

International News

Vatican envoy dispatched to Bosnia

Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, a special envoy of Pope John Paul II, visited Banja Luka, in the heart of the Serbian-controlled part of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to celebrate Pentecost with the region's few remaining Catholics.

Describing the situation after having returned to Rome, Cardinal Etchegaray told the French daily *Le Figaro* of June 4: "Two years ago, the diocese counted almost 90,000 faithful. Today, the exodus, to the West especially, has reduced it by two-thirds. One hundred Catholics and 200 Muslims leave Banja Luka each week." He said the population there was subjected to "psychological warfare," to "ethnic cleansing founded on fear, and on pushing people to flee when their reasons for living—social, economic, cultural, and religious—disappear."

He said that Catholic religious edifices, as well as mosques, have been systematically damaged. Should peace ever return to that region, "it risks being that of the graveyard."

Back in Rome, the cardinal expressed his feeling of "admiration for the faithful of the church in Bosnia, but also an extreme revulsion over their condition."

Will Entente Cordiale use arms against Bosnia?

The possibility that France and Britain—the new Entente Cordiale—could take military action in former Yugoslavia, not against the Serbian aggressors, but against the Bosnians, was raised by the London *Guardian* on June 2.

In a lead article entitled "Hurd Defends Safe Havens: U.N. Enforcement Measures Sought," the newspaper wrote that British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, "on a visit to Paris, said that to be 'fully operational,' the plan for safe havens needed new United Nations enforcement measures. He and his French counterpart, Alain Juppé, declared their intent to quickly push through the U.N.

Security Council a resolution authorizing force and air strikes if Bosnian combatants challenge U.N. troops protecting the six designated Muslim cities and their surrounding pockets."

Since the main impediments to the "safe havens" policy are the Bosnians themselves, the formulation implies that military action must be prepared against the Bosnians!

In related news, the French daily *Le Monde* of May 29 headlined an article, "Paris and London Celebrate the Entente Cordiale," hailing the emerging alliance with Britain. The article quotes Jean Musitelli, spokesman for the Elysée presidential palace: "The Entente Cordiale is back." This euphoria emanated from meetings in Paris between British Prime Minister John Major and the French leaders, when the "British lion and French cock sat arm in arm."

A Franco-British summit will take place in London on July 26.

Ruling parties fall in northern Italy

The government parties collapsed in northern Italy, while holding on to power in the South, in the first round of local elections held on June 6.

In Milan, the winners were the candidates from two relatively new political groups, the Northern League and La Rete (the Network), respectively, Marco Formentini and Nando Dalla Chiesa. Dalla Chiesa is the son of the famous Carabinieri general, Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, who defeated terrorism in the 1970s and was later killed by the Mafia. The younger Dalla Chiesa is a professional sociologist.

The Christian Democracy (DC) in Milan collapsed from 20 to 10%, while the Socialist Party (PSI) sank from 19% to 2.2%.

The national figures gave the League 28%, the DC 19.3%, and the PSI 9.1%. The traditional left parties, the PDS and Rifondazione—both coming from the old Communist Party—got 16.2% and 7.8%, respectively.

The League swept many cities in the

North, among them Pavia and Lecco. They did not succeed in Turin, where they charged their opponents with electoral fraud. In a comment in the daily *Corriere della Sera*, sociologist Renato Mannheimer wrote that Milan experimented successfully with the "American" model, as voters did not necessarily support the candidates whose ideas they shared, but those candidates who had the best chances to win.

Uffizi bombing was 'worse than the Nazis'

"Even the Nazis spared this heritage. My generation was confident that it was sacred. Now we know that something which is sacred and which transcends life can be brutally abused. It is a terrible degeneration." So stated Annamaria Petrioli Tofani, director of the Uffizi Gallery of Florence, in an interview published on June 5 with the London *Guardian's* correspondent Ed Vulliamy, in reaction to the May 26 terrorist bombing of the Uffizi. "This is a deep, terrible wound to art, to us all, to history."

Vulliamy catalogues the damage done, including the partial damage to the *Entombment* painting of the Flemish painter Rogier van der Weyden and the minor damage to Giotto's *Madonna of the Coast*, which is located in the little Church of San Stefano al Ponte, as well as the destruction of several Venetian and other paintings.

The correspondent quoted Luigi Ballini, Florence's cultural commissioner: "What was that phrase the French resistance once used to describe the Nazis? The assassins of memory—that's it. That's what they are—the assassins of memory. But they will fail. In fact, they have already been defeated, for I have yet to meet a single Florentine who has said, 'I am afraid.'"

Antonio Paolucci, the government's superintendent of museums in Florence, said: "We feel embarrassed talking about paintings, when a baby of two months old is dead. Of course life is more important. But that said, something else dies too when you destroy both man and the genius of man together."

er. This museum belongs to mankind." No matter what is done to restore the damage to the museum, Paolucci said, "something will have changed completely. Art has become a target for terrorism."

New Bolivian President is free-market maniac

Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada, a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, won 35% of the vote in presidential elections on June 6, ahead of any of the other candidates. As no candidate won a majority, the Congress will now vote on which of the three top candidates becomes President. Sánchez de Losada has already claimed victory.

Sánchez de Losada, as economics minister in 1985, implemented the infamous "shock therapy" program of Harvard's Jeffrey Sachs, which shut down what was left of the productive economy, in the name of "fighting inflation," and stimulated the cocaine trade instead. A mining executive, Sánchez de Losada speaks Spanish as a second language, since he grew up in the United States and graduated from the University of Chicago. He campaigned on the slogan that, as in 1985 he defeated hyperinflation, so "now we'll do it to end hypercorruption."

Israeli to Germany: Stop Jewish immigration

An Israeli member of parliament has asked Germany to stop giving preference to Jewish immigrants coming from the former Soviet Union, and instead make it hard for them to settle in Germany, so they would immigrate to Israel instead.

"I vigorously appeal to the German government not to give preference to the Jews from the Commonwealth of Independent States who want to immigrate there . . . but on the contrary, to make it hard for them, with all the means the German Constitution allows, and to use such bureaucratic foot-dragging against them that they will prefer to move to Israel," Reuters on June 2 quoted

Israeli Member of the Knesset Emanuel Zismann, who is chairman of the immigration committee.

Zismann accuses the German government of failing to do its part in making sure that Jews keep their Zionist identity, by not forcing them to immigrate to Israel.

"The German government must understand its moral obligation to the Jewish people includes preserving the wholeness of the Jewish people and with its current policy of preferring Jews and allowing them free immigration, which it does not grant other minorities, it has an active role in this loss to the Jewish people," says Zismann.

Many Russian Jews who have immigrated to Israel are treated like second-class citizens, and unemployment among them is high.

The strange dealings of Libya and Israel

Two Iran-Contra operatives, Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi and Israeli Mossad agent turned millionaire arms dealer Yaacov Nimrodi, are responsible for arranging the visit of 200 Libyan pilgrims to Jerusalem last month, according to several intelligence sources. A third individual involved is Raphael Falach, the head of the Libyan Jewish community in Rome.

Khashoggi and Nimrodi made millions working with Lt. Col. Oliver North (ret.) and others selling arms to Iran in the 1980s. They were also involved in establishing ties between President Carter's brother Billy and Libya's Muammar Qaddafi.

Nimrodi and Khashoggi established a joint venture to set up tours of the holy sites of Jerusalem for Arab and other Muslim visitors. According to Israeli sources, none of the Libyans were simple pilgrims and all are very close to Qaddafi and the Libyan security and political apparatus.

The next move will be for a religious conference to be held in July in Tripoli, Libya, which Libyan Jews from Israel and Italy will attend. This would be followed by the visit of two Libyan ministers to Israel and even a visit by Qaddafi himself.

Briefly

● **SERBIA'S MILOSEVIC** "has opened the way to a fascist dictatorship," warned Tito-era Yugoslav dissident Milovan Djilas on June 3. "With the suppression of Mr. Draskovic's [Serbian Renewal Movement] party, there will be no significant opposition in Serbia. Our country has entered the darkest point in its history."

● **ISRAEL** admitted for the first time that an Army intelligence officer had been jailed on spying charges since 1987, without the public ever knowing, Reuters reported on June 3. Maj. Yousef Amit was sentenced to 12 years for spying for the United States, after a secret trial. Israel had offered to trade Amit for Jonathan Pollard, who was caught spying on the United States for Israel.

● **THE PANAMA** newspaper *La Estrella de Panama* on May 23 published a report on the B'nai B'rith's involvement in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, drawing on *EIR*'s published reports. The article described the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as "a nefarious instrument of international espionage that is guilty of perpetrating the situation in which U.S. political leader Lyndon LaRouche finds himself today."

● **CHINESE** Prime Minister Li Peng has not been seen for six weeks, and no indication has been given if or when he might re-emerge, the London *Sunday Times* reported on June 6. "There is an eerie feeling in Beijing these days," according to the paper, and most Chinese suspect that Li is suffering from a "political illness."

● **MEXICAN BISHOP** Alamilla Arteaga, bishop of Papantla, has doubts about the Mexican government's version of the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, and called on June 8 for a meeting of the Mexican Bishops Council to discuss the matter.