

International Intelligence

Jacobins Mobilize Vs. Argentine Government

Argentine Jacobin-type groups, known as *piqueteros*, are mobilizing against the Kirchner government, charging that their protest actions are being “criminalized,” and insisting on more anti-poverty funds. *piqueteros* groups, whose constant highway and bridge blockades wreak havoc in Buenos Aires and other cities, are working with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez’s “Bolivarian” apparatus. Representatives of one of the groups involved in the current protest, “Neighborhoods Arise!” attended the meeting in Caracas last August, in which Chávez’s “Bolivarian People’s Congress” was founded.

On Oct. 22, *piqueteros* literally imprisoned Labor Minister Carlos Tomada inside his ministry for 12 hours, by chaining the doors to the building shut, and surrounding it.

Using the fact that poverty levels remain unchanged, the *piqueteros* are demanding that President Nestor Kirchner increase the number of 150-peso government subsidies offered by the “Heads of Household” anti-poverty program, financed by the World Bank. (Thus the World Bank is financing these Jacobin protests!) The government says it cannot increase the grants for budgetary reasons, and intends to file criminal charges against those responsible for the Oct. 22 actions, which will fuel further protest.

The most radical group, the Classist and Combative Current (CCC), organized nationwide protests for Oct. 29, that were to particularly target municipal, provincial, and the federal governments.

‘Cocaleros’ Threaten Peru As Well

“Many Cocalero brothers . . . after what happened in Bolivia . . . are asking to take up arms, and it is possible that this will occur,” Peru’s leading Jacobin Nelson Palomino told the *Correo* daily on Oct. 27. Palomino is part of a narco-terrorist army financed and fomented throughout the Andean region by George Soros, which just brought down the government of Bolivia, and is now out to topple more governments in South America.

Palomino’s Peruvian Federation of Coca Growers coordinates tightly with Evo Morales, the leader of the Bolivian uprising; Morales, in turn, coordinates with South America’s biggest drug cartel, the FARC of Colombia. Last February, representatives of Morales and Palomino met with Soros’s drug legalization team at a conference in Merida, Mexico, billed as a strategy session to map out the next phase of the war to legalize drugs throughout the Americas. The conference was made possible by Soros’s money, and a featured speaker was Ethan Nadelmann, director of Soros’s Drug Policy Alliance, Nadelmann said the meeting in Merida “shows us that opposition to drug prohibition is popular and widespread in Latin America. And it has begun to unite.”

Soros has been laying the basis for this war for years. In 2000, he personally put a million dollars into the operation to overthrow the Peruvian government of Alberto Fujimori, which had proven the narco-terrorists could be defeated. Today, his Open Society Institute finances the so-called “Truth Commission,” which seeks to free hundreds of narco-terrorists from Peru’s jails and jail the Peruvian military officers who fought them.

Iran Awaits Europe’s Side of the Bargain

Following the Oct. 28 meeting of International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohammed Al-Baradei with European foreign ministers, who briefed him on the German-French-British talks in Tehran concerning the agreed new Iran nuclear inspection protocol, the Iranians are expecting concrete action to be taken. Ali Akbar Salehi, Iranian representative to the IAEA, said on Oct. 29 that his government had done the right and intelligent thing, and now expected a posi-

tive response.

Iranian President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami expressed the same idea, in a meeting with former German President Richard von Weizsäcker. “We expect others to act upon their commitments,” he said, “to help pass through this dilemma without problem.” He also pointed to the double standard used on the issue of WMD. “Why are they cracking down on Iran,” he asked, “which is not for nuclear weapons, but they do not even express concern over the Israeli nuclear arsenal?”

Token resistance to the decision to sign the new Non-Proliferation Treaty protocol continues to appear inside Iran—most recently through demonstrations of students organized in a group called the Movement to Defend Independence.

Pakistan, India Normalization Advances

Pakistan announced on Oct. 29 that it is accepting most of the new proposals from New Delhi for normalizing relations, including opening a bus service in Kashmir between the regions controlled by India and Pakistan. In Islamabad, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar said that real peace could only be realized by resolving the Kashmir problem through dialogue.

During the week of Oct. 20, India had announced 12 new proposals to re-start moves towards better relations. The most “radical” was that the road from Srinagar in Indian-held Kashmir to Muzaffarabad on the Pakistani side, be opened for a regular bus service.

Khokhar said Pakistan accepted India’s proposals in principle for bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, but said it should be monitored by the UN checkpoints. Khokhar said Pakistan also accepts India’s proposal for technical-level talks in December on resuming air links, and added a proposal of its own to discuss reopening a rail line between the two countries.

“The time has come for the two countries to indulge in serious negotiations,” Khokhar said. “We are clear in our mind. We want to

improve our relations with India, but this is going to be on the basis of dignity and honor.”

Russian Academy Honors Bondarevsky

Russia's Institute of Oriental Studies held a memorial meeting on Oct. 22, on the life and work of Prof. Grigory Bondarevsky, a leading Russian historian, intelligence specialist and diplomat, and a friend and consultant with researchers at *EIR*, who was murdered in his Moscow apartment in August. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Anatoly Khazanov, Director of the Department of International Relations of the Institute. On Sept. 24, a commemorative meeting was held at the Indian Embassy in Moscow, and another will be held in Kuwait in February.

At all these meetings, *EIR*'s Sept. 26 issue's retrospective tribute to the Professor, "Murder of a Legend," was distributed by his daughter. The *EIR* articles, especially that by Mark Burdman, have brought great praise, she reported because of their appreciation of the very special qualities of Professor Bondarevsky's work. As a result, there has been a request to reproduce the *EIR* articles in a book to be published by the Institute of Oriental Studies.

Afghan Opium Crop, Production Booming

In an annual survey released Oct. 29, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which has been surveying the field for a decade, said this year's opium poppy crop is the second-biggest ever, after the 1999 bumper crop. That was one year before the Taliban banned cultivation in part. In 2003, there is a 6% year-on-year opium production increase, with 3,600 tons; and poppy cultivation, at about 200,000 acres, was up 8%. The increase covers 28 of Afghanistan's 32 provinces.

"The country is at a crossroads," said the UNODC director, Antonio Mario Costa.

"There is a palpable risk that Afghanistan will again turn into a failed state, this time in the hands of drug cartels and narco-terrorists."

Afghanistan again produces 75% of the world's illegal opium. The industry generates half the country's "GDP." The raw opium is refined into heroin in labs throughout the country, then exported to central Asia, and into Europe, or through Turkey into the Balkans and into Europe. War lords and terrorists take their cut of the proceeds.

Interim President Hamid Karzai outlawed the cultivation of opium poppies, but, apparently, not with much success.

On Oct. 30, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov called for an international conference on drug trafficking, to follow up one held earlier this year in Paris. In particular, said Ivanov, Russia wants coordination to deal with the massive drug trafficking through central Asia, most of which originates in Afghanistan.

Germany Leads in Iran's Petrochemicals

In an exclusive Oct. 30 interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Reza Nemazadeh, president of the national petroleum company NPC of Iran, said that by 2015, Iran wants to achieve the status of an exporter of mainly petrochemical products, instead of crude oil as today. Iran has already invested \$11 billion in that transformation plan during the past six years, and will invest another \$15-20 billion during the next ten.

By 2015, some 60 million tons of the 75 million that Iran will produce in the petrochemical sector will be finished products and will yield an export revenue of \$20 billion for Iran. This will be a 5% share in the world market, and one-third of what the entire region will produce in this sector, Nemazadeh said.

Germany is the biggest partner of Iran, at present, with a 50% share in foreign investments in the Iranian petrochemical sector; of particular benefit is a credit-line of more than EU1 billion (\$1.17 billion) that Deutsche Bank made available, he added.

Briefly

ARIEL SHARON was questioned for five hours on Oct. 30 by Israel's national fraud squad. The questioning was related to allegations of bribery and money laundering, in the case of Likud-affiliated businessman David Appel, who paid Sharon's son Gilad for marketing a tourist resort he wanted to build on a Greek island. The money came in the form of financial support for Sharon's 1999 campaign for the Likud leadership.

COLIN POWELL'S Oct. 28 op-ed reported on the current status of the Sudan peace talks taking place under Kenyan mediator Lt. Gen. Lazaro Sumbeiywo. Powell said that the July 2002 Machakos Protocol—which opens the door for the break-up of Sudan into two countries—still stands. Promised is a visit to the White House by Sudan's President Bashir and the secessionist British agent John Garang, of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, after final agreement; then, "normalized relations," perhaps a lifting of U.S. sanctions, and "donor assistance."

HEZBOLLAH'S Sheikh Naim Qassem, deputy secretary general, told the *Daily Star* of Lebanon, "Israel is behaving in a way that is igniting the region and trying to reach a point of no return." The paper said veteran Hezbollah forces from the Bekaa Valley have been moved to front-line positions, and anti-aircraft guns are moving continuously on the back of trucks. Qassem declined to comment on reports that Hezbollah has long-range rockets.

SUDAN is suffering a swarm of grasshoppers of Biblical proportions in its farm-rich central regions. More than 600 cases of asthma have been caused by the massive dust clouds produced by the grasshoppers. A regional state of emergency has been declared. DDT remains a banned substance in Sudan. The farmland in Gezira state is the richest in the country. Some reports estimate that Sudan's agricultural potential, in conjunction with Somalia's, could feed the entire African population and export food.