

International Intelligence

Mandela rejects sanctions against South Africa

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela announced that the ANC will campaign for lifting sanctions against South Africa. The announcement ends the group's long-standing insistence on the sanctions being kept in place, in opposition to apartheid.

Linking this to the Sept. 7 agreement by black and white groups for the formation of a Transitional Executive Council that will help run South Africa until elections in April, Mandela told an audience of white businessmen in Cape Town: "As from the end of this month, the ANC will actively campaign across the world for the lifting of all remaining sanctions and for inflows of capital into South Africa. We are asking the international community for funds, for capital for the purpose of reconstruction and development."

South African Foreign Minister R.F. Botha responded by saying that the effect of Mandela's announcement would be blunted by the reality of violence in South Africa, which would keep potential investors in Europe and elsewhere away, "irrespective of what the ANC or anybody else says."

On Sept. 9, both the De Klerk government and the ANC said the recent wave of violence was the work of those determined to upset moves toward democracy. Also, the Inkatha Freedom Party, which has been critical of the De Klerk-ANC discussions, expressed "shock and horror" at the killings.

Italy critical of U.N. actions in Somalia

Italy has once again slammed the U.N. military operation in Somalia, this time after U.N. troops killed a number of women and children during a shootout in Mogadishu on Sept. 9.

"To shoot women and children is the antithesis of a humanitarian mission," Italian Defense Minister Fabio Fabbri charged on Sept. 10, adding that the battle confirmed

that Italy was right in its dispute with the United Nations over military tactics in the country. "Without expecting anyone to say he was wrong, the facts do prove us right," Fabbri said.

The minister said the international community should start thinking about taking the Somalia operation out of the hands of the U.N. and putting it under NATO command because "the peace mission needs improved organization."

Somalis claim that 100 civilians were killed in the battle, in which U.S. helicopter gunships were heavily deployed. The United States has staunchly defended the operation. "It is regrettable if women and children were killed. But all the people involved on the ground, or who in any way participated in the action, had in mind to kill the U.N. soldiers and were considered combatants," U.S. Quick Reaction Force commander Col. Mike Dallas said.

A spokesman for President Bill Clinton said the President "has made clear that he supports the ongoing U.N. mission in Somalia."

Plane crash kills Sudanese negotiators

A Sudanese military aircraft crashed north of Malakal on Sept. 5, killing all on board, including high government officials. Among the victims were the governor of the southern Sudanese Nile district, Moussa Ali Suleiman; military representative Kamal al Ahmed; and the president of the Peace and Development Foundation, Abu Goseisa, who organized and hosted an international Conference on Religions last April (see *EIR*, May 14).

The delegation of eight was on its way to talks with the Lam Akol faction of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), during which it was expected that further progress would have been made in reaching a peace agreement to end the civil war. The crash, which government officials say was due to engine failure, has dealt a severe blow to peace efforts.

In related news, Sudan asked Egypt on

Sept. 8 to help persuade the United States to take its name off a list of states sponsoring terrorism. Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh told a news conference after talks with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo that Mubarak had promised to ask Washington to change its decision.

"If America is for rightness, it must revise its decision," said Abu Saleh. "This is why I came to Cairo to hand over a letter to President Mubarak, as head of an important country in the Arab world and the Horn of Africa, and president of the Organization of African Unity. President Mubarak expressed great concern. He said he would do his best to rectify this situation — meaning a revision of America's decision."

Pope in Baltics calls for reconciliation

Pope John Paul II called on the "winners" of the Cold War to "forgive" and the "losers" to "adapt," during his Sept. 4-10 trip to the Baltic states, according to a Catholic News Service article by Agostino Bono.

On his visit to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, the pope "asked the winners to be forgiving and warned them that the end of one set of problems brings the start of new ones. He appealed to the losers to adapt to the changed social reality through 'sincere conversion and, if necessary, expiation. . . . After every significant social upheaval, man bears scars both in patterns of behavior and in his soul,' the pope added."

During a Sept. 5 Mass at Vingis Park in Vilnius, Lithuania, the pope appealed for peace between Lithuania and Russia. He said the Vatican "recognizes the aspirations of citizens of Russian origin who ask to be able to enjoy their human rights in their country of residence," but also asked for a rejection of the "spirit of revenge" and the "temptation to obtain by force that which can only be established in a lasting manner through good sense and negotiations."

In a speech to academics, he warned against the "defects" of democracy. "Totali-

● **BOSNIAN** Vice President Ejup Ganic called for the resignation of European Community "mediator" Lord David Owen, because of Owen's openly pro-Serbian positions. The statement was given in an interview with the *New York Times* of Sept. 8. Ganic accused Owen of defending the position of the British government rather than that of the European Community, which he officially represents.

● **CHILEAN** military officers and civilian employees of the Army have issued an open letter to President Patricio Aylwin, demanding an end to attacks against the Armed Forces by anti-military forces in the human rights lobby and elsewhere. The authors vow to retain "complete freedom of action, to defend themselves against this shameful harassment and immoral aggression."

● **TURKEY** is seeking Russia's help in order to lift the U.N. embargo against Iraq, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller told reporters at a press conference in Moscow on Sept. 9. "We will try to conclude this agreement with the help of the United States, as part of three-way cooperation," she said.

● **GERMANY'S** former head of military counterintelligence, Gen. Paul Albert Scherer (ret.), will speak at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 29. He will present his evaluation of the crisis in the former Soviet Union, and is expected to show how world conflicts have been exacerbated by the failure of the western nations to halt aggression, notably in Bosnia.

● **THE REAL ISSUE** in Bosnia is British control over U.S. policy, wrote the London daily *Independent* on Sept. 11. "Alarm was raised" in some circles of the British cabinet, according to the report, "when it was disclosed that Britain was threatening to veto any proposal by the U.S. government in the U.N. Security Council to lift the arms embargo."

tarianisms of opposite tendencies and unsound democracies have plagued the history of our century," the pope said. Democracies "exhibit enormous contradictions between the formal recognition of freedom and human rights and the many social injustices and discriminations they tolerate. The risk in democratic regimes is to become a system of rules insufficiently rooted" in human values and "ethical responsibility," he said.

John Paul also stressed "ecumenical cooperation" among Lutheranism, Orthodoxy, and Catholicism, the main Christian confessions in the Baltics, in the rebuilding of Baltic societies.

Bonn to ask U.S. for crackdown on neo-Nazis

The German government is preparing to present a formal request to the United States to cooperate with German authorities in eliminating the links between Gary Lauck's NSDAP-AO organization in the United States and German neo-Nazis. Lauck, based in Nebraska, publishes a considerable portion of the neo-Nazi literature illegally circulating in Germany.

Previous attempts by Bonn to get the United States moving on the issue have failed, as American authorities told the Germans that Lauck is not violent and therefore his promotion of Nazi ideology cannot be prosecuted without violating his freedom of speech.

The Lauck problem was the subject of a report in the weekly *Welt am Sonntag* on Sept. 12, which pointed out that "by far the largest share of propaganda material of German neo-Nazis and skinheads is produced in the U.S.A." Lauck publishes a bi-monthly neo-Nazi journal, *Nazi Battle Cry*, which in its latest issue debates "the theoretical potentials of armed resistance against the German state."

In 1992 alone, German police found Lauck's propaganda in 72 searches of neo-Nazi residences, with one publication depicting a man with a swastika bombing a telecommunications tower.

The article quoted a German anti-terror-

ism expert: "For the FBI and CIA, Lauck is not interesting, because he is only a propagandist and not a violent person. If they would provide us with his address files, we could move against the people who are distributing his material in Germany illegally."

New political group emerges in Russia

Former Russian Security Council head Yuri Skokov announced the formation of a new political movement on Sept. 8, Consensus for the Sake of the Fatherland, which is presenting itself as an alternative to the current political wrangling and a regroupment of nationalist leaders from the Civic Union formation and from Russian regions.

Skokov is one of the most important figures in the Great Russian *nomenklatura*, who played a significant, often behind-the-scenes role as head of the Security Council until he was sacked by President Boris Yeltsin.

According to western press accounts, there is a 13-man leadership body for this movement, which doesn't consider itself a political party. It will organize a gathering of "the peoples and citizens of Russia" in October. Russian television is portraying the formation of the group as a bid by Skokov to run for the presidency. Skokov has a significant base in the Russian regions, and claims that his group is being funded by donations from 20 regional councils.

The London *Financial Times* quotes Skokov saying his group stands for "an evolutionary path to a federal, democratic, and law-governed state. . . . People are tired of conflict. What we offer is self-preservation, survival."

The *Financial Times* says of Skokov: "As a man so far untouched by scandal or allegations of corruption, and with strong links to the Soviet period which is now seen in a positive light by many, he could become a rallying figure for those disenfranchised with the democrats who support Mr. Yeltsin but find the national/communist alliance too strong a dish, even in today's chaotic society."