

International Intelligence

2009: A Turning Point For India-Russia Ties

Dec. 22—The year 2009 was a “turning point” for the strategic partners, India and Russia, *Press Trust of India* wrote today.

Brahmand Defence and Aerospace News today quoted leading Russian India scholar Tatiana Shaumian, director of Centre of Indian Studies of the Oriental Institute of the Russian Science Academy, on India’s high-level moves towards Russia.

Indian President Pratibha Patil was in Russia in September, followed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in December, to “concretize the two nations’ association after New Delhi’s pro-US tilt,” BNS reported. India gave a “green light” to keep Russia as its key strategic partner, with the umbrella civilian nuclear deal and ten-year defense agreements. When Singh attended the BRIC and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summits in Yekaterinburg, he signalled the special importance India attaches to its relations with Russia, Shaumyan said. “The Kremlin did not fail to notice Singh’s gesture, which to a great extent dispersed the ‘India falling into the lap of the Americans’ notion widely subscribed to in Russia,” she said.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin will go to India in 2010, BNS reported. Both nations called for doubling their very low bilateral trade of \$20 billion by 2015, at the Indo-Russian CEO’s Council meeting during Singh’s Moscow visit Dec. 6-8.

Colombian President Orders Armed Rescue of Hostages

Dec. 22—Following the Dec. 21 kidnapping of Gov. Luis Francisco Cuellar of Caqueta by the narcoterrorist FARC, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe announced early this morning that he had ordered the nation’s military and police forces to not only rescue the governor, but also “all the kidnap victims still in the hands of these bandits [the FARC].”

Currently, the FARC holds 24 people hostage, some of whom were kidnapped as long as a decade ago.

Uribe, the only South American head-of-state not to succumb to British agent George Soros’s siren song of drug legalization, minced no words in explaining his decision. The FARC, he said, has for months “thumbed its nose at the country,” dangling the possibility that it *might* release some hostages, if the government met its demands, while, at the same time, “gaining international support to try to justify its terrorism in Colombia.”

The latter reference is to Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez’s sponsorship in Caracas of the founding meeting Dec. 7-9 of the “Continental Bolivarian Movement” (MCB), a pro-terrorist grouping whose executive committee includes the FARC’s top leader, Alfonso Cano. Tensions between Colombia and Venezuela have escalated because of this, and other of Chavez’s wildly provocative acts.

The FARC wants to turn the liberation of hostages into a “show,” Uribe said. “But we cannot sit and wait on the whims of the terrorists who bathe the country in blood... I told my Armed Forces early this morning: ‘Please, don’t expect any acts of generosity from these outlaws. Let us militarily rescue the hostages.’”

Lisbon Treaty Emboldens Secessionists, Feudalists

PARIS, Dec. 22—Secessionists are rejoicing. As the Lisbon Treaty becomes a legal reality, nostalgic dreamers of former feudal entities such as Brittany, Catalonia, Corsica, Tyrol, are becoming increasingly ecstatic. Why? The Treaty “will improve the standing of regions and cities in the European Union’s political system, and boost the role of their representative body in Brussels, the Committee of the Regions (CoR)” —at the expense of national states. The CoR will be able appeal any decision of a national parliament not respecting the “subsidiarity principle,” favoring local governments over those of

sovereign nation-states.

In France, a powerful lobby in Brittany, Brittany Reunited wrote on Oct. 28 that the Lisbon Treaty finally gives a legal status to “French national minorities,” a status which, so far, is denied by the French national state. Note that, when France became a republic, most feudal baronies, especially the large duchies such as Brittany and Normandy, were politically broken up by dividing their territories into numerous “departments” and other administrative bodies.

Commission: British Royals Must Reveal Finances

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—The secret correspondence between the government and the royal family concerning the monarchy’s finances will be released after Great Britain’s Information Commission ruled in favor of a request by the *Independent* newspaper. The release is unprecedented and required three years of campaigning by the *Independent* to demonstrate that its release was in the “public interest,” which is the only way royal correspondence will be made public, since the royals are not subject to the normal rules of Britain’s Freedom of Information Act. The ruling comes just before government was about to close even this last loophole. The documents are to be released by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport which has 45 days to file an appeal.

At issue are a total of 100 memos and letters concerning expenditures of royals’ £130 million annual allowance. The days when members of the royal family, including all the useless princes and princesses who will never become heads of state, could live rent free and on the taxpayer bill, could be soon over.

The Queen was not amused by this ruling. Buckingham Palace released an arrogant “Let them eat cake” statement saying, “It is particularly worth recognizing that information that interests the public may not be the same as that which would be disclosed in the public interest.”