
International Intelligence

Colombia, Venezuela Open Trans-Caribbean Pipeline

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez inaugurated on Oct. 12 a 225 km pipeline that joins both countries, and will deliver 150 million cubic feet of gas from Colombia to Venezuela during the next five years, and after that will send 200 million cubic feet from Venezuela to Colombia. This is the first stage of a pipeline that will extend into Panama and Ecuador. During the event, President Uribe announced that Colombia will join the Bank of the South, explaining that this was not meant as a rejection of the World Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank, "but an expression of solidarity, of loyalty with the brotherhood of Latin-America to which we are not going to fail."

Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa, invited to the event, said that this integration shows that "there's more that joins us than separates us," and the next step will be the inauguration of the Bank of the South, now including Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Venezuela. "We are seeking to forget an old view that sought to create great markets, not great nations; that sought great consumers but not great citizens," Correa said.

British Judge Rules Gore Movie Contains Propaganda

A British judge ruled on Oct. 10 that Al Gore's global warming movie (for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize), "An Inconvenient Truth," can only be shown in British public schools, if teachers inform the students that it isn't always true. The judge issued his decision on the basis of British education laws which prohibit the promotion of unbalanced political views in the classroom.

The case was initiated by a father, who sued to stop the Department of Children, Schools, and Families from sending copies of Gore's movie to schools across England,

on the grounds that it contained "serious scientific inaccuracies, political propaganda and sentimental mush." High Court judge Michael Burton did not stop distribution of the movie, but ordered that it could only be shown if teachers warned students that the science isn't decided on global warming.

The judge cited nine specific scientific errors in the film, made in "the context of alarmism and exaggeration." These included Gore's assertion that a sea-level rise of up to 20 feet would be caused by melting of either West Antarctica or Greenland in the near future. The judge called this "distinctly alarmist," as it is "common ground that if Greenland melted it would release this amount of water—but only after, and over, millennia."

Likewise, there is "insufficient evidence" that global warming produced Hurricane Katrina, as Gore asserts. And as for the claims that polar bears have been drowning searching for ice, Judge Burton wrote that "the only scientific study that either side before me can find, is one which indicates that four polar bears have recently been found drowned because of a storm."

LaRouche: India Should Reconsider Nuclear Deal

Lyndon LaRouche on Oct. 12 issued a statement, in response to comments by India's Prime Minister Singh, that he would be willing to abandon the U.S.-India nuclear deal to prevent the collapse of his government.

LaRouche observed that it may be in India's national interest to take a second look at the deal, given that, so long as Vice President Dick Cheney remains in office, the Bush Administration is thoroughly untrustworthy, and no agreement with the Administration can be considered viable. LaRouche proposed that the U.S.-India deal be suspended, pending the U.S. adoption of the proposal presented to President Bush in early July at the Kennebunkport, Maine summit, by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian leader proposed a U.S.-Rus-

sian strategic partnership, including on ballistic missile defense.

An acceptance of the Kennebunkport proposal, LaRouche explained, would be a test of the honesty of the Bush Administration at this time. There are, LaRouche added, many Republicans who share his view, that the Administration absolutely cannot be trusted, under the current circumstances, to live up to any strategic promises. LaRouche said that there is no benefit to dealing with this U.S. government, so long as Cheney is running U.S. policy.

He added that the behavior of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is a further complicating factor.

LaRouche then addressed India's own needs. India must be completely free to complete the thorium cycle, including the freedom to charge it up, he said. The country faces a severe water and power crisis, particularly in the south. This is an existential crisis for India and for all of South Asia. Any deal which in any way hamstringing India's ability to proceed ahead, with full sovereign control over the full thorium cycle, is bad for India.

Private Security Firms Order Probe of Blackwater

The International Peace Operations Association, the trade group for private military companies, announced on Oct. 12 that Blackwater USA had formally withdrawn its membership in the association. On Oct. 8, the IPOA's executive committee authorized an independent review of Blackwater "to ascertain whether Blackwater USA's processes and procedures were fully sufficient to ensure compliance with the IPOA Code of Conduct."

The IPOA claims that its code of conduct "is a set of ethical and professional guidelines for companies in the peace and stability operations industry," and that it "stresses human rights, corporate ethics, international humanitarian law, transparency, accountability, and responsibility and professionalism in relationships with employees, clients, and partner companies."