

International Intelligence

Arafat scores plot behind assassinations

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat said on Oct. 22 that the killing of three of his followers in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip over the past six weeks, was part of a conspiracy carried out by those forces abroad who want a Palestinian civil war.

"This [conspiracy] is outside the Arab world," Arafat told a news conference in Paris after meeting French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. On Oct. 21, the third killing of a senior member of the Fatah movement, nationalist leader Assad Saftawi, took place in Gaza. Arafat did not identify whom he believed to be behind the conspiracy, but said that the men who carried out the killings themselves were not "from the Palestinian national forces."

"This is not the first conspiracy. It is continuing, and it is a big one," he added.

Arafat had received a telegram from the Islamic movement Hamas, denying any connection with the death of Saftawi, which it described as a crime.

"Those who killed him are bats out of the night . . . who wanted a Palestinian internecine struggle after the peace accord," Arafat said. "When they failed to foment a civil war, they fell back on these despicable attacks."

Russian editor denounces Yeltsin dictatorship

Vitali Tretyakov, chief editor of the Russian opposition daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, was quoted in the London *Guardian* on Oct. 20 in a scathing attack on the new Russian dictatorship. "As Solzhenitsyn and Rostropovich were denounced in Brezhnev times," he said, "people who were really preoccupied by the destiny of the country, those who criticize in any way the policies of the leadership, are today looked on as dissidents, dissidents who need to be dealt with. The West has committed a colossal political

and historical mistake, and you must know that political support from the West is very important for this regime, which has a rather narrow base within the country."

Concerning press censorship, he said, "Fear again is in the air. Many people among today's editors-in-chief remember how everything worked in [Communist] Party times, and they are very well informed of all the mechanisms of control today. Before, the editor-in-chief was threatened with an invitation to the central committee of the party where he could lose his party card. Today, there are other mechanisms which are just as effective."

The *Guardian* reported that Tretyakov had received a call the previous week from "Vid," an independent television company, telling Tretyakov that the highest levels of government were discussing how to remove him and "remold" the newspaper. What "remolding" means is shown by the case of *Rossiskaya Gazeta*, once the paper of the Russian parliament, which was closed and then re-opened with a new masthead and editorial board. It now dutifully prints Yeltsin's decrees, and is devoid of any criticism of his regime.

India orders probe of Kashmir killings

The Indian government on Oct. 23 ordered an official inquiry into the shooting deaths by security forces of at least 37 protesters in Kashmir. According to the government statement, a judge would conduct the probe into why the security forces opened fire on demonstrators on Oct. 22 in the town of Bijbehara.

The statement also said that the security unit at the town had been replaced. Official sources said at least another 76 people were wounded when the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) fired on protesters demanding the lifting of the siege of the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir.

The crisis began on Oct. 15, when Indian troops surrounded the Hazratbal shrine,

considered to be the most important Islamic holy place in Kashmir. The Indian government has claimed that the mosque is being used to accumulate weapons and mobilize people against the Indian control of the state.

The incident has inflamed relations with neighboring Pakistan. "The atrocities committed by the Indian security forces in Kashmir have reached a stage where the international community will have to use its influence to stop them," Pakistani President Wasim Sajjad said at a news conference on Oct. 24. Sajjad accused India of "state terrorism" directed at Muslims.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in an interview with the BBC, said that "India must pull out troops from Kashmir as there is no other solution."

According to an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Oct. 19, three members of the Pakistani High Commission (embassy) in New Delhi and a vice consul in Bombay were given two weeks to leave India. He said they were expelled for "activities incompatible with their status as diplomats," the international diplomatic phrase for spying.

Papandreou signals Greek hard line in Balkans

In his first policy speech in Parliament, newly elected Greek socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou stressed that he would never recognize the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia unless it dropped the word Macedonia from its name. "We are determined not to recognize a state with a name that includes the word Macedonia or its derivatives," he said.

Greece has argued that the name implies territorial claims against Greece's northern region, which is also called Macedonia.

Papandreou also rejected the United Nations-sponsored talks with Macedonia, which had been initiated by the former conservative government of Greece earlier this year. "We appreciate the efforts of the U.N. secretary general but we believe that a nec-

Briefly

● **ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Oct. 24 that the PLO has kept its pledge to stop violence, but warned that opponents of Palestinian self-rule would "do everything they can to heighten terror." He said Israel "will clearly distinguish between those who support the PLO's stop of all terror activities and . . . groups that want to destroy and undermine the agreement."

● **RUSSIAN** Foreign Ministry spokesman Georgi Karasin objected on Oct. 19 to a warning by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that NATO air strikes could be launched against Serb forces in Bosnia. "It can hardly be justified to put all the blame for the Bosnian conflict on a single party," Karasin said.

● **CHINA AND VIETNAM** signed an agreement in Hanoi on Oct. 19 on principles for settling their territorial disputes on land and in the South China Sea. The two countries fought a border war in 1979. This was the first agreement signed by the countries since they started talks on border disputes in 1974.

● **SYRIA'S** official daily, the *Syria Times*, on Oct. 20 welcomed a visit by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and urged him to take a more active role in Mideast negotiations. "The coming visit to Damascus by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and the talks he is going to conduct with Syrian officials will help a lot in this contest toward making Europe the most palatable player as a go-between," the newspaper said.

● **MALAYSIAN** parliamentarian Datuk Dominic Puthuchery charged on Oct. 25 that western countries are trying to make the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina an ethnic and religious war, so that they can justify "the indiscriminate sacrifice of tens of thousands of people." Puthuchery, a member of the International Parliamentarians Against Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was recently on a fact-finding mission to Sarajevo.

essary prerequisite for negotiations is the constructive attitude of the interested parties. But experience to date has proved that Mr. Gligorov [Macedonia's President] has not shown any such disposition. . . . Skopje's [Macedonia's capital] intransigence has verified that the process accepted by the previous government is a dead end." Papan-dreou said his government would soon send a letter to the U.N. outlining Greece's new proposals on the dispute.

Papandreou also warned that any move by Turkish troops to occupy more Cypriot territory would mean war with Greece. "I wish to stress that we are determined to protect Greek Cypriots and that any violent change of the existing situation on Cyprus will be considered a cause of war," he said.

ADL steps up its offensive in Germany

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) is stepping up its involvement in Germany, including seeking tax-exempt status and introducing its "World of Difference" brainwashing curriculum into schools. (For an analysis of this curriculum, see *EIR*, Sept. 24, 1993, p. 58.)

At the end of October, at a meeting in Frankfurt, German Jewish mafioso Ignaz Bubis extravagantly praised the ADL for being "top-class, in international terms," with an importance that cannot be exaggerated, in the fight against anti-Semitism, racism, and xenophobia around the world.

Then the *Sunday Times* of London on Oct. 24, in reporting on alleged attempts by certain German government agencies to impede circulation of educational material critical of the Hitler regime, reported that Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other German leaders "recently invited the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith in New York to bring their 'sensitivity training program' to German schools. The program includes a filmed experiment where blue-eyed children are separated from brown-eyed children and told they are superior. The brown-eyed children are told they are less intelligent, banned

from drinking at the school water fountains and forced to play alone. After being ridiculed by classmates, one brown-eyed boy is shown sobbing at his desk."

According to the article, "The program is due to start in Rostock, the scene of neo-Nazi riots last year. Similar programs are scheduled in Bremen and Berlin, but there are fears that critics could stop them."

The paper quoted Barbara John, foreign affairs commissioner with the Berlin Senate: "The program will be painful for Germans, forcing them to confront their elitist feelings. . . . We Germans have a weak sense of identity and a lack of self-esteem. . . . We take it out on ourselves and others by becoming aggressive and intolerant."

Analyst sees Third Rome tendency in Russia

The historical struggle in Russia between the "Third Rome" Slavophiles and the westernizers is again becoming a determining feature of Russian political life, with the complication being the attempt to equate westernization with a dubious American-authored shock therapy model for Russia, wrote Russian author and diplomat Vladimir Fedorovsky in the French daily *Libération* on Oct. 25.

Fedorovsky, co-president of the Foundation for Democracy in Russia, affirmed that "the last century saw an essential debate evolve on the future of Russia. What was involved, was a quarrel between the westernizers and the Slavophiles. The Slavophiles believed in the messianic nature of the Russians and considered Moscow as 'the Third Rome.' The westernizers never stopped repeating that Russia had to follow the example of the West, in order to recover the delay that it had suffered over the centuries. The dénouement of the latest crisis has, again, brought the debate to the forefront of the stage."

But, he then added, the question is complicated by doubts over whether usual "western democratic criteria" can be applied to the Russian situation.