

International Intelligence

Ecuadoran Indians fuel border crisis with Peru

The Shur Indians of Ecuador issued a joint statement with the Ecuadoran military in mid-October, charging that a Peruvian helicopter had flown across the border, and that if this continues, the Shur Indians will not permit "a Peruvian invasion" and will call for the formation of "Indian resistance fronts."

This is the latest escalation in a crisis which began in July, when a 100-man Ecuadoran Army patrol illegally entered Peruvian territory and set up a watchpost there. Border disputes have led to armed conflict between the two countries twice during the last 50 years. The current border was fixed in a treaty signed in 1942, which is supposed to be guaranteed by the United States, Argentina, Chile, and Brazil.

Now, there are calls for the four guarantors to step in and mediate, amidst suggestions that a demilitarized zone be set up on the model of the DMZ between the two Koreas.

The Peruvian position is that observers should come and see for themselves that Ecuador is the violator of the 1942 treaty, whereas Ecuador is insisting on negotiations, as if the treaty did not exist. Peru is protesting the apparent decision of Venezuela, Colombia, and Bolivia, the other members of the Andean Pact, to side with Ecuador in this matter.

China to reverse stand on Zionism resolution?

The Australian co-chairman of Edgar Bronfman's World Jewish Congress, Isi Leibler, met with Beijing Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Standing Committee chairman Wan Li, and released a statement saying that China would soon reverse its support for the U.N. resolution that equates Zionism with racism.

According to Reuters on Oct. 14, Leibler said: "It was made abundantly plain to us that China today regards the wording of

that resolution as a gross distortion of the truth and a slanderous slur on the Jewish people. . . . I have not the slightest doubt in my mind after talking to Mr. Qian that the moment this becomes politically feasible, the Chinese will have no hesitation in ending what he clearly indicated to us has become a morally untenable and embarrassing association with this repugnant resolution."

Reuters adds that the People's Republic of China voted for the resolution when it was introduced 16 years ago, but has not recently taken a position on it. No confirmation of Leibler's claim has yet been received from China.

President Bush, in his address to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 23, had called for the resolution on Zionism to be repealed. Under the banner of the "new world order," Israel's brutal, racist treatment of the Palestinians is supposed to be erased from the public conscience, with the acquiescence of Third World countries that are themselves also on the chopping block.

Germany and France create army corps

The creation of a Franco-German army corps which may serve as the model for a joint European defense was announced on Oct. 16, in a letter by French President François Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, who is chairing the European Community (EC) during the second half of 1991.

The joint army corps, which will have its headquarters in Strasbourg, France, will draw on the past two years of experience with the Franco-German army brigade stationed in Böblingen, southwest Germany, and add a French and a German tank division to that brigade. The corps, having approximately 30,000 men in its initial phase, is to be extended to 50,000 men or more, later on.

Mitterrand and Kohl proposed the Franco-German corps to serve as the core of a future European army operating under the auspices of the Western European Union

(WEU), composed of contingents from each member state. The following political and administrative adjustments have been proposed, to achieve that aim:

- Greece and Denmark, which are members of the EC but not of the WEU, would join;

- Turkey, Norway, and Iceland, which are members of NATO but not of the EC, would be associated with the WEU as well;

- A loose association status with the EC would be given to Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary;

- The political headquarters of the WEU, presently in London, is to move to Brussels, to ease coordination with the EC and NATO; a joint WEU military staff is to be created, to command a European army of approximately 100,000 men.

Moscow floats plan of new status for Kuriles

The Soviet daily *Pravda* proposed in an Oct. 10 commentary that the Kurile Islands should become a U.N. research center and a free economic zone. The plan was echoed by Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov during a visit to Washington, D.C. later in October.

The islands, claimed by Japan, have been occupied by the Soviets since the end of World War II. This has been an obstacle to the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two countries, but in recent months there have been signs of a pending breakthrough on that issue.

Pravda's Far Eastern affairs expert Vsevolod Ovchinnikov argues that both Japan and Russia had claims to the Kuriles, and that the deadlock could be broken by "putting aside the question of whom the Northern Territories [the Kuriles] belong to and instead create . . . a free economic zone, a sort of Soviet-Japanese joint enterprise that would function in the interests of all mankind. . . . It might be possible to concentrate, on the four southern islands of the Kurile chain, various U.N. institutions involved in nature conservation, the reclamation of the Pacific Ocean, the study of volcanoes and earthquakes, the preparation

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of meteorological forecasts, and so forth.”

Ovchinnikov adds that “the question of sovereignty over the Northern Territories would in this way be left to the discretion of future generations. Let us say, until the middle of the 21st century, when the very idea of national borders will, perhaps, have acquired a different character than now.”

Cambodian premier makes way for Sihanouk

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has invited Prince Norodom Sihanouk, his former rival, to become President of Cambodia, an important move toward helping the Cambodian peace conference in Paris succeed, the London *Times* reported on Oct. 18. The peace conference is scheduled for the end of October.

In a speech at the opening of the sixth—and last—Congress of the Kampuchean People’s Revolutionary Party in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen departed from his prepared text to say he thought it necessary to have a Cambodian political figure with enough influence to sway the country’s electorate to vote for the party. To steer Cambodia away from a future political crisis, Hun Sen said, the party should support Sihanouk as President of Cambodia in a future national election.

At the current meeting, the party will be renamed the Cambodian People’s Party, and its new manifesto calls for promotion of “economic and social development,” trade unions, and freedom of assembly, and declares Buddhism to be Cambodia’s state religion. It calls for permanent neutrality of Cambodia and opposes a recurrence of the Khmer Rouge “holocaust.”

China builds up forces in Tibet

There are indications of a Chinese buildup of nuclear and conventional military forces in Tibet, especially on the border with India, the *Sunday Telegraph* of London reported

from Lhasa on Oct. 20. China is also increasing its internal military police forces in Tibet, in an all-out onslaught on the Tibetan independence movement.

The article, citing Indian intelligence sources and pro-Tibetan organizations based in London, reports that “dozens” of nuclear missile silos have been installed on the Tibetan plateau, and that a substantial military base is under construction on the road from Lhasa to Bhutan. Chinese military units have also conducted regular maneuvers near the border. The Chinese are building up their presence on the basis of a “perceived threat” from India, the paper reported.

There has also been an internal shift in Chinese policy toward Tibet in the last two years. Beijing now no longer sees any possibility of winning the support of the Tibetan population, and is going for all-out exploitation of Tibet’s rich resources and total destruction of the nationalist movement. One Chinese official recently claimed that Tibet has half the world’s known reserves of uranium, and coal, gold, copper, and precious stones are also abundant.

Iran calls for nuclear parity with Israel

The Muslim world should seek parity in nuclear weapons with Israel, said Ayatollah Mohajeri, Iran’s vice president in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs, to *Abrar* newspaper. Ideally, he said, “Israel should be totally deprived of its nuclear capacity. I mean what has been done to Iraq in respect of its nuclear capacity should be done exactly to Israel.”

But if Israel retained its nuclear weapons, he said, Muslims should work together to make their own nuclear bomb, regardless of any U.N. attempt to prevent nuclear proliferation. “Because the enemy has nuclear facilities, the Muslim states, too, should [have] the same capacity. . . . In other words, the atomic capacity of Muslims and Israel should be at par,” he said. “That is not the business of the United Nations or of the Security Council . . . to decide.”

● **ISRAEL** and the Union of Sovereign States (U.S.S., the former Soviet Union), restored full diplomatic relations on Oct. 18, after a lapse of 24 years. Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin was on hand in Israel for the restoration, which occurred the same day that Washington and Moscow issued invitations to a Mideast peace conference, set for Oct. 30 in Madrid.

● **GERMAN** Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan on Oct. 16, for a surprise meeting with the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Genscher also stopped in Kiev for meetings with Ukrainian officials. No details were released, but direct political relations to the republic governments of the former U.S.S.R. have been stressed in German government statements.

● **THE RESIGNATION** of London’s *Sunday Telegraph* editor, Peregrine Worsthorne, is viewed by London sources as evidence that pro-Thatcher networks in the establishment are being “cleaned out.” Worsthorne, whose fanatical attacks on united Germany gained him international notoriety during the past year, quit abruptly in September.

● **KIICHI MIYAZAWA**, the former foreign minister of Japan, is likely to become prime minister when elections are held on Oct. 27, Japanese sources report. Miyazawa has been endorsed by the “Takeshita faction,” the largest caucus of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Current Prime Minister Toshiki Kai-fu is not standing for re-election.

● **MARGARET THATCHER** chaired a seminar in England the weekend of Oct. 12, on the theme, “The World After Communism.” Participants included Henry Kissinger, Sovietologist Robert Conquest, Lord Brian Griffiths, Robert Hor-mats, and Peter Rodman. The seminar was sponsored by the American National Review Institute.