

International Intelligence

Italian minister calls for anti-missile umbrella

Italian Defense Minister Salvo Ando called on April 20 for the creation of an "anti-missile umbrella" to counter the threat of sophisticated new weapons being developed by some countries, Reuters reports.

"By the end of the 1990s at least 15 nations in the Mediterranean and Middle East will be able to have ballistic missiles in their caches," Ando told a meeting of the Western European Union (WEU).

"Some of them will be able to arm those missiles with nuclear, chemical, and biological warheads. This is a specific threat to all southern European countries and makes countries like Italy very vulnerable," he said.

Ando said an anti-missile umbrella should cover Europe, part of Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East. He said countries in those areas must cooperate in building a tight network of communications and controls.

Schiller Institute will meet on threat of war

The Schiller Institute will convene an international conference in Bonn, Germany on June 4-5, on the theme "Toward Ensuring Lasting Peace in Europe."

According to a press release announcing the event, "The crisis which is currently unfolding in Russia carries with it not only the danger of civil war and regional wars, but it could very well be the trigger for World War III. . . . How can such a catastrophe be averted?" The conference will discuss two strategic solutions to this crisis: Russia's offer of cooperation with the United States for anti-missile defense, and Lyndon LaRouche's plan for a "Productive Triangle" of infrastructure development in Europe.

"These concepts are currently being discussed in many countries in western and eastern Europe, as well as in the United States, on the highest governmental, party,

and institutional levels," according to the press release. "The task of the conference shall therefore be to discuss concrete ways of putting these concepts into action."

The agenda will include:

Introduction: The world crisis and the war danger; the failure of pragmatic politics as opposed to the required Grand Solution

I. The Productive Triangle

- Manifestations of the ongoing economic breakdown

- Shock therapy and the ensuing collapse of the physical economy

- The Productive Triangle program in the light of four wasted years, and the conditions prevailing in 1993

- Hamilton's National Bank concept as opposed to deflationary budget cutting

II. An SDI strategy based on "new physical principles" and East-West cooperation

- Military significance of SDI cooperation

- The common SDI project and the inherited burden of the nuclear arsenal on the territory of the former U.S.S.R.

- Beam weapon technology as the motor of a new Industrial Revolution

- Effect of the new SDI technologies on the civilian economy.

Ukraine wants security zone in central Europe

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, during a visit to Hungary in February, put forward the idea of a "Central European Zone of Stability and Security," as a bridge between Russia and Europe, according to the *Financial Times* of London on April 22.

The article quotes Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasiuk: "Today, the most serious source of instability in Europe is tension between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. To help resolve these tensions, we propose the creation of an organization of states in this region who have common interests." Tarasiuk said Ukraine has begun "serious work" on the proposal and expects results in the "near future."

According to the Ukrainian idea, each

state would promise to make no territorial claims on any other, respect national minorities, and increase economic cooperation. The zone would consist of Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria. Earlier, Ukraine had wanted Belarus to join too, but the trend in Belarus has been toward tight integration into the Russian-led Community of Independent States.

Tarasiuk stated that the zone is designed to smooth the integration of its member states into Europe: "They would prefer rapid integration into the West, but the West does not want them. The West is not willing to accept the countries of Eastern Europe immediately into NATO, but they need some sort of security structure." The Ukrainian idea is explicitly not posed as an anti-Russian move, as Tarasiuk emphasized: "Our goal would not be to cut Russia off from Europe. On the contrary it would be to serve as a bridge between Russia and the West."

When the U.N. promotes 'democracy,' watch out

The United Nations has a new unit to "promote democracy and free elections" in developing countries. The "electoral assistance unit" announced on April 19 that it has so far monitored elections in 35 Third World nations which were mostly making a transition from "authoritarian regimes to multi-party democracies."

The U.N. office was set up in April 1992 despite the objections of several developing nations, including Cuba, China, Yemen, and Uganda.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in March that the new unit was "part of our efforts to promote democratization." He argued that "political security is as important as economic security" and that "democracy is essential" if development is to succeed over the long term.

The Group of 77 developing countries, which sees this as a clear attack on national sovereignty, says U.N. representatives have no legitimate right to get involved in the

politics of host countries. G-77 Chairman Luis Fernando Jaramillo of Colombia insisted, in a speech in March, that "the United Nations is not a state; it is the expression of the will of all member states. Therefore, it is not pertinent to suggest a political representation of the organization in this context."

Thais meet on LaRouche, Billington cases

Dr. Preedee Kasemsap, professor of law and former rector of Thammasart University in Bangkok, Thailand, addressed a meeting in Bangkok on April 25, on the issue of the violation of the human rights of U.S. political prisoners Lyndon LaRouche and Michael Billington. LaRouche is serving a 15-year sentence in federal prison on "conspiracy" charges; Billington is serving an unheard-of 77-year sentence in Virginia state prison on charges of "securities violations."

Dr. Preedee gave an account of his experience when he went to the United States in 1988 and witnessed the railroad trial of LaRouche, Billington, and five other defendants, in Alexandria, Virginia federal court. He described the case against LaRouche and his associates as the American judicial system ganging up on innocent people.

He described Billington as a moral person who was very close to Thailand, having served in the Peace Corps there. Billington speaks and writes Thai. What struck him during the trial, he said, was that when he looked at Billington, he saw an innocent and sincere person, whereas when he looked at the judge, he saw "a gangster."

"For many of you," he concluded, "America may be very far away, the other side of the globe, but when there is such injustice, it cries out very far, and even halfway around the globe, it hurts."

Dr. Preedee said that he wanted to be the first at the event to put his name on a letter to President Clinton calling for LaRouche and his associates to be released.

Michael Billington's wife, Gail, also addressed the audience, describing how the

"railroad" was run against her husband and his associates, and how the ground was prepared for it by a systematic slander campaign in the media.

Italian paper sees Serbian missile threat

The Milan daily *Corriera della Sera* on April 22 wrote that the "most terrifying" prospect emerging from the Balkans war, is that of a Serbian military threat to other European nations. According to the article, the Serbs possess "super-missiles" which are able to hit objectives as far as 800 kilometers away, and which are called "Scud-B" by some. Estimates are that the Serbs have 30-40 of these in place, while rumors are that still more are being sent to Serbia from Russia.

Beyond this, *Corriere* speculates on reports that the Serbs have Russian MiG-31s, "electronically highly sophisticated aircraft, able to operate at great altitudes." Some observers believe that the Russians, who have only 300 of these, would never have supplied them to Serbia, since they are "more dangerous than an atomic bomb," and the Russians have never shipped them abroad. "Nonetheless, various military sources affirm that they have 12, with a Russian crew," the paper notes.

As for aircraft in general, the Serbian air force has 700 planes, including 300 MiG-21s and MiG-29s, which could reach the Italian coastline in 20 minutes, although they would be incapable of breaking through NATO defenses.

According to the article, the Serbs are already deploying Orkan multiple-missile launchers and Luna (Frog 7) missile systems. These "are now being used all over the place, unsparingly." They have a 40-60-kilometer range.

In order to face "eventual attacks from the air," the Serbs have deployed "mobile radars of Russian manufacture," including the PRV-11 with a 350-km range, and the P12-NP, with a 300-km range. In case of attack, the Serbs could fire SAM-6s or SAM-2s.

Briefly

● **YITZHAK RABIN**, the Israeli prime minister, speaking at Auschwitz on April 20 after a ceremony commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, insisted that Israel had the right to take action anywhere to defend Jews. "We shall defend every Jew in every place at any price. After 50 years we do not forget and we do not forgive," he said.

● **ISRAELI** secret police will continue to use torture in their interrogations of Palestinians, according to official new guidelines being drafted. As Army Radio put it on April 25, the guidelines "state that there are instances in which the Shin Bet [General Security Service] has no possibility but to use physical pressure in order to get information from suspects." Countless Palestinians have died under interrogation.

● **THE COLOMBIAN ARMY** paid a surprise visit on April 20 to the jail chosen by drug kingpin Pablo Escobar to surrender to, where some of his confederates have already been at work. The raid yielded marijuana, \$375,000 in cash, a cellular telephone, a pager, and a motorcycle. Negotiations for Escobar's "surrender" may be in jeopardy because two lawyers who had been serving as intermediaries between him and the government quit, after two other Escobar lawyers were assassinated.

● **EGYPT** has vowed to wipe out Islamic militants using "all means" possible, after an attack on Information Minister Safwat al-Sherif, a close aide to President Hosni Mubarak. "The strategy is steady: to get rid of these people," said presidential spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Moneim. "Confrontation will be by any and all means, but no dialogue. There will be no dialogue," said Interior Ministry official Bahaeddine Ibrahim.

● **THE ISLAMIC** Resistance Movement Hamas, angered at an Arab decision to resume "peace talks" with Israel, vowed on April 24 to escalate the Intifada, the Palestinian uprising in the Occupied Territories.