

International Intelligence

British Labour Party to downplay ecology

Environmental issues will not figure prominently in Britain's upcoming electoral campaign, because the population is primarily concerned about the economic crisis, Labour Party spokesman on Treasury and Economic Affairs Chris Smith said during a Feb. 17 speech at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn on the subject, "The British General Election: Labour's Vision for Britain and for Europe." The issue of the environment has "less salience and importance than it had two years ago," he declared.

When challenged on this point during the question and answer period by a German Economics Ministry official, Smith confessed that he had cut the section on the environment out of his speech "for time reasons. However, I regret to say that the factor of recession has put environment lower down on the public list of concerns." He noted that only two years ago, the British Greens had scored a surprising 15% total in elections for the European Parliament, but that that level of support began to die off within six months. Only among younger voters, is the environment still a matter of concern, Smith said.

'Discovery of America' fair destroyed by fire

A suspicious fire destroyed the main pavilion at the "Discovery of America" fair in Seville, Spain on Feb. 18, and this main showpiece of the giant exhibition in honor of the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage will not be repaired by the time the exhibition opens later in the spring.

The celebration has been opposed internationally by groups perpetrating the "Black Legend" against Spain: that the evangelization of the Americas was only a "colonialist" exploit against the indigenous cultures.

Although no evidence has so far surfaced that terrorist groups were involved,

there are several reasons to suspect foul play. Firemen were called a full 45 minutes after the fire started, according to the Spanish daily *El País*. This was the fourth recent fire at the exhibition site. The president and general commissar of the Exposition of Seville called a meeting of the 2,000 workers on the site, to demand that they take "more security precautions" in the future.

There have been numerous warnings from Spanish, German, and other security sources, that a terrorist mobilization against the Columbus 1992 anniversary, particularly focused on Seville, would break out this year.

In its Madrid dispatch today of Feb. 19, the London *Times* called the fire a "severe blow" to Spain, which has "deeply damaged Spain's belief that it can promote itself seriously as a modern and vigorous society." This is an "embarrassing setback. . . . Many of the doubts about the wisdom and viability of the whole 1992 enterprise and of Spain's ability to cope have now been reawakened."

Problems arise in bid by Georgian monarchists

Members of the Georgian Monarchist Party and the National Democratic Party of Georgia went to Spain in February to meet with the Bagratian family, who are the pretenders to the throne of the former Soviet republic of Georgia. But their effort to reinstall a monarchy in their country ran into unanticipated difficulties.

The Bagratians were told that they should come back to Georgia and learn to speak the language and get involved in the affairs of the country. The Georgians offered the throne to Irakly Bagratian, the 19-year-old son of the current pretender, Jorge. But according to reports, the aging pretender rejected this plan, telling the two representatives from Georgia that he himself felt young enough to take the throne.

The Georgians told the Spanish daily *El País* before they left the country that their

mission had been "a failure." "The Bagratian family is only interested in becoming king," said one. "It doesn't care where: It could be Georgia, or it could be France, or it could be Senegal."

As *EIR* reported on Feb. 14, the monarchists had vowed to take power by the end of the year. The Bagratians were last in power in Georgia nearly two centuries ago, in 1801-02.

Britain's libraries are under assault

The London *Guardian* reported on Feb. 22 that 100,000 books disappeared from the shelves of the public Brent Central Library in the suburban part of London between 1980 and 1990. It turns out, according to the library's bibliography department, that members of the Labour Party who had been running the library, had stripped it of all books that were considered to be sexist, racialist, colonialist, art books which were Euro-centric, all books on the subject of war, and books considered to be irrelevant to the community. All of those books were sold.

The Library Association has announced that when Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1974, there were 228 libraries in England that were each open about 60 hours a week. There are now 18.

Commission will probe Gorbachov's activities

A public commission was set up in the Community of Independent States (CIS) on Feb. 20 to, in its own words, "investigate Mikhail Gorbachov's anti-popular, anti-state activities." It consists of "scientists, cultural workers, writers, lawyers, diplomats, manufacturers, economists, and deputies of all ranks."

The commission's statement said: "We are convinced that such a public investigation of Gorbachov's activities and the publi-

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cation of facts pertaining to his breaches of the Constitution and the laws of the U.S.S.R., his abuses of the status of head of state, as well as public condemnation of such actions, shall help establish supremacy of the power of the people and of top legislative bodies over Presidents, governments, and ministries, make them responsible to the people and to elected legislative bodies, shall contribute to the unswerving observance of the Constitution and other laws."

The statement denounces Gorbachov's foreign policy as a "sellout" of the interests of the former U.S.S.R. Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his cabinet have all said publicly that a trial or investigation of Gorbachov would be a return to Stalinism and that it would be of no benefit to the reform process. This begs the question: Who benefits from such an investigation, particularly when a major state investigation into the affairs of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is already ongoing?

Did Mossad divert U.S. aid from Afghan rebels?

An article published in February in *Israeli Foreign Affairs*, a California-based newsletter, charges that the Israeli Mossad, working with the CIA and Lt. Col. Oliver North, diverted American military equipment destined for the Afghanistan rebels to Iran in order to raise money to covertly arm the Contras in Nicaragua.

The story is based on recent interviews in the *Far East Economic Review* and in the Israeli daily *Hadashot* with Pakistani intelligence officials and ex-Mossad operative Ari Ben-Menashe, who said that an estimated \$700 million in U.S. arms were withheld from the Afghan rebels and instead sold by Israeli intermediaries to the Iranians in return for cash that went to the Contras.

U.S. congressional investigators turned up a \$700 million discrepancy in the amount of arms that were actually delivered to the Afghan mujahideen, but never were able to determine where the missing equipment was

delivered, according to the report. The story further charged that the Israelis ran training camps for Afghan rebels led by rabid fundamentalist and alleged heroin trafficker Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Taiwan delays decision on opposition party

The Republic of China on Taiwan decided to "delay indefinitely" a scheduled Feb. 24 vote on whether or not to disband the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for demanding that Taiwan declare independence and abandon its official goal of reunification with mainland China. The DPP officially adopted such a policy as part of its program last October—a policy which is illegal under Taiwan's sedition laws.

"This is a responsible action . . . negotiations between the [ruling] Nationalist Party and the DPP could change the fact that the DPP should be punished," a spokesman for the government commission studying the question, Huang Shou-kao, told reporters. The DPP, legalized in 1989, had threatened to stage mass protests if it was dissolved. The approach of the meeting date helped to push the stock market sharply lower, amid fears of street violence.

The DPP is pressing for the Council of Grand Justices, which interprets the Constitution, to rule on whether the official ban on demands for independence is unconstitutional. Opposition legislators have threatened to riot in parliament if the Nationalists do not agree to a constitutional ruling.

As *EIR* reported on Nov. 15, 1991 ("Taiwan Targeted by 'Independence' Drive"), the DPP was created by the U.S. intelligence community grouping known as Project Democracy, with input from the European Green parties and assorted "New Age" cults. Taiwan's sedition laws are premised on the belief that all of China must be united and free again, and that to accept the separation of Taiwan from the mainland would mean relegating the mass of the Chinese people to communist rule.

● **BOLIVIA'S** exhibition at the Seville World's Fair will distribute coca leaves and coca tea to visitors. Bolivia's ambassador to Spain, told the London *Daily Telegraph* of Feb. 23: "Everyone knows it is used for cocaine, but we want to show the good side of coca." The *Telegraph* commented: "The leaf is said to have a relaxing effect and induce a mild numbness."

● **PALESTINIAN** prisoners in a Hebron military administration building are being systematically tortured as a means of forcing confessions, according to testimony given to the Palestinian Human Rights Information Center and reported in the Israeli newspaper *Hadashot*. The Israeli authorities deny the charges.

● **THE P.R.C.** has pulled its embassy out of Latvia because of that country's decision to establish ties with Taiwan. Latvia and Taiwan have established consulates in each other's capitals. Beijing recognized the Baltic republic soon after it became independent last year, in what analysts said was a bid to head off a diplomatic challenge by Taiwan.

● **THE EUROPEAN** Community is pushing the Swiss model as a solution for Bosnia-Herzegovina, one of the republics of the former Yugoslavia. The idea is to have a degree of autonomy for the three main ethnic groups there. The official EC envoy on the Balkans problem, Peter Lord Carrington, arrived in Belgrade on Feb. 26 to discuss the proposal with the Serbian leadership.

● **KAZAKHSTAN** President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced that Kazakhstan would not undergo nuclear disarmament until the countries it perceives as potential threats—the United States, Russia, and the People's Republic of China—also disarm. He made the announcement during a recent visit to India, the BBC reported Feb. 23. He was thus adopting the same stance on nuclear non-proliferation as India.