

International Intelligence

India, Pakistan take steps to improve ties

India and Pakistan signed two agreements on April 6—one on advance information about military exercises and another on respecting each other's airspace—as part of an effort to improve their stormy bilateral relations.

These agreements, along with an earlier one renouncing any attacks on one another's nuclear facilities, will help reverse the negative trends which not long ago brought the two countries to the brink of war.

It would, however, be unrealistic to assume that the basic causes of the mistrust and tension have disappeared. From the Indian standpoint, Pakistan's interference in the states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab and its action in sending arms and saboteurs to the two states are the crux of the problem. Pakistan not only denies the Indian charges, but also blames India for "suppressing the freedom struggle" in Jammu and Kashmir and meddling in Sindh affairs.

Soviets worried about Bush's new world order

Soviet Chief of Staff Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev has warned that attempts are being made to transform NATO into a "global supranational policeman," as the strategic cornerstone of the "new world order." In an article in the Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia*, Moiseyev insists that the era of "the blocs" must come to an end, and be superseded by new security policies based on "defense within the borders of the nation."

Germany's *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper on April 20 pointed out that the Moiseyev piece is one among several strategic commentaries in the U.S.S.R., which indicate a preoccupation with the global situation following the Gulf war.

A contrary "globalist" tendency is also apparent in the Soviet press, with various articles by military planners, political scientists, and Foreign Ministry advisers, push-

ing a new "global security" regime which would build on the United Nations-centered capabilities that came into play during the war against Iraq. Some of the globalists are even willing to see an expanded world role for NATO, including into Eastern Europe.

Gush Emunim rush to build new settlements

With Israeli government backing, the Gush Emunim fanatics began construction of a new Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank during the night of April 15-16. The settlement, Revava, was rushed into construction in anticipation of the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III in Israel. Gush faithful say that the government is providing funding for Revava.

Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon put tremendous pressure on the cabinet to go along, and now all senior Israeli ministers have declared their support for Revava, the BBC reports. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir stated that the construction of the settlement is "an internal matter that has nothing to do with the peace process" in the region. A few Israeli leftists protested the building of Revava, warning that it was "a provocation that would damage the peace process." The military authorities removed them from the site, and declared it to be a "closed military area."

Israel's refusal to talk to PLO spells 'disaster'

Israel will face disaster if it continues the Shamir government policy of refusing to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and thereby encourages a "fundamentalist" alternative among Palestinians, wrote Israeli Professor of Holocaust Studies Yehuda Bauer of Hebrew University, in an April 12 *Jerusalem Post* commentary.

Defining himself as a "worried Jew," Bauer foresees growing radicalism in the Middle East, unless Israel adopts a more "pragmatic" policy: "It turns out that the

news of the PLO's demise has been definitely premature. . . . For almost 24 years now, various Israeli administrations have been looking for that rarest of animals: the moderate non-PLO Palestinian leader. Not even the strongest microscope has been able to uncover any such creature. Will they now find him? Don't hold your breath."

Bauer denounces the PLO, but then insists: "It isn't our business to choose the leadership of another people. We have enough trouble with our own." He says Israel should open up dialogue with "pragmatists" in the PLO, "because despite deep disagreements, they accept the give and take of politics. . . . One cannot talk to fundamentalists, be they Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, or, for that matter, Jews. But our government, in its infinite wisdom, having first supported the fundamentalists against the PLO in the Gaza Strip, now continues to stall."

He warns: "Keep on, another year, and another year, until all Palestinians become raving fundamentalist extremists out to kill all non-believers, and then we will have a self-fulfilling prophecy fulfilled: there *will* be no one to talk to. Then we'll have pure mayhem."

Christian Dems lose in German state election

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) suffered a big defeat in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate on April 21, losing about 7% of the vote as compared to the 1987 elections for federal parliament. This poses the threat of a "red-green" coalition between the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens. There is also the option of a government coalition between the SPD and the Free Democrats (FDP), with the CDU in the opposition for the first time in 44 years.

This state's going to the SPD, means that Kohl's CDU has lost the majority in the Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament, which has veto rights over legislation proposed by the federal government. The new state governor will be Reinhard Scharping,

Briefly

the state chairman of the SPD.

The Social Democrats won by a margin of 7% over the CDU, reaching a record total of 45% (compared to 38.5% in 1987); the CDU had 38.5% (45% in 1987), the FDP 6.7% (7.0% in 1987), and the Greens 6.7% (5.9% in 1987). With either of the two potential coalition partners, the SPD will have a parliamentary majority, with 54 seats against 47 seats for the CDU.

In either coalition combination, especially with the Greens, the new SPD state government is expected to pursue a more radical pro-ecologist and anti-nuclear policy. The fact that the state, which houses most of the U.S. military bases in Germany, will suffer considerably from the announced U.S. troop cuts, since much of the state's infrastructure depends on services for the U.S. Armed Forces, may force the new government to rethink some of its anti-industrial views, however.

'New world order' targets Indonesia

The Anglo-American imperialists are targeting Indonesia as the next victim of their "new world order." On April 20, the London *Times* featured a front-page article and lead editorial on East Timor, the half-island former Portuguese colony which was taken over by Indonesia in 1975. These articles follow a full-page article in Tiny Rowland's *Observer* the week before.

The *Times* editorial claims that East Timor "must head the list" of failures to uphold international law against aggression, and that while the world rushes to the aid of the Kurds, the Timorese suffer in silence.

British and American arms were used in the Indonesian invasion, the editorial states—an issue that has already been raised in the British Parliament. The U.N. has passed 11 resolutions calling on Indonesia to withdraw its forces between 1975 and 1982. The Indonesian government has admitted to the deaths of 120,000 people out of a population of 700,000, due to military operations and famine—"a higher mortality

rate than Cambodia suffered under Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge," the editorial states. It also accuses the Indonesians of setting up "strategic hamlets" to control the population.

Portugal has now "recovered from its post-colonial lethargy" and is taking up the Timorese cause, the *Times* writes. The editorial also attacks the Vatican, which it claims is more interested in Indonesia's 20 million Catholics than in the Timorese. However, the Pope visited East Timor last year when he went to Indonesia.

Indonesia is vulnerable to pressure, the editorial states, especially with its large debts. "It needs Western (and Japanese) goodwill. . . . Both military and economic sanctions would be perfectly in order. . . . If the new world order means anything, East Timor should return once again to the U.N. agenda."

NATO chief calls for German out-of-area role

The united Germany should play a role in future NATO out-of-area military missions, said Manfred Wörner, the NATO secretary general and former West German defense minister, at a conference of the Atlantic Bridge group in Berlin on April 20. He said that the Germans should contribute also in military terms, not just in economic, political, and humanitarian terms as they do now, in future U.N. or NATO missions abroad, as well as in missions following (unspecified) "European mandates."

In talks with Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg before the speech, Wörner followed the lead of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III, rejecting the Feb. 4 Franco-German initiative for a new defense structure operating under the auspices of the West European Union and associated with the European Community rather than with the existing NATO integration structure.

He endorsed a "Europeanization" of defense functions in compliance with NATO, however, saying that this would strengthen the alliance.

● **BORIS YELTSIN**, the president of the Russian Republic, has announced that Russia is going to ask for a seat at the U.N. and in other international organizations, Paris radio reported on April 16. He says that it is illogical that the Soviet republics of Ukraine and Belorussia are members of the U.N., while Russia, the biggest of the 15 republics with 150 million inhabitants, is not.

● **GERMANS** are the first foreign troops Iran has allowed into the country since 1979. The Iranian government gave the permission for 20 helicopters of the German Air Force to be stationed at Baktaran and Omireh, near the border with Iraq, for Kurdish relief missions.

● **BUSH'S NEW ORDER** "is something that Heinrich Himmler and the Waffen SS would have come up with while Himmler was wearing his pajamas," a maverick British defense expert told *EIR*. "It won't work. But to keep it going, and to get out of his domestic problems, Bush will probably have another one of those splendid little wars. He's terribly British, and what a mess we made of things!"

● **ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov in London on April 16. This is the highest-level Israeli-Soviet meeting since the two countries cut off diplomatic relations in 1967. Pavlov, asked by British reporters whether Israel and the U.S.S.R. could soon resume diplomatic relations, responded, "There is no contradiction that could not be overcome."

● **A SOVIET SOLDIER** guarding an arms depot in eastern Germany opened fire on April 19 on three uniformed German officers who were reportedly photographing the Soviet base, wounding one of them. This is the first such reported incident since the reunification of Germany.