Hombach was to travel to Washington on Feb. 8. Joachim Gauck, who is the State Ombudsman for the Documents of the Former East German State Security Service (Stasi) Archives in Berlin—known as the Gauck Agency—made a rare public statement that, “With this material, we could see the true scope of the East German network of agents in West Germany and beyond.”

Germany has long urged the United States to return the files held by the CIA,

which German security officials believe contain the real names of East German spies. Documents in Gauck’s archive, including new computer files which the agency only managed to decode late last year, are based only on code names, which makes tracing former agents difficult.

In his public appearance, Gauck dismissed suggestions that return of the files could spark a widespread “spy hunt.” “There are a few cases which could interest the federal prosecutor,” Gauck said. “But we assume the material which was of interest to prosecutors has already been used. This material is now more of interest to researchers.”

When *EIR* asked the CIA about a previous report originating with Reuters in Germany which said that the United States was about to release the files, the CIA had “no comment,” since the agency has never officially confirmed reports that it had obtained the files during the period of chaos that briefly followed the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

## **Pro-nuclear rallies gearing up in Germany**

For the first time in years, pro-nuclear rallies are taking place in Germany. On Feb. 4, several hundred delegates from the nuclear industry workforce gathered at the nuclear site at Stade, in Lower Saxony. On Feb. 19, a national event has been planned for Munich, bringing together labor and industry representatives from throughout the country’s nuclear sector, including representatives of the state governments of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. Both states are considering recourse to the constitutional court over red-green federal government policy of an exodus from nuclear energy.

Other regional events are in the making, all of which will culminate in a national day of action, with a big rally in Bonn, probably on March 9; this action will bring not only representatives of the nuclear power sector, but also the nuclear sector’s suppliers and feeder industries. The event, according to one of its Bavarian organizers, will be considered “among the major political rallies that Bonn has seen, over the last years.”

**DANIEL BARENBOIM** gave a stellar piano performance at the West Bank’s Bir Zeit University to an overflow crowd of 500 Palestinians on Jan. 29, as part of his drive to integrate Jewish musicians into the peace process. Barenboim was joined in playing a Schubert duet for four hands by Saleem Abboud, 22, an Arab pianist from the Israeli town of Nazareth. The two received a standing ovation.

**POPE JOHN PAUL II** plans a rigorous schedule of overseas trips in 1999, including proposed visits to Iraq, Vietnam, Armenia, Romania, Russia, and possibly Hong Kong.

**ITALY** is “entering a phase similar to 1992, when traditional parties were destroyed,” a well-placed Venetian source briefed *EIR*, regarding the national referendum, to be held before May. The referendum is intended to manipulate popular frustration over the economic crisis into a mandate against the political parties. Regarding parallel operations by the “Third Way” faction, he said, “The main target is Premier [Massimo] D’Alema. Either he surrenders, or they are going to get him” with corruption scandals.

**SONIA GANDHI**, the head of India’s Congress Party, is sending delegations to Pakistan and Bangladesh. The former will probably be led by former Agriculture Minister Balram Jhakar and Mani Shaker Aiyer. Aiyer was previously at the Indian embassy in Islamabad. Congress General Secretary Pranab Mukherjee led a three-man delegation to Bangladesh on Feb. 6.

**NORTHERN IRELAND’S** peace process moved ahead on Feb. 17 when the Northern Ireland Assembly voted 77-29 in favor of establishing specific governing structures which will constitute the working bodies of the new assembly. A second major step was the first face-to-face meeting of officials from the Ulster Unionist Party and Sinn Fein.