

International Intelligence

EIR's charges verified against Corazon Aquino

In May 1987, *EIR* charged that congressional elections held in the Philippines that year had been massively rigged by President Corazon Aquino for her candidates, in order to defeat the challenging Grand Alliance for Democracy. That charge has now been verified by a study carried out by Prof. Luzviminda Tancangco of the University of the Philippines, reported by the *Bangkok Post* on March 14.

The study concluded that "systematic rigging" took place in the 1987 elections, and Tancangco is also charging that the Aquino administration is gearing up for 1992 elections by packing the Commission on Elections with Aquino supporters. "At the rate things are going, the 1992 elections will be a repeat performance of the 1984 and 1986 elections, where the bureaucracy was made an integral part of the political machinery," the study says.

The study also focuses on the role of the National Movement for Free Elections, Namfrel, which was sponsored by the U.S. Project Democracy. Namfrel was the overseer of the 1986 and 1987 elections.

Militias are taking over Colombia's cities

Groups of heavily armed youth wearing ski-masks, black jackets, and "MP" armbands are roaming the streets of Medellin, and carrying out what they call "cleaning up operations" against beggars, prostitutes, drug pushers, and other so-called criminals. These "popular militias" are also offering "protection" to local storekeepers and bus companies in exchange for price controls, and they are shutting down those who don't accept.

According to the commander of the Fourth Army Brigade in Medellin, General Pardo, these militias are financing themselves by kidnappings and bank robberies and

"are tied by umbilical cord" to the FARC narco-terrorists.

The Moscow-backed FARC, which is currently attending talks on amnesty and legalization hosted by the government of César Gaviria, garnered headlines earlier this month when 40 mass graves were discovered, containing the bodies of at least 400 guerrillas "executed" by the FARC for alleged treason to the revolutionary cause.

The daily *El Tiempo* revealed April 12 that the already-amnestied EPL narco-guerrillas are using government funds to purportedly teach poor Colombian children how to read, using an original curriculum based on anti-military and pro-terrorist propaganda. Analysts suggest that the "popular militias" and EPL "literacy" campaign are the products of the government's concessions to the narco-terrorists and an intensified anti-military campaign condoned by the Gaviria administration.

Bush's morality went from high ground to 'morass'

"Barely six weeks sufficed to shatter the vision" of George Bush's "new world order," which "came to naught on the chilly mountain slopes of northern Iraq," writes Theo Sommer, editor-in-chief of the influential Hamburg weekly *Die Zeit*, in a commentary in the London *Guardian* on April 13. Sommer's view is representative of that of a section of the German liberal elite.

Sommer writes that the "saddening triumph of selective morality revealed the Kuwait campaign for what it had been all along: an unabashed exercise in national self-interest, only thinly veiled by invocations of principle. . . . The descent from last January's moral high ground to the moral morass of March was soberingly precipitate. . . .

"There is no use shedding too many tears over its sudden demise. From the time the new world order was first proclaimed, it was a thoroughly flawed concept. . . . The flaws of this concept were obvious from the beginning. There cannot be such a thing as unipo-

lar hegemony. . . .

"It is vastly exaggerated to depict the war against Iraq as the 'defining moment' of the post-Cold War epoch. It was nothing of the sort. It shook the world, and the tremors can still be felt. But in the last analysis, it was of secondary importance. The most significant event of the past few years was the end of communism and the dismantling of what used to be the Iron Curtain. . . . Now it must be the primary task of all Europeans to help Europe grow together again."

Sommer has become a controversial figure in recent months, since he has written acerbic commentaries against Bush's policy in the Gulf, including warning that there was a danger of returning to the era of the 1618-48 Thirty Years' War, and likening Bush to Austria's Emperor Franz Josef. The Thatcherite press in Britain has attacked Sommer as a "typical German liberal nationalist," and a "Russian bootlicker."

Israel's Ariel Sharon lays claim to Jordan

"Jordan Is the Palestinian State," is the headline of the lead commentary in the April 4 *Jerusalem Post*, written by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the fascist strongman behind the current regime.

Sharon raves: "The 'Palestinian problem' as a national-political problem is a propaganda lie. It is the result of systematic brainwashing by the PLO, with the help of cooperative leftists. For, since 1922, there has existed in the eastern Land of Israel, on three-quarters of the territory of the whole Land of Israel (the 'Greater,' as defined by the international community, with U.S. endorsement) the Arab Palestinian state, which is Jordan."

Sharon proclaims that Jordan itself occupies part of the land that is historically "Eretz Yisroel." He insists that the government must have a policy of "annexation. . . of those essential areas now settled in Judea, within the State of Israel. . . . Also, surely,

we must expose the lie of 'the rights of the Palestinians.' It must be explicitly and loudly proclaimed by the government and the Knesset that Jordan has been and is the Palestinian state in the Land of Israel. It is enough that this Land of the Jews has been partitioned and we have lost its overwhelming portion to Arab sovereignty."

Splits occur in Soviet Democratic Union

A new ultra-radical faction has been created within the Democratic Union, the first opposition party to the ruling Communist Party in the Soviet Union, according to a March 29 news item from the Center for Democracy. The new grouping advocates armed struggle against the government.

The Revolutionary Liberal faction issued a manifesto which read: "We want to achieve [freedom] without degrading ourselves with meaningless negotiations and shameful appeasement. We are not seeking a consensus with a criminal and pathetic regime, but confrontation with it, going as far as armed conflict. We will not trade one barricade for ten round table meetings. . . .

"We want to see our people strong, brave and proud. . . . But we are not going to wait for the people. We need freedom now. . . .

"Our program includes, as a minimum, constant readiness to stoke the flames of rebellion all over the country if necessary. Only the stern and pure spirit of rebellion can raise the people to an unattainable height."

On April 6, Democratic Union activists issued an open letter in response to radical demands of the Revolutionary Liberals, stating their concern over the tendency of some Democratic Union members to renounce the principle of nonviolent resistance that was part of the group's founding principles. The letter addressed the apparent hopelessness of the Soviet situation, which has pushed many party activists to embrace an ideology of violent revolution. "These

two positions cannot exist in the same organization," the activists stated. "The letter and the spirit of our charter forbid it. . . . It is impossible for us to remain as one organization."

Italian minister sees upsurge of terrorism

Vincenzo Scotti, Italy's interior minister, warned that "terrorism and organized crime are mobilized against Europe," in a speech before the Commission of Constitutional Affairs of the Italian Parliament on April 10.

"Nobody can ignore the fact that many are concerned with the emergence of a strong, united Europe" said Scotti, adding that the difficulties related to a new equilibrium in Europe, in the Middle East, and worldwide could become fertile ground for the escalation of terrorism.

Referring to a recent report of the Italian secret service, he pointed out that "there is a propagandistic effort characterizing the activities of a number of terrorists who took refuge in France, in particular Scalzone [of the terrorist group Metropoli-Red Brigades], Alimonti, and others, with the aim of beginning new armed actions, also through the creation of new logistical structures.

"There are too many elements in the world which have an interest in delaying the process of European integration," Scotti added, without specifying who these might be. "There are also signals of a revival of terrorism. But as interior minister, I must stop my comments at this point."

Scotti recognized the obvious problem represented by the mafia in Italy, but he rejected the idea that the mafia should be seen as only an Italian phenomenon. "It is enough to think about the dope traffic and the recycling of dirty money to see that this is an international problem. . . . Where is all the money from the Italian-based mafia going? Who is involved in its recycling? Are the 'respectable people' of European finance immune to the problem?"

● **THE PRESIDENT** of Soviet Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, said in an interview with the Spanish daily *El País* that "1991 could be the last year of Gorbachov. That depends on him. This year is the last chance." He warned that Gorbachov had better come up with a program soon that could interest and motivate the Soviet population.

● **FRENCH** Socialist Party leader and former defense minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement charged on April 5 that "the context of a collapse of communism demands another answer than the unleashing of an imperialism. . . . The recreation of an Anglo-American protectorate in the heart of the Islamic-Arabic world at the end of the 20th century has no future."

● **BRAWLS** broke out in the Taiwan Parliament on April 12, when the opposition Democratic People's Party began protesting the constitutional changes being proposed by the ruling Kuomintang party (KMT). The KMT is discussing measures to force the retirement of elderly delegates elected on the mainland 40 years ago. The DPP is threatening street protests, claiming the reforms do not go far enough.

● **RE'UVEN MERHAV**, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, completed a "private" visit to the People's Republic of China in March, and was also in the Soviet Union recently. Contacts are under way between China and Israel to establish diplomatic relations, Israeli television reported.

● **ITALY'S** President Francesco Cossiga gave the green light to the formation of the 50th government of the Italian Republic on April 16. The government will be led by Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, and it follows the crisis that broke out following Andreotti's visit to Washington in March.