

International Intelligence

Bosnian minister hits British perfidy

Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic accused Great Britain on April 29 of being a major obstacle in ending the war in Bosnia. He made the remarks in a television interview shortly after talks with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in London.

"I must say that the British government is now being seen in many parts of the world and in Bosnia as a major obstacle to ending the tragedy in Bosnia-Herzegovina because of its opposition to lifting the arms embargo," he said. "We do not see any other solution except to defend ourselves if the international community is afraid to do it.

"Britain's position is indefensible on both moral and practical grounds. Bosnians must defend themselves, must be given the tools to finish the job themselves if the international community is not ready or willing to stop it," he said. Silajdzic praised the U.N. humanitarian effort, but asked: "But what is the point of feeding a man who is only to be killed tomorrow?"

A similar attack on Britain as the "major obstacle," was also made by Hajrudin Somun, the Bosnian ambassador to Turkey, at the Islamic Conference in Karachi, Pakistan.

Islamic states call for definition of terrorism

The foreign ministers of Islamic countries, meeting in Karachi, Pakistan on April 29, called for an internationally agreed-upon definition of terrorism, to distinguish it from freedom fighting, and proposed convening a United Nations conference to discuss the issue.

The foreign ministers announced the establishment of an Islamic working group to work out such a definition. "We are all against terrorism in all its forms. We simply want to determine what terrorism is," said Pakistan Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, a senior official of the conference.

The conference's final communiqué called on the 51 nations of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to "observe the principles of good neighborliness and to prevent the use of their territories or government bodies by individuals or groups bent on doing harm to other members' states." It also warned Israel of the perilous consequences of occupying Arab and Palestinian territory, which it said threatened the Middle East peace process, and criticized the United States over its unjust treatment of Libya.

On the economic front, the OIC called on developed nations to help the poorer, developing Islamic states with aid and more "transparent" trade policies. It also called for the examination of proposals to create an Islamic Common Market.

Did Petra Kelly really commit suicide?

Lukas Beckmann, an official of the German Green Party, has asked for the reopening of the official investigation into the death of party founder Petra Kelly, and expressed doubts about the official story that she committed suicide last Oct. 19.

Beckmann declared on April 30 that there was no evidence that Kelly wanted to end her life in a "suicide pact" with Gert Bastian, another Green leader, as claimed by the public prosecutor's office. Said Beckmann: "I can only conclude that Petra Kelly was killed deliberately. There is no evidence that would cast doubt on Bastian's responsibility for her death, but the question of motive is still unresolved. The files on the police investigation and the final prosecutor's report of March 4 are contradictory and leave many important questions unresolved."

Beckmann noted speculation that Bastian had killed Kelly out of fear, because he was about to be exposed as a former agent of the East German Stasi secret service. Referring to reports that Stasi chief Erich Mielke had ordered that files on Kelly and Bastian be destroyed, Beckmann declared that it was "essential that the background to this

case be cleared up."

A spokesman for the public prosecutor's office said that since it was impossible to investigate dead people on murder charges, "we do not intend to reopen the case."

British Jewish leaders warn of Bosnia holocaust

Five of seven British Jewish leaders asked to give their views on the situation in Bosnia by the London *Guardian*, called for an anti-Serbian military intervention in order to prevent a new holocaust, according to an April 30 article in the *Guardian* entitled "The Second Holocaust?"

British parliamentarian Grenville Janner said that "the key lesson we have learned from Hitler, Chamberlain, and the Holocaust" is that military action in such circumstances may be dangerous, but is better than available alternatives.

According to Lord George Weidenfeld: "It seems inconceivable that the combined brain-power of western military leadership could not find an instant military solution to avoid a second Holocaust. To arm largely defenseless people is a moral imperative." After discounting the danger of a Russian counter-intervention or a widening of the war if the Bosnians are armed, Weidenfeld warned, "Delay only means efficient ethnic cleansing and escalation of the refugee problems beyond the limits of solubility."

Broadly similar views were put forward by playwright Arnold Wesker, British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, and *Jewish Chronicle* editor Ned Temko.

Germany's Engholm quits Social Democratic post

Björn Engholm, the chairman of Germany's leading opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SPD), resigned from all political functions on May 3, leaving his party without a chairman or a chancellor candidate. Succession fights and struggles over the party platform can now be expected in

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the coming weeks.

Engholm resigned after it was revealed that he knew more than he had previously admitted about the 1987 scandals in the state of Schleswig-Holstein that brought down political figure Uwe Barschel and led to his untimely death in Geneva that October. The resignation comes at a time when the party as a whole is being bombarded with proposals for a more austerity-minded party platform, by a group of "SPD monetarists" around former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Engholm was toppled following a weeks-long campaign led by the same mass media—the Hamburg-based weeklies *Der Spiegel* and *Stern*, and the national daily *Bildzeitung*, that are pushing Schmidt for a chancellor candidate of last resort, should the party fail to choose any of the younger party leaders to occupy that post. Among the names mentioned, Gerhard Schroeder, SPD state governor of Lower Saxony, seems to be the most likely; he is also said to have backing from the Schmidt group.

China and Taiwan sign pact improving relations

The People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan on April 20 signed a series of agreements establishing a formal channel of communication, after more than four decades of enmity.

Agreements charted directions for future economic and cultural cooperation, and specified ways to verify each other's documents and deliver registered mail.

The talks were extended a day after the two sides failed to bridge differences on some issues—particularly, demands by Taiwan for protection of its investments in mainland China. On the issue of direct trade and air links, Taiwan simply refused to discuss, due to the sensitivity of such "political issues."

The growing ties have sparked some concerns in the main opposition party in Taiwan. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which wants the island to declare independence and abandon the idea of reuni-

fication, demonstrated outside the talks to protest what they called political deals with Beijing.

The Singapore talks were hailed by the head of the Beijing delegation, Wang Dao-han, who said, "We have made good progress and look for better things to come." The two sides agreed to meet at least four times a year.

The Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* quoted Wang saying, "In Singapore, we will deal with protecting the interests of not only our compatriots on Taiwan, but also the entire Chinese race." The Chinese diaspora, some 50 million people, is assuming the key role in investment in both southern China and Southeast Asia, the *International Herald Tribune* reports. About 80% of the "foreign" investment in southern China is made by overseas Chinese from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, as well as Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Bonner calls for ending death penalty by 2000

Dr. Yelena Bonner, wife of the late Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, gave a press briefing in Washington, D. C. on April 27, on the subject of the United Nations Human Rights Conference to be held in Vienna, Austria in June. She called for an international effort to abolish the death penalty by the year 2000.

Bonner said that "one of the main reasons why the death penalty should be abolished is because there may be a mistake and the innocent party may be executed and this mistake cannot be corrected."

As for the application of the death penalty in Russia, she said: "Within the last year, 223 people were sentenced to death. It turned out that 5 people were absolutely innocent; 8 people, after review of their cases, were sentenced to life; and 208 people were executed, last year, and it's a terrible number. . . . This system is old, and justice is not really followed in these cases, and I understand this number as the shame of the new Russia."

● **FITZROY MCLEAN**, the head of British intelligence in the Balkans during World War II, called for air strikes upon Serbia, in a commentary in the London *Observer* on May 2. NATO air strikes, he wrote, "could well give the Serbs, both in Bosnia and Belgrade . . . a sufficient jolt to bring them back to their senses, or at any rate back to the conference table."

● **AMNESTY** International issued a report on April 29 targeting Bangladesh as a "persistent violator" of human rights. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's government came to power in 1991 on a platform of respect for human rights, but it has failed to match its campaign pledges, claims Amnesty. The government immediately replied that it would look into the allegations.

● **A STATUE** of British Prime Minister John Major was removed from the exhibit of famous English politicians at Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum at the end of April, and replaced by a waxen statue of Margaret Thatcher, who is making a kind of political comeback. Said a Tussaud's official: "Since nobody wanted to see John Major anymore, we had to put her back in."

● **THE PERUVIAN** chapter of B'nai B'rith is pushing a program called "Education for Peace," to replace what it calls "the authoritarian education that has facilitated dogmatism and not prepared students for exercising their democratic rights as citizens." This plan is also being promoted by the leftist human rights lobby which supports the Shining Path terrorists.

● **THE UNITED NATIONS** Security Council ordered Armenian forces to withdraw from Azerbaijan, in a resolution adopted at the end of April. It also demands that the ceasefire be maintained, and calls on both sides to continue negotiations, under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).