

International Intelligence

Morocco's Hassan warns West on Iraq policy

Moroccan King Hassan warned that escalation of western military pressure on Iraq was counter-productive and "risks turning this exclusion zone into an explosion zone that in the long run will be harmful to the interest of the West and the Arab world," in an interview in the Sept. 7 *International Herald Tribune*.

Although Hassan's remarks reflect the sentiment throughout the Arab world, he is the first very pro-western Arab leader to make such a public statement.

Hassan said that a continued effort to cut off links between northern and southern Iraq "will divide not only the rich from the poor but worsen a religious split between Sunnis and Shiites . . . and later we will find it very difficult to glue that mosaic back together." Hassan pointed out that such a split would threaten Turkey and Saudi Arabia and lead to chaos in the region. Hassan also said that it was important to distinguish between Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people who, he emphasized, "should not have to pay the bill" for his misdeeds.

Meanwhile, after two days of ministerial talks, Gulf Arab states failed to persuade Egypt and Syria to endorse the no-fly zone which the United States, Britain, and France have imposed in southern Iraq, Reuters quoted Gulf diplomats as saying Sept. 11.

Civil war worsens in Tajikistan

A declaration issued Sept. 4 by the Presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, which announced that a military force from these members of the Community of Independent States (CIS) would be sent to restore order in Tajikistan, was overturned by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Sept. 9. Following the same Russian Security Council meeting that forced him to cancel his trip to Japan, Yeltsin issued a decree placing all CIS troops in Tajikistan, and those to arrive, under Russian authority, and specifically under the direct command of Russian Defense Minister Gen. Pavel

Grachev.

The civil war in Tajikistan, according to Russian TV reports as of Sept. 5, has claimed 2,000 killed and 100,000 refugees.

On Sept. 7, Tajikistan President Rakhman Nabiyev resigned. BBC reported that it is likely that Tajikistan will now split into various "warring regions," especially with the more pro-Islamic south being pitted against the more pro-Nabiyev north.

Yeltsin's decree mandates the Russian government to "enter into negotiations with the new leadership" in Tajikistan, referring to the combination of government and opposition forces that had just staged a coup overthrowing President Nabiyev. The Russian Defense Ministry was instructed to secure the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border, to defend all military installations in the republic, to "prevent at all costs" the theft of arms, but, reflecting the depth of the "Afghanistan syndrome" in the Russian military, "not to get involved" in any "internal conflicts," including "inter-ethnic" ones. The one partial exception to this rule is to provide safe conduct for the hundreds of thousands of Russians and ethnic Germans who are expected to flee once the civil war spreads to the main urban centers.

Legalized satanism proposed in Colombia

Sen. Parmenio Cuellar, a member of the Liberal Party of President César Gaviria, has introduced a bill that would legalize satanic practices in Colombia, under the guise of protecting "religious freedom." The move comes as the Colombian government is renegotiating a treaty with the Vatican, and efforts are being made to eliminate obligatory religious instruction in the schools. The move is part of a continent-wide assault on traditional cultural values, as seen also in the B'nai B'rith demand in Argentina that no religious instruction be included in a new education law being discussed in the Argentine Congress.

Senator Cuellar makes the pro-satanic aim of the bill explicit, by stating in the preamble that freedom "should not be only for those who worship God, but respect is also due to those who claim to be atheists or

even those who consider satanism a valid practice." He adds that full rights should be given to "parapsychology, esoteric practices, magic, and satanism."

Cuellar admits "that human sacrifices and sexual practices are very much in vogue in satanic rites, which are constantly increasing in number," but this should not be of concern since these practices are in any case prohibited, he says.

Include eastern Europe, says President of Italy

"Europe is a whole, including eastern Europe," stated Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro in early September, announcing a theme of his meeting with Spanish King Juan Carlos. The statement is a rebuff to the Maastricht Treaty for European Union which would exclude eastern Europe.

"Europe," Scalfaro said, "is not a series of agreements. Europe is feeling the will of being part of a community. . . . In this moment [Europe] is moldy on all sides. We have all eastern Europe which is Europe. But who is facing the political and human theme of the dissolution of the greatest empire that has ever been in this Europe? If old Europe closes itself, it is not only old, it is past history. Europe is a whole, including eastern Europe."

Observers remarked that the President's statement is very similar to the position expressed by Roberto Formigoni, the leader of Communion and Liberation. During a press conference at the end of the Meeting '92 in Rimini, Italy on Aug. 28, Formigoni stressed that when the Maastricht Treaty was originally discussed there was still an "eastern Europe." But after the collapse of the Soviet empire, the integration of all of Europe must be discussed to fully include these countries.

LaRouche role in Poland comes under attack

The role of the international political movement associated with Lyndon LaRouche, which is collaborating with the resistance in Poland to International Monetary Fund

Briefly

policies, has recently come under attack. Polish farmers, workers, and miners have been conducting strikes against IMF austerity and threatened shutdowns of productive enterprises.

Defending the IMF, the German daily *Tageszeitung* slandered LaRouche's intervention on Sept. 8, including a repeat of the charge that his associates were investigated in 1986 for possible involvement in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme—a charge recently exposed as being the work of the former East German secret police.

The paper recounted the meetings of Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, with Father Henryk Janowski in Gdansk, that she gave a presentation at the Gdansk shipyard last autumn which was well-attended by representatives of industrial firms, and that the Schiller Institute has made inroads with the farmers' self-defense organization Samoobrona.

The paper reported that Poland's secret police has been put on the case of the Schiller Institute organizers in the country. Members of the government, the parties, and other official institutions have been warned to stay away from the LaRouche organization, it reported.

On Sept. 8, Polish national TV carried a slander against LaRouche in its prime-time program. According to viewer reports, the contents seem to be borrowed straight from NBC in the United States and Anti-Defamation League-authored slanders against LaRouche.

Zycie Warszawy, the second largest former communist news daily in Poland, which turned "democratic" after 1989, also carried an article against the LaRouche movement's work in the country.

Vietnam demands China withdraw from territory

Vietnam charged that China has begun drilling for oil in Vietnamese waters, and has demanded that Beijing "immediately withdraw" its vessels from the area, official Vietnamese media reported Sept. 5, according to UPI.

"In mid-August and early September,

China sent its oil-prospecting and -drilling ships on a drilling operation in an area of Vietnam's territorial waters" in the Gulf of Tonkin, state-run Radio Hanoi said. "It also banned operations of other ships within the radius of 1,000 and 1,500 meters." The closest point of the planned field of operations is only 80 miles from the Vietnamese port of Ba Lat. "The area also lies right on the internal and international sea lane between Haiphong and Quang Ninh. This contravenes the proposal put forward by China on Jan. 18, 1974 that, pending the delineation of the sea border between the two countries, the two sides shall temporarily refrain from prospecting in the area."

The radio report said that the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Chinese ambassador in Hanoi "expressing its concerns over these activities on Vietnam's continental shelf" and "demanding China immediately withdraw all its deployed ships."

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin is to visit Hanoi later in September to discuss disputed borders between the two countries. Radio Hanoi said the Chinese actions "do not create favorable conditions for the forthcoming talks."

Italian mafia profits from Somalia crisis

Somalia, once an Italian colony and now a land without government or police and devastated by famine, is being used by Italian mafia-linked organizations in order to make "big money" by dumping up to 1 million tons of toxic waste which has been shipped to Somalia, director of the U.N. Environment Program Mostafa Tolba said in an interview with the Kenyan newspaper *Sunday Nation*. The situation is so bad, he said, that the Somali population is now not only at risk of dying of famine, but also of toxic waste.

Millions of dollars for these shipments from Italy to Somalia are involved, said Tolba, who did not want to give any names to the press. "Some co-workers of mine fear already for their lives. . . . These people make incredible amounts of profit, and they can kill anybody who tries to stop them."

● **THE ITALIAN** Catholic Church said Sept. 8 it will provide \$9.4 million in aid for Somalia. "The intention is to aid relief work but also to promote development projects which are being started up by local religious and non-governmental organizations," the Italian Bishops Conference said.

● **RUSSIAN PRESIDENT** Boris Yeltsin told South Korean President Roh Tae Woo Sept. 10 that he would visit Seoul by the end of the year, Reuters reported. Seoul officials said Yeltsin promised his government would hand over newly discovered information on the 1983 downing of Korean Air Lines Flight 007.

● **TAIWAN** and Russia agreed to exchange permanent missions on Sept. 8, the *International Herald Tribune* reported. The offices will be technically private, since the countries do not have diplomatic relations, but personnel will have diplomatic privileges and be able to issue visas.

● **IRANIAN** President Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Beijing for a four-day visit on Sept. 9, the London *Financial Times* reported. He was accompanied by Iranian Defense Minister Akbar Torkan, who will meet with Chinese Defense Minister Qin Jiwei. China is supplying Iran with nuclear weapons technology, and both nations assert that the technology is only suitable for peaceful purposes.

● **SOUTH KOREAN** President Roh Tae Woo will visit China at the invitation of President Yang Shangkun, the BBC reported Sept. 7. Roh will visit Beijing for four days at the end of September to discuss further expansion of South Korean-Chinese trade, and North Korea.

● **CASES OF TYPHUS** have been reported in Bosnia, where more than 60 people have been killed each day since the fighting began more than five months ago, Reuters reported Sept. 12. The medical crisis center appealed to journalists to tell the world of Sarajevo's urgent need for medical supplies.