

# International Intelligence

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## ***Tories to EU: 'Thus far, and no farther'***

British Conservative Party foreign affairs spokesman Francis Maude delivered a speech in Brussels on Feb. 10, ahead of the Feb. 15 meeting of the European Union Intergovernmental Conference, in which he demanded that the British government "set out no-go areas, areas into which Brussels [the EU] must not stray." The European Union has reached a "fork in the road," he said, "on the one hand, the integrationist road leading to a single European state," which nearly two-thirds of Britons have rejected, and on the other a more flexible Europe "fit to take its place in tomorrow's globally interconnected world."

He called on Her Majesty's government to "now unequivocally rule out concessions that would further erode Britain's democratic control of Britain's democratic destiny." Most objectionable are proposals for harmonization of taxes, and creation of a Euro-army and a single European legal area. He praised the EU's inclusion of eastern European states, however, so that it would no longer remain a "club of western European states."

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## ***Terrorists attack Iran government offices***

With only two weeks to go before Iran's elections for parliament on Feb. 18, terrorists from the Mojahideen-e-Khalq Organization (MKO) launched a mortar attack on Feb. 5 on the Tehran building complex that includes the offices of spiritual leader Ali Khamenei, the Council of Expediency of the System headed by former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and of President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami. All three were in their offices at the time, but were unhurt, and little damage was done to the buildings. One civilian was killed in a nearby printing house, and several others were injured.

The attack coincided with stepped-up efforts by conservatives to destabilize the moderate regime of Khatami during the election campaigning. In an interview with

an Arabic satellite broadcast channel, MKO leader Al-Jazirah boasted that the group had organized government officials to acquire intelligence for the attack, which served to further heat up the dispute between the conservatives and the moderates in Khatami's government. The MKO, while largely based in Iraq, has received support for its "political organization," the Council of Resistance in Iran, from the British Parliament, even though Britain, late last year, became the first Gulf War "ally" to re-open diplomatic relations with Tehran.

On Feb. 5-6, major protests were arranged by religious seminaries and hard-line groups in many cities: They claim that Khatami's cultural policies and openness to the West have degraded the cultural and moral values of the nation. Pro-Khatami ministers who have been open for dialogue with the West have come under severe attacks.

The Feb. 18 elections are expected to break the conservatives' decade-long control over the Parliament and the government. During an election debate, candidate Ahmad Bourqani, a former culture minister, said that Iran and the United States should open talks, after more than two decades of estrangement. "The two countries should sit and make decisions on the basis of their national interests, and this will happen," he said.

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## ***Haider affair revives modern Metternicheans***

The contrived hysteria sweeping the European Union, around the entry of Jörg Haider's Austrian People's Party into the government, has given rise to latter-day Metternicheans, who claim the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another country on whatever pretext. It was such a policy that Metternich fashioned for the 1815 Congress of Vienna, on behalf of the oligarchy.

Two incidents are most telling: German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder told the Feb. 17 issue of the weekly *Die Zeit*, that the European Union would have to impose the same kind of sanctions against Italy, that are now in force against Austria, should the

Alleanza Nazionale (AN) party enter the government in Rome. "It would have to, if neo-fascists sat at the government table there again," he insisted. "The new policy does not stop at [the borders] of states with a large population and major economic power," Schröder continued, because Europe has undergone a profound transformation, with its single currency and coordinated foreign and security policy. "Values and criteria do exist here, which set the standard for all members."

In an interview with Germany's *Die Woche* weekly, also published on Feb. 17, former NATO Secretary General Javier Solana said that the EU has the right to interfere with the domestic affairs of each member-state, insofar as Europe is now "one big family." Five years ago, when the AN entered the coalition government of Silvio Berlusconi, the EU could not interfere, because the EU governments were not ready to. "Today, we can do that. That must be welcomed, it means: We are growing up! We are willing to take active measures. We are becoming more political by the day. We are moving toward the political Union. For the building of Europe, that is positive," he crowed.

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## ***French Foreign Minister Védérine visits India***

French Foreign Minister Hubert Védérine began a visit to India on Feb. 17, which will include speaking to an international seminar on strategies to create a multipolar world. He is also expected to meet with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, and will have wide-ranging talks with Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh. "No major power has come closer to India in the last couple of years than France," wrote *The Hindu* on Feb. 15. While Indian expectations of an improved relationship with the United States have risen recently, in anticipation of President Clinton's visit in March—the first by a U.S. President in 22 years—there is also concern in New Delhi about Clinton's focus on two issues, Kashmir and non-proliferation.

Before leaving Paris, Védérine gave an interview to *The Hindu*, in which he discussed his concept of a multipolar world.

**RIEK MACHAR**, Sudan's vice-president and the most prominent southern Sudanese rebel leader to sign the April 1997 peace accord, resigned all his government and party positions on Feb. 6, and returned to Unity state. The move bodes ill for peace prospects in the south.

**THE PARIS** prosecutor's office recommended on Feb. 10, that former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas be tried for corruption, relating to arms deals with Taiwan in influence-peddling by the oil giant Elf-Aquitaine. When the scandal emerged, Dumas was forced to resign as head of the Constitutional Court in March 1999. In 1995, Dumas used that post to oversee the witch-hunt against Lyndon LaRouche's associates in France, which bankrupted Presidential candidate Jacques Chirac.

**THAI SECURITY** officials arrested Northeast Indian separatist guerrilla Thuingaleng Muivah, head of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, on Jan. 19 in Bangkok airport. The arrest occurred the same week as Thailand crushed the seizure of hostages at a hospital, by terrorists opposed to the Myanmar government.

**KOFI ANNAN**, the UN Secretary General, has sent a letter to Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen rejecting Cambodia's draft genocide law, which Phnom Penh needs in order to try Khmer Rouge leaders, because the UN found the law not up to "international standards." Hun Sen retorted, "We cannot turn over ownership of our house, to be just like a guard dog. We are a nation."

**AN 'OLD LABOUR'** opponent of Tony Blair's "New Labour" in Britain is the favorite to win the party nomination to run for Mayor of London, in the capital's first election. As a member of the Greater London Council, Kenneth Livingstone cut transit fares and had other anti-austerity policies, as well as favoring the Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, "we have lived in a changed world . . . where one power is predominant in all fields, and that is the United States. Because it is dominant in all these fields, I have said that the U.S. is a 'hyper-power.' This is not criticism, but just a statement of fact.

"We do feel this is not a healthy situation to be in. Indeed, the world is a diverse one. And we believe that maintaining and protecting diversity across the world is a crucial issue. . . . The U.S. is a great friend of ours . . . but we do think that other countries have a right to exist as well. It is also true that from the American point of view, too, a balanced situation would be better for them. . . .

"We believe in a world where there won't be just one American pole. If we have other poles, in India, China, Russia, Europe, and maybe elsewhere too, and if obviously these different poles cooperate and work together, it would be a better world.

"We have to maintain an effective multi-lateral context, and that is the United Nations, plus, a reformed UN Security Council."

Speaking of Franco-Indian relations, Védrine told interviewer C. Raja Mohan, "We are ready to increase our cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear technology. The world meet and satisfy a great need in India." However, he noted, "to make progress in this field of cooperation, India has to show it is ready to go along with the international [nuclear] regimes." His statements go further than anyone else in the West in suggesting that if New Delhi signs the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, it could begin to benefit from nuclear technology transfers that have long been denied to it.

## *Einaudi arranges 'DMZ' in Honduras, Nicaragua*

Luigi Einaudi, parading as a special peace envoy for the Organization of American States (OAS), has set up his second cross-border "demilitarized zone," which will be, de facto, patrolled by the OAS. Einaudi, a geopolitical manipulator of the Kissinger stripe and a leading figure in the Inter-American Dialogue, met on Feb. 8 with the Foreign Ministers of Nicaragua and Honduras,

to sign a "tension reduction" agreement over their disputed maritime borders in the Caribbean. The settlement includes forming "joint patrols, in which other OAS member countries may participate," to police the zone. This latter opens the door to the possible creation, in fact if not in name, of a regional OAS military force which Einaudi has been trying to get going for years.

Wire reports note that the disputed areas are "Caribbean fishing grounds considered rich in natural resources." A U.S. Naval Intelligence officer said that there may be oil in the area, as well as other minerals. Einaudi's cross-border DMZ settlement was to similarly lock up a resource-rich region between Peru and Ecuador, by declaring it a "nature park."

## *Prodi, in Latvia, offers EU security guarantees*

On Feb. 10, European Commission President Romano Prodi, speaking in Latvia, said that the European Union would extend absolute security guarantees to all its members. He declared that "any attack or aggression against an EU member would be an attack or aggression against the whole EU, this is the highest guarantee," according to the private intelligence service Stratfor.

If this is implemented as stated, says Stratfor, it is a marked shift of EU policies into the security realm, which Russia cannot afford to ignore. "Now Russia will feel just as threatened by EU expansion as it has by NATO expansion," Stratfor says. "Prodi's announcement intensified the ever-escalating race to establish a new frontier between Russia and the West."

The language used by Prodi is very similar to NATO's Article V security guarantee: "that an armed attack against one or more of them shall be considered an attack against them all."

Stratfor concludes: "Prodi's assurance of security to all EU members extends NATO's guarantees to the countries that will be on the EU's new eastern border. Suddenly, Russia's perception of the EU becomes much less benign." All the more so, since Prodi chose Latvia, on Russia's doorstep, to make his proclamations.