

International Intelligence

Beijing threatens war if Taiwan splits

The People's Republic of China won't hesitate to shed blood if Taiwan declares independence, a high-ranking Beijing official threatened on Oct. 29. Li Ruihuan, the number-four man of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, said that Beijing is now focusing its energy on economic development. "But, if Taiwan dared to declare independence," he warned, "we would suspend our economic reform and take all possible means to stop such an action."

"Our stance on the Taiwan independence issue is firm and unequivocal," Li said. "We'll fight, if necessary, to maintain our territorial integrity."

Li urged independence activists in Taiwan not to take such a risk. "My warning is real," he said. "There is no room for negotiations over such a critical issue."

U.N. envoy to Somalia quits in policy dispute

U.N. special envoy to Somalia Mohammed Sahnoun resigned on Oct. 29, after receiving a letter from Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali rebuking him for his public criticism of United Nations relief efforts in Somalia. Sahnoun, a former senior Algerian diplomat, had been posted to Somalia in May to oversee rescue efforts for a famine situation clearly evident at least a year earlier.

On Oct. 18, Sahnoun had appeared on the CBS television program "60 Minutes," where he stated that many Somalis had died because of U.N. bureaucratic delays which prevented fast action. At an earlier conference in Geneva, Sahnoun had said that the crisis in Somalia was the "price for past neglect." Sahnoun said that while most humanitarian officials claim that about 100,000 Somalis have died of starvation this year, he thought the figure closer to 300,000. In September, Sahnoun had stated that the U.N. was "absolutely, totally ab-

sent" from Somalia last year, after the fall of Siad Barre in January 1991, until it reopened one office in December 1992. "It was a very, very long delay, and a tragic delay, and now we are paying the price."

Boutros-Ghali retorted that Sahnoun's statements "damaged the reputation of the United Nations," and damaged "the already tenuous international assistance" to the country. Sahnoun said that the letter, by making clear he was no longer trusted, forced his resignation. He told the press, "I'm disappointed, by, generally speaking, what I found to be a lack of support, not just from the secretary general, but from the U.N. system as a whole."

In a surprise move, Boutros-Ghali appointed a retired Iraqi Foreign Ministry official, Ismat Kittani, to replace Sahnoun. Kittani is the first Iraqi diplomat named to any significant U.N. post since the Gulf war.

PLO delegation to visit Saudi Arabia

In a sign of acceptance of the so-called American-brokered peace process, the Palestine Liberation Organization will be sending a delegation to Saudi Arabia after the end of the current round of talks being held in Washington.

The delegation will be headed by Nabil Sha'at, senior aide to Yasser Arafat. The latter told a Tunisian newspaper: "There is a popular wish among Palestinians to restore Palestinian-Saudi relations because of the important role the kingdom is playing on both Arab and Islamic levels." The Saudis broke off ties and financial backing to the PLO because of its support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

Leaving no doubt that the issue is money and political pressure, Faisal Hussein, chief Palestinian leader in the occupied territories, told a group of Palestinians in October that "if we want money to pour into the occupied territories all we have to do is apologize to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states about the Palestinian position toward the Gulf crisis." But, he added, "I don't think we have anything to apologize for."

Vatican and Israel move to mend fences

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met Pope John Paul II in Rome, on Oct. 23. Unlike past meetings between Vatican and Israeli officials, both sides had a positive evaluation at the end, although some ambiguities remain. Peres went so far as to announce that Israel and the Vatican will soon exchange a delegation, a first step to establish definitive diplomatic relations. The Vatican press office, however, acknowledged only the establishing of a joint working commission.

Concerning the status of Jerusalem, an important stumbling block in the way of improved relations, the Vatican dropped its insistence on "international status" in favor of "internationally guaranteed" Israeli sovereignty over the city.

Peres invited John Paul II to visit Israel, and the pope accepted. The visit could take place in 1994.

Thatcherite revives anti-German propaganda

Sir Alfred Sherman, a former adviser to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, charged that a German drive to establish a "Fourth Reich" lies behind the bloodshed in the Balkans, in an article in the September 1992 *Bulletin of the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defence*. Sherman, a certifiable lunatic, is a former card-carrying communist; he is of central European Jewish origin, but changed his name and his behavior to be "more imperial British than the British."

Under the title, "Germany's 'Drang Nach Osten,'" Sir Alfred writes: "The conflict in the Yugoslav succession states . . . was deliberately precipitated by Germany, working through the European Community and the U.N., as part of a postunification drive to undo what remains of the Treaty of Versailles and the 1945 settlement, to establish German political hegemony in Europe

and to supplement Germany's growing economic domination of this continent. . . .

"The collapse of Soviet power in 1990 created a vacuum in which a newly reunited German can flex its muscles. . . .

"Germany's own territorial ambitions are far from dead. Voices have been heard in Bonn arguing that now that 'ethnic cleansing' has been discredited in Bosnia, the ethnic cleansing of Germans by the Czechs in the Sudetenland and by the Poles in Prussia and Silesia must be reversed. A German-dominated European Community would not find it easy to oppose such policies if Bonn decides to pursue them, but Russia, despite its economic problems, may have something to say in this matter."

Similar anti-German ravings from British and other sources have helped to thwart any effective European action against the Serbian genocide.

Kurdish guerrillas move deeper into Iraq

"Ferhat" Osman Ocalan, leader of the military arm of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), told a journalist at the end of October that he would soon sign a document of surrender to "liberated Iraqi Kurdistan." Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said that the PKK will abandon "as soon as possible" all bases near the Turkish border, and cease all attacks against Turkey from northern Iraq. The PKK is said to be relocating deeper into Iraqi Kurdistan.

Despite the possibility of an agreement, Turkish military operations are continuing inside Iraq. Turkish Armed Forces Chief of Staff Dogan Gures told the Turkish press that he "hoped" Turkish troops would not have to stay for the winter. He did not rule out the possibility of maintaining a "security zone" inside Iraqi territory.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel has called for a meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Saudi Arabia to be held on Nov. 14. According to a reliable source, the meeting will really have nothing to do with Turkish military

operations in northern Iraq, although this is the ostensible purpose of the meeting. "The real purpose of the meeting, is to discuss the de facto state of Iraqi Kurdistan, which no one really likes."

The recent unilateral declaration by Iraqi Kurdish parties of a federated Kurdistan in northern Iraq has made neighboring states nervous that Iraq will break up. They believe, the source reports, that there continues to be no alternative to Saddam Hussein; there might be an agreement among them to try to keep him in power, although in an extremely weakened condition.

Turkish-speaking nations hold summit in Ankara

A summit of the Turkish-speaking countries began in Ankara, Turkey at the end of October, in the context of celebrations for the 69th anniversary of the founding of the modern Turkish state by Kemal Ataturk. Participating in the celebrations were the leaders of five nations that formerly were republics of the Soviet Union: Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Turkmenia and Kazakhstan used the occasion to open new embassies in Turkey.

The French daily *Le Figaro* on Oct. 30 commented that the Turkish-speaking world is "officially being born, or re-born" at this summit, especially as the summit only consists of leaders of the Turkish-speaking countries in the region.

Tajikistan, for example, is not participating, both because its ethnic and linguistic tradition is Persian rather than Turkish, and because of its own tremendous domestic crisis. The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that there were some efforts being made at the Ankara meeting to have Turkey intervene diplomatically to head off a potential Uzbekistan-Tajikistan conflict that would widen the parameters of the regional crisis. But Kazakhstan's leader Nursultan Nazarbayev is resisting such moves, preferring that the states of the former Soviet Union resolve such disputes among themselves.

● **SWEDISH** Prime Minister Carl Bildt said that Sweden will continue its policy of expelling members of Peru's terrorist Shining Path organization, saying he didn't want his country "to be considered as a refuge for criminals, so have no doubt that the authorities will continue firm in their policy of expulsion."

● **HEIRS** of the czarist nobility will hold their first all-Russian congress since 1917 in Moscow in early December, spokesmen announced in the Russian capital on Oct. 29. The event is being prominently sponsored by the Russian Orthodox Church.

● **BOSNIAN** President Alija Izetbegovic toured the Mideast at the end of October, calling for Islamic countries to come to Bosnia's aid. His trip was scheduled to include the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Iran, and Egypt. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will call for a foreign ministers' meeting in November to discuss "Serbian aggression and how to protect the rights of the Bosnian people."

● **THE UNITED NATIONS** Security Council will recommend that member states earmark troops for quick deployment in U.N. peace-keeping operations, according to Reuters. The council statement "encourages" nations to notify the U.N. chief of forces what specialized units they could make available on short notice. Deployment, however, would be subject to "overriding national defense requirements."

● **THE ITALIAN FASCIST** party, the MSI, demonstrated in Naples on Oct. 28, on the 70th anniversary of Mussolini's March on Rome. The demonstration was led by Alessandra Mussolini, the Duce's granddaughter. A few weeks before, the MSI had brought 50,000 people into the streets of Rome, in an unprecedented show of force.