

International Intelligence

Pope announces synod of European bishops

Pope John Paul II has announced that an extraordinary synod of all Catholic bishops in Europe will be convened in the near future. The announcement, made April 22 in Czechoslovakia at the conclusion of the Pope's short visit there, came as a total surprise. As the French daily *Le Figaro* stressed, such an extraordinary synod, bringing together the approximately 1,000 bishops from all over Europe, East and West, is unprecedented in European history. The Church would thereby be doing what governments cannot.

The Pope asserted that such a synod would "concern itself intimately with this continent torn apart by centuries of war, but which has the presence of innumerable saints." He said the event would allow "my brothers in the Episcopate to reflect more intensely" on the important historical moment that is occurring for Europe and for the Church.

Earth Day promotes genocide for S. America

In celebration of Earth Day April 20, the United States Information Service (USIS) arranged a phone conference of environmentalists from Peru, Argentina, Mexico, and the United States to denounce nuclear energy, fossil fuels, and all industrialization.

The major presentation on the call was made by Dr. Michael Oppenheimer of the Environmental Defense Fund, who has served as an adviser to President George Bush's science adviser, Alan Bromley, and to William Reilly, director of the Environmental Protection Agency.

In the midst of Ibero-America's devastating economic crisis, in which even the most fundamental necessities of life cannot be met, the environmentalists called for "reorganizing the world's economy, so as to preserve the environment." They called for halting the use of fossil fuels, and for a "de-

velopment model" which "would not go through the industrialization phase," adding that there is still time for Ibero-America to avoid industrialization. Recommendations included the use of ethanol and solar energy, stopping the use of cars, and reducing population growth. Participants on the call also denounced the use of nuclear energy.

Environmentalist Jan Hartke told listeners, "We hope to create a wave of human concern so great, so diverse, so powerful, that it cannot be ignored by political, government, and business leaders, around the world."

While Peruvians starve, Earth Day public relations coordinator Diane McEachern called on ecologists to "combat the feelings of impotence which citizens around the world feel" regarding the deterioration of the environment.

'European Triangle' plan presented in East Berlin

Webster Tarpley, the president of the U.S. Schiller Institute and a contributing editor of *EIR*, briefed an audience of Chinese and East European students in East Berlin on April 21-22, on Lyndon LaRouche's plan for a European "development triangle" linking Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, which would form the core of a high-technology European industrial expansion. Tarpley was a speaker at the first conference of the Interforum, an organization founded by the Federation for a Democratic China, New Forum, and other East European organizations. The conference was on "East Europe and China in Transition—Past, Present, and Future."

About 150-200 people attended, most of them Chinese students, with students and speakers from Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Soviet Union, East and West Germany, and France.

Tarpley addressed a colloquium on the economic future of China, where he was the only speaker to call for the program for China designed by Sun Yat-sen 70 years ago. Schiller Institute organizers at the conference distributed copies of the LaRouche "triangle" program and *EIR*'s Chinese-language newsletter.

S. American bishops seek continental integration

"The Fourth General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate, to take place in Santo Domingo upon the 500th anniversary of the discovery and evangelization of America, will have as its primary objective the promotion of Latin American integration, according to the document prepared by its organizers," an AP wire published in the April 17 edition of *El Occidental*, in Guadalupe, Mexico, reported.

According to the report, the draft document prepared by the Latin American Bishops Conference (CELAM) affirms that "Latin America is a society in disintegration," and that the current political-economic crisis has taken from Ibero-America any power of negotiation or leadership in the world.

CELAM president, Colombian Bishop Dario Castrillon stated, "We should reaffirm our role as producer and creator of wealth, leaving aside false nationalisms." He continued, "The Church must be a pillar of integration and have the infrastructure to assume this role, aside from the faith which unifies us. . . . The Catholic Church can be the primary support for real Latin American integration."

Soviets to withdraw from Kurile Islands?

A senior Soviet official said that Moscow may reduce or withdraw military forces from disputed islands north of Japan to speed up regional disarmament, the Kyodo News Service reported April 21. Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky also called for exchanges between Soviet and Japanese officers and military experts as a "confidence-building measure."

"We must look for solutions to the question of reduction or withdrawal of the Soviet military presence on Sakhalin and the Kuriles," Petrovsky was quoted in an interview. Petrovsky was in Tokyo for talks with Japanese officials on a planned visit by Foreign

Minister Eduard Shevardnadze later this year.

Japan thus far is saying no to any type of formal dialogue with Moscow on military matters. Foreign Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe April 10 told reporters Japan has no intention of agreeing to Soviet proposals to set up new forums for talks on "confidence-building measures in the Asia Pacific region."

Akira Hiyoshi, director general of the Defense Agency's Defense Policy Bureau, reportedly told a parliamentary committee that the Soviets continue to qualitatively improve their forces in the region while making only minor quantitative reductions. State Minister Uozo Ishikawa, in charge of the Japanese Defense Agency, told the same committee that Japan has no intention of putting a freeze on its defense budget, which rose 6.1% in fiscal 1990.

Japan's Defense Agency also released figures last week showing that Soviet planes still account for the vast majority of foreign violations of Japanese air space. Figures indicate that Soviet planes were responsible for some 80% of the 812 scrambles of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force in 1989.

Lafontaine assassination attempt shocks politicians

West German Saarland state prime minister and Social Democratic Party candidate for chancellor Oskar Lafontaine was seriously injured in an assassination attempt by a 42-year-old woman at an SPD election campaign rally in Cologne April 25. The attack has shocked politicians throughout Germany.

The woman, Adelheid Streidel, approached Lafontaine on the podium, handed him a notebook and a pen, and stabbed him in the neck with a kitchen knife when he bent over to sign his autograph, missing the jugular.

A Cologne police spokesman said April 26 that Streidel had been planning the attack for several months. Streidel declared in the police interrogation that she decided around Christmas 1989 to "set a sign by killing a leading politician." She singled out as her

target either Johannes Rau, prime minister of Northrhine-Westphalia, or Lafontaine.

Police reported that she declared during the interrogation that she knew about "the existence of a secret system of underground tunnels throughout the entirety of Europe, that is harboring man-factories (*Menschenfabriken*)." Streidel reportedly declared she decided to kill a prominent politician to call the attention of the public to this.

This peculiar story resembles somewhat the most recent book by Umberto Eco, *Foucault's Pendulum*, which is on the history of the occult and mentions a secret system of underground tunnels being used by cults and sects.

Izvestia covers du Pont Smith push for sanctions

The April 18 Soviet daily *Izvestia* attacked Lyndon LaRouche associate Lewis du Pont Smith for his demands that the Soviets free Lithuania or face a trade cut-off by the Du Pont company. *Izvestia's* New York correspondent, A. Shalnev, wrote:

"It must be noted that demands for harshness have also started to be heard in American business circles. Literally days ago, Lewis du Pont Smith, one of the heirs of the du Pont family, announced that at the annual meeting of stockholders of the concern, upcoming in the 20s of April, he will try to obtain a resolution on cessation of all economic and financial operations with the Soviet Union—until, the announcement says, the U.S.S.R. recognizes the sovereign rights of the republic. I would remind you, that last year DuPont's trade turnover with the U.S.S.R. comprised several hundreds of millions of dollars."

For contrast, Shalnev pointed to "quite influential [business] figures, who are rather critical of what the Lithuanian government has undertaken, and don't allow even the thought of any sort of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union."

But, he concluded, "It is difficult not to take note, as the *Washington Post* reported, that a whole series of Soviet-American talks on trade and economic questions could be threatened."

● **A SERIES OF STRIKES** crippled communications in Nicaragua just days before the April 25 inauguration of Violeta Chamorro as Nicaragua's new President, in an evident flexing of muscle by the outgoing Sandinistas. A debate has broken out within the Chamorro cabinet over whether to permit Humberto Ortega to remain as head of the army, with one faction arguing that that was the best guarantee against a Sandinista coup.

● **PRINCE SIHANOUK** has finally agreed to the latest tactic being pushed by Thailand and Japan to attempt to settle the Cambodian war. Sihanouk has agreed to meet with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen alone in Tokyo the first week in June, without the Khmer Rouge, according to the *Bangkok Post*.

● **JAPAN** will continue its defense buildup despite East-West detente, Prime Minister Kaifu said April 23. The *Washington Times* quoted Kaifu speaking at a budget committee session of the House of Representatives.

● **DEPUTY SOVIET** Foreign Minister Ernest Obminsky told the U.N. General Assembly April 23, "The potential of peace dividends is not limited to Soviet-American relations." "The process of international detente and the settlement of regional conflicts also permits reductions of military expenditure in the developing countries."

● **NORTH KOREAN** troops are reported to have quelled a riot by workers at a chemical factory in Hamkyong-namto. The riot is said to have erupted after a demonstration by students in the capital of Pyongyang against the rule of dictator Kim Il-Sung. According to a source "well versed in North Korean affairs" quoted in news reports, the rioting "might have been on a large scale," and reflected the spread of reformist impulses from the East bloc.