

# International Intelligence

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## ***Brazilian Senators hit Philip over land-grab***

Over recent weeks, several Senators from the Amazon states have denounced land-grab schemes in the Amazon, promoted by the government of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and run by non-governmental organizations, such as Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature, on behalf of international financial institutions.

Sen. Gilberto Mestrinho (PMDB), former Governor of Amazonas, charged on Nov. 5 that the organization heading the Amazon grab is based in Switzerland, "but its intellectual head is in London," naming "Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Consort, ally of the former Nazi, Prince Bernhard of Holland." Brazil has no policy for the Amazon, he said, but lets its policy be "dictated by foreign countries. . . . Twenty-two percent of the state of Amazonas, which is 150 million hectares in size—in other words, 33 million hectares—are occupied by a half-dozen Indians. But that's not all: After the Indian reservations, look at the ecology reserves, the national parks. There is a real 'balkanization' of the region. . . . The only ally which the Amazon has in this country is the Armed Forces, which have bravely resisted this policy of internationalization . . . which, unhappily, has the connivance of the Brazilian authorities."

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## ***Zimbabwe's Mugabe gets ill treatment in London***

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe blasted the ill treatment he received while recently in London, telling the Nov. 7 London *Sunday Mail*, "this is the gangster regime of [Prime Minister Tony] Blair. . . . They are even using gangster gays on us," a referring to the fact that he was harassed during his stay by a homosexual group called Outrage! The group's leader hissed that it was "crazy to suggest that we are in the pay of MI5 or Tony Blair."

Mugabe also charged that the British government had reneged on commitments, made during negotiations leading to Zim-

babwe's independence, that it would help fund the redistribution of white-owned land to black farmers: "This government of little men, Blair and others, don't seem to understand, and when you talk to them, they say they don't know about it."

In a similar case, on Nov. 14, the Russian Foreign Ministry called in British Ambassador Andrew Wood to express indignation over an assault on a group of Russian TV reporters, according to TASS. "The Ambassador's attention was drawn to the fact that 'Russian correspondents had been attacked after they prepared a series of reportages about stepped-up activities of extremist Muslim groups in Great Britain that openly recruit mercenaries and raise funds for Chechen militants.'" The Russian Foreign Ministry demanded an investigation of the attack, which occurred when Russian journalists tried to attend a Nov. 12 meeting of the International Islamic Front, one of several European-based Chechen support organizations. The Foreign Ministry added: "It was pointed [out] to the British side that there is a need of measures to put a stop to the activity in Britain of organizations that openly aid international terrorists that commit crimes in the Northern Caucasus."

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## ***Tokyo governor enrages Taipei, Beijing alike***

Metropolitan Tokyo Gov. Ishihara Shintaro was hosted, in a provocative visit to Taiwan, by lame-duck President Lee Teng-hui on Nov. 13-15. Ishihara is the highest-ranking Japanese official to visit Taiwan since Japan recognized the People's Republic of China in 1972. Ishihara asserts Japanese sovereignty over the oil- and fisheries-rich Diaoyu Islands, disputed between Japan and China. He also denies that Japan committed the 1937 Nanjing Massacre, which included mass rapes of Chinese women.

Both his visit, and the fact that he was hosted by President Lee, sparked protests on the island and mainland alike. From Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said on Nov. 15 that Ishihara's actions have set a bad precedent for the contacts between Japan and Taiwan. From Taipei, the Alliance for the Reunification of China is-

sued a statement, that "Lee is trying to take advantage of his remaining tenure to promote his anti-Chinese and pro-Japanese scheme. We think Lee is teaming up with Japanese militarists [who] would harm the peace in Asia, and the damage will be worse than the Taiwan earthquake. . . . Lee has no right to lead Taiwan to another unpredictable danger."

Although Ishihara brought relief money for victims of Taiwan's recent earthquake, his unsavory views have left many unhappy over Lee's accepting the funds. Taipei County Councilmember Chin Jei-sou proposed that Ishihara's money should go to compensate Chinese women who were pressed into sexual service for Japanese occupiers during World War II.

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## ***Hungary: NATO role not aimed against Russia***

The Hungarian government has reaffirmed that its new membership in NATO is not directed against Russia, according to the *Budapester Zeitung* of Nov. 8. The government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban was forced to reiterate its friendly relations to both NATO and its Russian neighbor, after the *Toronto Globe and Mail* had highlighted Orban's response to a hypothetical question, raising protests from Moscow. The daily's interviewer had asked: "What would Hungary do if a new international crisis emerged, in which the use of nuclear weapons would be considered, and in which NATO would turn to Hungary with the request to station nuclear weapons there?" Orban had responded, "We Hungarians would not be pleased at all. . . . The Hungarian government would very carefully consider the issue. . . . The Hungarian government will consider any request from the international community." Orban had added, however, that no such request concerning nuclear weapons had ever been made.

On Nov. 3, Hungary's Foreign Ministry assured the Russian Embassy that Hungary has a "vested interest" in developing broad relations with Russia, and that Hungary's NATO membership is not directed against any single state, including Russia. The Foreign Ministry spokesman affirmed that Hun-

**ARMENIAN POLICE** arrested Member of Parliament Musheg Movsisian in mid-November, on suspicion of being an accomplice in the assassination of Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, Speaker Karen Demirchyan, and six others, when the gunmen took over the Parliament on Oct. 27. On Nov. 15, Deputy Interior Minister Ovanes Varyan reported that explosives were found inside the Parliament building, following an anonymous phone call.

**THE IVORY COAST** government accused the United States on Nov. 3 of fomenting political upheaval, by U.S. State Department statements attacking the arrest of opposition leaders who had engaged in violent protests. The protest was delivered to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The State Department had said that the United States would reconsider its bilateral relations with Ivory Coast, if it did not carry out "democracy."

**VICTORIA'S** state government in Australia, now headed by the Labor Party, has introduced legislation in the state parliament allowing for police-state measures in the event of Y2K chaos on New Year's Eve, according to the Melbourne *Herald Sun* on Nov. 12.

**AFGHAN OPIUM** production is booming under the Taliban regime, according to a report in Pakistan's English daily *Frontier Post* on Nov. 10. According to the UN Drug Control Program, Afghanistan leads the world in opium production, and doubled production, to 4,600 tons, in 1999. According to the UN report, 97% of the land under opium production is controlled by the Taliban.

**UZBEK** "Islamic militants" shot and killed three hunters who approached their camp near the resort town of Yangiabad on Nov. 15, according to the Uzbekistan Interior Ministry. In a subsequent attack on a police post near Yangiabad, four militants and three policemen were killed.

gary fully respects the agreement on the NATO-Russia Permanent Council, which specifies that the Alliance does not plan to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new member-states.

## ***Khartoum, Cairo extend peace efforts in Sudan***

Sudanese President Gen. Omar al-Bashir offered amnesty to all those opposed to his government, according to an Associated Press wire on Nov. 12. "Come home, brothers, so that we can build the new Sudan together," he said at a rally in Nyala, about 500 miles southwest of the capital, Khartoum. "Return and lay down your arms, we are pardoning you," he said. The remarks were carried by the daily *Al-Rai Al-Am*. "Sudan cannot be built by the United States or Zionism," he said. "This is our homeland that has to be built by us. He who wants to rule Sudan can find a Constitution, and guaranteed freedoms and rights, and elections will be fair and free. If you will return, the Sudanese armed forces will protect you."

Meanwhile, Egypt has expressed its strong displeasure over meddling by Madeleine Albright's U.S. State Department in efforts by Egypt and Libya to bring the remaining Sudanese rebels—mostly John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA)—to the negotiating table. "What is Washington up to in Sudan?" asked an editorial in the Egyptian English daily *Egyptian Gazette* on Nov. 14. "Does the U.S. plan to tamper with this country's security and territorial integrity? And what business has the U.S. to do with Sudan in the first place?" The *Gazette* raised the question after Albright had met with Garang in Kenya, where she rejected an Egyptian plan for settling the war. Albright "raised many eyebrows and suspicions in the Arab world when she conferred with John Garang. . . . Following the meeting, she voiced sympathy towards the aspirations of the SPLA in breaking away from the homeland."

The *Gazette* makes official Egyptian policy clear. "Needless to say, Sudan's security and territorial integrity are of paramount importance to both Cairo and Tripoli. Accordingly, it is natural for both Egypt and

Libya to manifest great interest in resolving their neighbor's problem."

The Egyptian daily *Al-Goumhuriya*, on Nov. 14, spelled out the security threat caused by a fracturing of Sudan: "1) A breakaway southern Sudan implies a redistribution of the already established quotas of Nile water. 2) A breakaway or a federal entity of religious minorities in south Sudan is a model that could easily be repeated in Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco. The Arab world would thus be fragmented into fragile statelets. 3) An isolated Sudan constitutes an attempt to hold Egypt under siege and to neutralize the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa."

## ***Commonwealth chants: 'God Save the Queen'***

New Zealand's former Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Don McKinnon was "unanimously" elected Secretary General of the British Commonwealth, at this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Durban, South Africa, over vigorous efforts by Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad—who was unable to attend while his country held elections—in favor of Bangladesh's Farooq Sobhan.

The *Australian* of Nov. 15 quoted McKinnon as saying, "The Queen does not impose herself nor does she set policy. A proposition to get rid of her is rather juvenile." McKinnon claimed that "the smaller states of the Commonwealth see the linkage to the British Crown more importantly than the larger countries." He cited an article from the London *Sunday Times*, reporting the Nov. 12 request of Belize Prime Minister Said Musa to the Queen, for reassurance of a continued British military presence in Belize, because, "we have always relied on the British government to support our claim against Guatemala."

The very pageantry of CHOGM's opening ceremonies bespeaks its obsequiousness to Her Majesty: All the heads of government filed past the Queen and Prince Philip to pay homage, while, later, at the private retreat at a golf resort, participants were met by a band playing "God Save the Queen."