

International Intelligence

Iran's Khatami Praises Greek Civilization

During his visit to Greece in mid-March, Iranian President Mohammad Ali Khatami stressed how much both Islam and Christianity benefitted from ancient Greek thought. In an address to the Pantion University in Athens, on March 14, he stressed the need for dialogue among cultures and peoples, saying that "we as Muslims had this ability in the past, because it is through dialogue that we reach a deeper level of culture and learning, we achieve a deep understanding of peace and security, and ultimately, we enjoy the most beautiful flowers of human existence.

"You, the people of Greece, nurtured the greatest poets and stated the deepest ideas on the nature of poetry," Khatami said in his speech, which the news agency ANA described as "a hymn to the international importance of the ancient Greek civilization and its impact on both Christianity and Islam." Before his speech, Khatami visited the Acropolis.

During his three-day stay in Greece, President Khatami also denounced the U.S. new nuclear posture review, which names Iran as one of seven countries against which the United States might use nuclear weapons. "The powers that threaten other peoples with nuclear weapons threaten not just these peoples but all humanity," Khatami said. ". . . If we have such developments, no people will be safe, not even the leadership of the people, which threatens with the use of nuclear force. . . . They [the United States] have no other road to think of but peace, but we won't have that without respect for other peoples."

'To Understand Huntington, Read Hitler, Carl Schmitt'

The only way to understand Harvard geopolitician Samuel Huntington, the author of *The Clash of Civilizations*, is to read Adolf Hitler and Carl Schmitt, said Dr. Arno Grün, in his speech to a March 16-17 conference on the "Clash Over Cultures," at the Evangelical

Academy in Tutzing, Bavaria. Grün is a psychiatrist from Zürich, Switzerland.

The link between Huntington and the Nazis, he said, was in "the creation of an enemy." Whereas Hitler created enemies on the basis of "genetic" criteria, Huntington does so on the basis of "culture." Both believe that one cannot have an identity without having a "hate object," and that individuality is submerged in a mass that becomes this object of hate. The main difference between Hitler and Huntington, Grün said, is that the latter is more abstract.

Grün said that a better understanding comes from looking at the ideas of "Nazi ideologue Carl Schmitt," who insisted that "knowing the enemy, is the first step toward self-consciousness." Although Grün didn't elaborate this in his speech, Schmitt came to this notion, in significant part, through his adaptation of the ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche. (See Barbara Boyd, "Carl Schmitt Revival Designed To Justify Emergency Rule," *EIR*, Jan. 19, 2001.)

EIR's correspondent reports that there was considerable displeasure in the audience over this attack on Huntington, especially from those from academia who objected to "seeing the emotion of hate, in what is only an analysis."

Chinese Daily Notes Growing Tension With U.S.

A commentary in the *People's Daily* on March 18 described the growing tensions between the United States and China, noting in particular that "representations between China and the United States" concerning the Taiwan Defense Minister's high-level reception in Florida, "have not come to an end."

Just before the *Los Angeles Times* leaked provisions of the new, classified U.S. Nuclear Posture Review on March 9—which includes conflicts in the Taiwan Straits as among the "special circumstances" under which the United States could use nuclear weapons against China—there were also "heated disputes" between China and the United States at a regularly scheduled arms control conference on March 4-5. Although

this was no official negotiation, the proximity of this conference to President George Bush's visit to China, gave it added importance. On the "most sensitive question, concerning U.S. arms sale to Taiwan," there were "serious differences" and "heated disputes" between the two sides, the *People's Daily* reported.

Due to the presence of Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, the State Department's James Kelly, and former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci at the Florida arms meeting with Taiwan, it became the "first 'bilateral meeting' of extremely large scale and high specification ever held since the 'severance of diplomatic relations' between the United States and Taiwan in 1979," the article noted.

Pravda: Will U.S. Suffer Fate of the Roman Empire?

The Russian daily *Pravda* on March 19 described the United States as an increasingly "imperial" regime, economically destroying itself, which could suffer the same kind of decline that led to the fall of the Roman Empire. The following quotes are taken from the newspaper's English-language website:

"As the illegitimate and extremist government of the United States prepares to expend another generation of youth for power, money and resources thousands of kilometers from home, they are negligently and criminally allowing the infrastructure, health and welfare of the United States to deteriorate. As America wages World War III against its 21st Century barbarians—the Taliban and al-Qaeda (the Visigoths and Huns?)—in a war that well could see the use of nuclear weapons, the American Empire seems doomed to duplicate the concluding events of 476 A.D."

The article quotes from the CIA's *World Fact Book 2001*, as warning that "long-term problems [for the United States] include inadequate investment in economic infrastructure, rapidly rising medical costs of an aging population, sizeable trade deficits, and stagnation of family income in the lower economic groups." Wide-spread pov-

AHMED CHALABI, head of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) and the U.S. Israel Lobby's prime candidate to replace Saddam Hussein, is facing a 20-year jail sentence in Jordan. According to a Jordanian diplomat, Chalabi fled Amman to London in 1988, after he was caught in money-laundering and embezzlement. He was tried in absentia, found guilty, and sentenced to a minimum 20 years in prison. When U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney was in Jordan in mid-March, King Abdullah told reporters that if Chalabi set foot in Jordan, he would immediately be sent to prison.

THE LONDON *Guardian* on March 15 noted an "echo of imperial Rome" in the Bush Administration, citing deep divisions between the small group running the secretive "war government," and the rest of the country. "With all these distances—between the fighting and Washington, between the conventional fighting and the covert intelligence work, between the inner circle of decision makers and the rest of the political class, between the politicians and the people, and between Washington and the rest of the country—there is an undeniably imperial feel to things. Rome is on people's minds," wrote commentator Martin Woollacott.

ITALIAN Defense Minister Antonio Martino warned on March 19 that a new outbreak of terrorism could emerge in the Balkans, against the multinational military contingents there. Martino noted that out of 10,000 Italian troops engaged in foreign missions, 8,400 are in the Balkans, in particular in Macedonia.

SRI LANKA'S peace process got a boost, when voters gave a landslide victory to the ruling United National Party (UNP) of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in local elections on March 20; the UNP won 217 of the 222 local government bodies, while the main opposition, the People's Alliance of President Chandrika Kumaratunga won 4, and the radical Janatha Vimukti Peramuna secured 1.

erty being one of the big domestic problems of the United States, the collapse of infrastructure is another one, the article notes, referencing the March 2001 survey of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), as saying that "America has been seriously under-investing in its infrastructure for decades. ASCE estimated that it would take roughly \$1.3 trillion to fix America's infrastructure."

Britain Will Bail Out Rail Shareholders

The Blair government on March 25 announced a re-nationalization of British Rail-track Corp. which is widely seen as an outrageous bailout of failed shareholders of a collapsed and looted company. Railtrack resulted from Baroness Margaret Thatcher's privatization of British Rail. In two decades of cutting both workforce and investments, the new management destroyed the railway system, causing a series of catastrophic train accidents and, finally, the bankruptcy of the company. But by today's re-nationalization, the government assumes all the debt added in the meantime, and pays off the shareholders to boot. The 250,000 shareholders of Railtrack will receive a £300 million "compensation" by the government; that is, about 500 million Euro. These shareholder compensations are not at all popular in Britain; before the decision on March 25, they had been ruled out by Transport Minister Stephen Byers.

A newly-created entity called "Network Rail," essentially run by the government, will takeover what has been left of Railtrack's business and infrastructure. By assuming Railtrack's debt, Network Rail will de facto expose the British taxpayer to liabilities of yet another £10.1.

Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour chairman of the Transport Select Committee, after the decision accused Byers of creating "absolute monstrosities of total confusion, which leave the taxpayer with the ultimate burden, but not with the advantages." David Taylor, Labour MP for North-West Lancashire, stated that the Blair government is obviously trying to create a "risk-free zone" for the

City's speculative investments.

On what the *London Times* described as "a black Monday for the Government", Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt furthermore announced 15,000 layoffs at the British Post Office, now called Consignia, with another round of 25,000 lay-offs expected to follow soon after, in order to prepare the company for—privatization!

Israeli Mossad Active On German Territory

German counter-intelligence officials are aware of Mossad espionage operations on German territory, reported the weekly magazine *Focus* on March 25. The story hints that Israeli intelligence operations are being run in Germany "without German authorization." What *Focus* reports is most likely only the tip of the iceberg:

- In 1991-95 an official at the German counter-espionage agency was recruited by the Mossad as an informant, possibly not only for special information on East European and Russian immigrants that came across his desk, but also other sensitive internal information about the counter-espionage agency's work and personnel;

- Sometime before 2000, a Palestinian-born collaborator of the counter-espionage agency, whose job was to evaluate wire-tapped phone calls among Arab and Palestinian exiles who were under surveillance, was also recruited by the Mossad. He ran a pub in Cologne which was frequented by both German intelligence officials, and prominent politicians, including Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

Both Mossad recruits had Israeli passports, and they had direct contact with Mossad officers operating through the Israeli diplomatic corps in Germany. In both cases, German authorities and the Mossad reportedly settled the matter behind the scenes, but not without some brawls between German and Israeli officials.

The *Focus* revelations, making these cases public for the first time ever, seem to reflect frictions also inside the German agencies, over the German policy toward Israel.