

# International Intelligence

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## ***Thailand's Army chief blasts U.S. meddling***

"The United States is not the world's big boss and cannot compel us to do anything it wants," Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon said on Oct. 31, reacting to a letter that President George Bush had written to Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, whom the generals installed as premier, praising his efforts to guide the country back to democracy and expressing the hope that elections would be held soon.

"Thailand is an independent country and no foreign country can force us to do anything against our will," Reuters quotes Suchinda. "Different countries have different circumstances and different rules." Suchinda, who has been trained in the United States, added, "Our country was born independent even before the United States came into existence."

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Bangkok expressed surprise at Suchinda's remarks. He said the Bush letter contained nothing that Washington had not said numerous times before.

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## ***Chancellor Kohl's son injured in car crash***

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's son Peter was severely injured in an automobile crash on Oct. 30, near Monza, Italy. While no charges have been filed, there is a possibility that foul play was involved.

The chancellor, his wife, and second son were reportedly in severe shock following the accident. Kohl called off all meetings and political activities, even refusing to take a phone call from French President François Mitterrand on Nov. 1.

According to the popular newspaper *Bildzeitung* on Nov. 2, the only eyewitness, Davide Andreani, a student from Venice, pointed out that Kohl's car was leaking some liquid—maybe oil or brake fluid. "In the mirror," he told police, "I saw the [German car] coming closer at high speed. It overtook me and was about to drive back to the right

[lane]. Then, there was a crash. . . . The 'Rabbit' car of the German was driving at 140 kilometers per hour, at least, probably even more. While the car drove back to the right lane, I saw that it was spilling some liquid."

Chancellor Kohl was preparing for a number of crucial international meetings when the crash occurred, among them consultations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); talks on the political union project of the European Community, which is to be passed in early December; a NATO conference in Rome; and the state visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Bonn Nov. 21.

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## ***Britain, Vietnam sign agreement on refugees***

Great Britain and Vietnam signed an agreement on Oct. 29 to repatriate within three years virtually all the "boat people" who fled Vietnam and became refugees in Hong Kong. The refugees will be sent home by force, if necessary.

This means that about 50,000 of the 63,000 refugees now in camps in Hong Kong will be sent back to Vietnam. Refugees have vowed to commit mass suicide or fight if the order is carried out. About 250 people who returned to Hong Kong after being sent back to Vietnam once, face immediate repatriation, and any new refugees will be sent back right away.

Only those who meet the stringent U.N. requirement for "refugee" status will be able to stay in Hong Kong, for eventual resettlement in the West.

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## ***Imelda Marcos and son return to Philippines***

Imelda Marcos, the widow of the late former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, returned to the Philippines on Nov. 4, bringing the remains of her husband to be buried in his homeland. The Marcoses were exiled following their ouster in February 1986.

Her son, Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., toured

his home province of Laoag, while thousands of supporters filled the streets waving the flag of the New Society Movement party. The son will likely run for office, and it is possible that Mrs. Marcos will run for President, in a "war of the widows" against Corazon Aquino, whose late husband Benigno was a leader of the opposition to Marcos.

Mrs. Marcos was quoted by Reuters on Nov. 1 from an interview printed in Manila newspapers, responding to charges that the Marcoses stole money during their rule: "You could see where all the money went. We built bridges, roads, infrastructure. We spent a lot for education and agriculture. Now, in less than five years, the budget was 300 billion pesos [\$11.1 billion, compared to \$18.5 billion during the 20 years under Marcos]. . . . Tell me where all the money goes? Now who's the thief? And these feudal lords would tell us so? Mrs. Aquino is a feudal lord."

Her son was booked and released on bail for tax evasion. There are more than 30 civil cases on file against the Marcos family, to "recover" up to \$100 billion in punitive damages for allegedly "ill-gotten wealth."

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## ***Italian magistrates probe CIA disinformation***

"The CIA put out disinformation on the assassination attempt against the Pope. And now the Italian magistrates are asking for all the documentation," according to the Italian magazine *Il Sabato* on Oct. 29. *Il Sabato* is considered very close to the Vatican.

The interest of the Italian magistrate, Rosario Priore, was stimulated by the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee hearings on the confirmation of Robert Gates to head the CIA. "From those hearings it emerged that Gates, Bush's candidate to lead the CIA, manipulated a 1985 report in order to attribute to the KGB the responsibility for the attempt on the Pope."

The revelations came from a former CIA executive, David Goodman. "In his public testimony, Goodman didn't go into any detail, but it seems that in the closed hearings

he supplied many precise facts on how the CIA ran its disinformation campaign on the attempt against the Pope. . . . The Italian magistrates want to determine whether this disinformation campaign was merely limited to the manipulation of an internal report, and to putting out certain articles in the press, or whether the CIA even went so far as to actually order [the assailant] Ali Agca's revelations. . . . It is the first time that the responsibility of a western secret service emerges clearly in the manipulation of what Vatican Secretary of State Sodano called 'this black page of the contemporary history.' "

*Il Sabato* also reveals that the recent identification of the accomplice of Agca in the attempt, Oral Celik, is due exclusively to the activities of German intelligence. The Germans told their Italian counterparts that Celik was in a French prison cell under a false name. After quite strong pressure, the French authorities agreed to put Celik in a police lineup, and Agca identified him immediately.

## ***No progress in talks between Haiti and OAS***

The scheduled return to Haiti of a delegation from the Organization of American States has been postponed, as the Haitian military and the OAS are still at loggerheads. While several middle-of-the-road political forces are trying to propose solutions that protect the Army while permitting the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, some senior Aristide aides and western diplomats are insisting that the Army be disbanded, to be replaced by a French-style gendarmerie. This conforms to the basic U.S. policy toward all the armed forces of Central and South America, and is surely one intended end point of the present crisis.

The *New York Times* on Nov. 4 quoted the French ambassador to Haiti calling for "elements" of the Haitian Army to be strongly punished, and endorsing the idea of a military invasion.

The paper also quotes from an interview with Army Commander Cedras, who said that power doesn't interest him, only respect

for the country's institutions. He said that the coup was provoked by Aristide's misdeeds, such as the issuing of pre-signed arrest warrants used to intimidate the opposition, and the formation of a private militia force. "By what moral authority can the OAS reinstate a man like this?" he asked. "Maybe we will have an uprising with the embargo, or a civil war with Aristide's return. In either case, it amounts to the same thing."

## ***Europeans sign accord on 'migration control'***

Interior ministers of 28 nations from East and West Europe signed an accord on joint "migration control," at the conclusion of a two-day conference in Berlin Oct. 31. Upon the initiative of the German government, the conference, which was shaped by neo-malthusian concepts, passed the following catalogue of "emergency action to control illegal immigration from and through Central and Eastern Europe":

- Crackdown on gangs smuggling refugees for fees;
- standardized border controls and visa requirements;
- creation of mobile police forces to be deployed in remote "frontier" areas against "illegal immigrants";
- harsh penalties for airlines and other transportation carriers that fail to adequately check the papers of travelers and stop "illegal" immigration of people disguised as "tourists."

Measures to launch economic development in so-called "areas producing migrations" were not discussed; financial aid from the West to help countries in the East fund their part of the "control" was neither debated nor decided. The atmosphere in Berlin was, however, shaped by "mounting western demands that the East help curb illegal population movements" or "risk losing economic aid from the West," an East European participant told the press afterwards.

Penalizing countries that are "uncooperative," was a prominent proposal by Mrs. Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees, earlier this year.

● **VIETNAM** and the People's Republic of China reestablished diplomatic relations on Nov. 5 in a ceremony in Beijing, after a 20-year rift. The formal ties follow the signing of the Cambodian peace accord. Vietnamese officials completed a tour of the ASEAN nations the week before, appealing for admission to the organization, which is generally expected to come in the near future.

● **CANADA'S** former ambassador to the U.S.S.R., Geoffrey Pearson, called on Oct. 30 for a reorganization of NATO away from defense and toward becoming a "center for coordination of policy on global threats to peace." He predicted that the need for international "peacekeeping" would increase dramatically.

● **MALAYSIAN** Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed visited Tanzania at the end of October, the first-ever official visit by a Malaysian prime minister to that nation. "The visit represents another important step in Malaysia's efforts at consolidating South-South cooperation in the wake of recent political and economic developments around the world," reported radio Voice of Malaysia on Oct. 25.

● **GRAND DUKE** Vladimir Kirillovich, 74, heir to the Romanov dynasty of the czars, arrived for the first time in St. Petersburg, Russia on Nov. 5. He was invited by St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak to take part in ceremonies celebrating the restoration of the name St. Petersburg to the former city of Leningrad, and the end of communist rule in Russia.

● **CANADIAN** Premier Brian Mulroney's popularity is so low that at a recent demonstration organized by the Canadian Labour Congress, a demonstrator dressed up as Elvis Presley, and carried a sign that read: "Ten percent support Mulroney. Thirteen percent believe I am alive."