

International Intelligence

Venezuelan anti-drug leader muzzled

El Pueblo, the main newspaper in Tachira state of Venezuela, reported Nov. 21 that civil judge Milagros de Vivas granted a restraining order requested by Gnostic politician Walter Márquez against Alejandro Peña Esclusa, former presidential candidate and head of the Venezuelan Labor Party. The order says that Peña has violated Márquez's constitutional guarantees of his honor and reputation, and discriminates against him by reason of his creed or profession of religious faith.

The order came in the wake of a front-page story in the conservative daily *El Católico* of Tachira, Venezuela, in which Peña Esclusa accused gubernatorial candidate Márquez of backing the terrorist ELN guerrillas, who in early October admitted to having murdered Colombian Bishop Jaramillo Gonsalve. When the ELN killed five Venezuelan National Guardsmen later that month, Márquez protected the ELN by claiming that not they, but the military forces had staged the ambush. Peña, in public statements, has linked Márquez's support of terrorists to his leading role in the satanic Gnostic Church.

The leaders of the Márquez campaign categorically rejected Peña's charges that their candidate "supports bishop-killers," and aside from taking the legal action, have claimed that not Márquez, but Peña is "anti-Christian" for waging such a campaign.

British promote Anglo-Saxon racism

The reform movements in Eastern Europe do not represent the triumph "Western values," but of "Anglo-Saxon values," proclaimed the *Financial Times* of London's "Lombard" columnist Martin Wolf Nov. 24. Opening a new cultural-ideological flank in the British campaign against continental Europe, Wolf asserted that it is a "myth" to believe that the concepts of par-

liamentary democracy, market economy, and "a government of laws, not of men," are "universal Western values." Rather, "over the centuries these have been, above all, Anglo-Saxon values. Their triumph in this century is owed to one Anglo-Saxon power, the United States of America. . . . Europeans should give thanks to where their thanks are due.

"It looks as though the half of the globe dominated by the Anglo-Americans has now won a second great victory. This time the victory, a peaceful one, is against Russia, a Russia captured by the European totalitarian ideology, as a result of that debacle of European civilization, the First World War. Europeans should never forget the difference between the first and second halves of this century, between the world they made for themselves and the world they have made under American tutelage." On this matter of "European totalitarian ideology," Wolf claims that both Marxism and National Socialism "go back to Plato."

Wolf concluded with the "irony" that "the Anglo-Saxon powers have been falling on hard times," most notably the U.K., but the U.S., too. "The U.S. remains the one true global power, but, if the triumph of Anglo-Saxon values is to hold good into the next century, it will only be if their implantations in erstwhile enemies has been as successful as we all hope."

Romania tightens ties to China

The Romanian government announced on Nov. 17 that it was closing border crossings into Hungary at five points. The announcement came only days before the Romanian Communist Party's Central Committee was scheduled to meet on Nov. 27, and comes in the context of considerable diplomatic exchanges with the Chinese Communist regime.

One of the Chinese visitors to Bucharest will be Qiao Shi, chief of China's security forces and a member of the Communist Party's Politburo. He will reportedly be discussing further details on a proposal by Ro-

manian President Nicolae Ceausescu for upgrading cooperation between the two countries.

Ceausescu made the proposal in a Nov. 17 interview with the official Chinese *People's Daily*, where he said, "We see developing cooperation with the Chinese Communist Party and people as extremely important. . . . Now more than ever before, it is necessary to have cooperation between communist parties and between socialist countries."

Romania is the only Eastern European nation which has maintained unbroken good relations with China for 40 years. And not without reason: According to Katalin Popian, a Romanian Catholic priest who was interviewed in the Italian Catholic daily *Avvenire*, during the course of his rule Ceausescu has killed 1 million opposition figures, with the help of the Romanian secret services, which are among the most ruthless in the world. That figure includes 12 Catholic bishops and many Orthodox priests.

Communist China nears final breakdown

The collapse of industrial production in China is going to provoke an urban revolt, according to the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera's* Beijing correspondent Nov. 17. According to official and confidential information, the Li Peng economic reform launched in September 1988 has broken the backbone of the country's economy, especially affecting the industrial sector. In October there was an officially reported negative rate of growth of 2.1% in industrial production; in September it was only +0.9%, compared with +18% a year earlier. According to *China Daily* there is no money to buy raw materials or to pay wages.

In most of the biggest companies—like the steel mill in Beijing, which employed 300,000 workers—the management announced that they will no longer pay any production premiums, which were equivalent to one-third to one-half of take-home pay. In addition, in 1989, one month's wages will be used to buy government-issued treasury bonds. Workers are complain-

ing that they can no longer feed their families.

During the third week of November the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party declared that the Li Peng economic reform will have to be continued for another two years. Credit cuts enacted to contain the proliferating private sector, have already produced the bankruptcy of more than 1 million small firms in the countryside. Unemployed workers who want to go back to the land can not do so. The public sector that was supposed to become the beneficiary of the Li Peng economic reforms has seen an increase of 120% of losses in the first six months of 1989. In the cities unemployment is doubling.

China protests U.S. sanctions bill

The People's Republic of China called in the U.S. ambassador in Beijing on Nov. 19 to protest against the U. S. Congress's resolution to impose sanctions in response to the Tiananmen Square massacre in June. China's state radio said Ambassador James Lilley was told by Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqiu the Bush administration must oppose the bill or face the consequences.

"China voiced its utmost indignation and raised a strong objection," the broadcast said. "This has seriously hurt Sino-American relations and the feelings of the Chinese people." The broadcast called on the United States to block the bill. "We hope the U.S. government will take effective measures to clearly oppose this bill. Otherwise it will be solely responsible for the serious consequences. . . . China has never given in to foreign pressure. . . . This policy can only make the U. S. eat its own bitter fruit."

Soviet coal strike continues

As of Nov. 21, four of the 12 coal pits in Vorkuta, in the Arctic region of the U.S.S.R., were still out on strike, and strike leaders in these pits were insisting they

would be staying out of work for at least another 10 days to two weeks. The main pit in Vorkuta is staying on strike, while at another pit, four leading miners are on a hunger strike, in protest of the Soviet government's refusal to rescind a decision by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation declaring the strike illegal. The miners' defiance continues despite an emergency meeting between strike leaders and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov on Nov. 17.

Soviet Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Lev Ryabev revealed on Nov. 20 that the Soviets have lost 25 million tons of coal this year. But only 7 million of these have been as a result of strikes. The rest of the losses are due to infrastructure breakdowns, transport breakdowns, etc. Ryabev claimed that the Soviet natural gas situation is tolerable, but that there are problems in "fulfilling the plan" in the oil sector.

Georgians confirm right to secede

The Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Georgian republic passed a strongly worded resolution on Nov. 19, reaffirming its right to secede from the U.S.S.R. The resolution challenges Moscow over the incorporation of Georgia into the Soviet Union some 70 years back, claiming that this was done on the basis of "military intervention," not the Georgians' free will.

The resolution further declared that Georgia reserves the right to ignore laws passed in Moscow if they are not in line with what the Georgians want. It upheld Georgia's right for sovereignty over its natural resources, including water and forests.

The Georgian Communist Party was forced to go along with the resolution, out of fear of losing all support in the next round of municipal elections in the spring. Most Georgians are still seething with rage over the KGB-led massacre of demonstrators in the capital city Tblisi last April. BBC radio says the situation presents many complications for Mikhail Gorbachov, because he is personally close to Georgian Communist Party head Gumbaridze.

Briefly

● **ONE EGYPTIAN** was killed and 70 wounded during street battles which broke out between Iraqis and Egyptians on Nov. 17 in Baghdad outside Egypt's embassy.

● **OVER 550,000** people from across Latvia gathered in the Baltic republic's capital of Riga on Nov. 18, to celebrate their Independence Day, which had just been declared by the authorities in defiance of the Soviet occupiers.

● **THE CYANIDE** poisoning of Chilean grapes exported to the U.S. earlier this year was most likely done in the United States, possibly by employees of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration, according to the Nov. 16 *Wall Street Journal*.

● **BRIAN MULRONEY**, Canada's prime minister, visited Moscow over the week of Nov. 20, in order to seal 20 new joint Canadian-Soviet business ventures.

● **ISRAEL** will restore its diplomatic ties with Poland, as the result of phone consultations held Nov. 16 between Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski and his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens.

● **THE VATICAN** suddenly announced on Nov. 21 that a Vatican delegation will not be traveling to Moscow as planned in order to prepare for Gorbachov's visit to the Pope in Rome, which is still set for Dec. 1

● **PABLO ESCOBAR**, a top member of Colombia's drug mafia, barely escaped, in his underwear, when a combined army and police strike force invaded his hideout, capturing 55 of his bodyguards.

● **CESAR GAVIRIA**, the anti-drug Liberal Party presidential hopeful in Colombia, has taken a strong lead in polls over the U. S. State Department favorite backed by the drug-legalization lobby, Ernesto Samper Pizano.