

International Intelligence

Zhirinovsky rattles sabers at NATO

"If a single bomb falls on the Serb towns, this will mean a declaration of war on Russia" and "we will punish" NATO, Russia's Third Rome ideologue Vladimir Zhirinovsky told cheering Serbs in Bijeljina, the eastern Bosnian town seized at the beginning of the Bosnian war, on Feb. 3.

He said it was up to the Serbs alone to decide where the borders of their state should be. Crowds of machine-gun-toting fighters and families replied with chants of "Serbia-Russia!" A banner greeted Zhirinovsky declaring, "We and the Russians are 200 million strong."

Veselin Djuretic, head of the Russian-Serbian Friendship Society, the group which sponsored Zhirinovsky's visit, ranted: "Why do they call you a Russian fascist? It is because they are afraid Russia will come out of its ideological slumber. We Serbs know what it is to be awake. And so it will be with Mother Russia."

Zhirinovsky also spoke to thousands of cheering Serbs in the devastated eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, which has been conquered by the Serbs, on Feb. 2, where he promised that Russia was ready to come to the Serbs' defense.

Separatist candidate wins Crimean election

Russian separatist candidate Yuri Meshkov scored a big victory in the Crimean "presidential" run-off elections, held on Jan. 30. Meshkov officially got 72.92% of the vote, against 23.35% for his opponent, Nikolai Bagrov, who had fought to keep Crimea as an autonomous region in Ukraine.

The choice of Meshkov as the candidate to lead Crimea's exit from Ukraine and future unification with Russia, betrays the fact that the exit process will be a carefully staged one, where each step will be coordinated with Moscow. Immediately after the vote, Meshkov stressed that Crimea would move "in stages" toward uniting with Russia, leaving maximum tactical flexibility in

the timing of this operation.

First, as he reaffirmed, on March 27, timed with the elections to the Ukrainian Parliament, Crimea will hold a referendum on becoming an "independent republic." Once that's accomplished, Crimea as an "independent republic" would immediately join the Community of Independent States and the ruble zone. Then, over an unspecified time, it would move toward joining Russia outright.

British demand austerity from South Africa

An editorial in the London *Times* on Jan. 25 demanded that the African National Congress work to lower standards of living in South Africa, and drop or dilute those "populist" aspects of its program which call for "reconstruction and development" of South Africa. The ANC is expected to win the April elections and head up the new South African government.

Under the headline "Waxing Populist: The ANC Must Not Run from Economic Reality," the editorial begins: "The African National Congress has revealed its blueprint for the economic policy it will pursue after elections in April. It is a populist package, irresponsibly delivered to the country's expectant black majority. This 'reconstruction and development program'—a patent misnomer—will only retard and distort South Africa's economy. And it represents a failure of statesmanship on the part of Nelson Mandela, sitting unhappily with the changes in favor of a market economy detected in recent ANC thinking."

The *Times* demands that Mandela use his popularity to convince black South Africans of the need for austerity: "Nelson Mandela cannot please everyone, and he should not try and do so. . . . It is Mr. Mandela's duty—both to his supporters and to the economy—to strip away false illusions, scale down expectations and avoid lavish promises. . . . The ANC must abandon this populist brew of Keynes and cant in favor of a plain-speaking commitment to judicious fiscal and trade policies, and to macroeconomic common sense."

London, Paris worry over Bosnian moves

The British and French governments are worried about the recent reorganization of the Bosnian Army, which apparently puts it in a better military position for defense against Serbia's aggression.

According to the French daily *Le Monde* of Jan. 25, the French Foreign Ministry is distressed at the military restructuring that is being carried out under the direction of Vice President Ejup Ganic. "At the moment, the Bosnian Army is going from strength to strength," said one official. "It has become a real army, inspired by a thirst for revenge."

Le Monde also reported that French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, and President François Mitterrand all told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the same thing—crush Bosnia—according to unnamed "American diplomats" who spoke to the newspaper following Christopher's visit to Paris. All three political figures "spoke the same language," namely that the United States must force the Bosnians to stop fighting and accept the Owen plan.

The same line was echoed by Geneva sources close to Lord David Owen, the European Community's pro-Serbian "mediator," in the London *Times* of Jan. 26: "If the Bosnians are really able to win the war, then good luck to them. . . . but if this is wrong, then the Muslims are just going to have to lose more and more of their territory, as they have done throughout the history of the peace negotiations."

Poland's role in dope trade is exposed

The Polish weekly *Wprost* reported in December that Poland is becoming the best place for distributing narcotics to western Europe. The chief of the special department of the National Interpol Bureau said that since the outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia, which traditionally served as a

transit point for drugs to western Europe, the Polish route has attracted drug gangs. Interpol is said to believe that the equivalent of millions of dollars of narcotics-tainted money is in Polish banks.

Colombian cocaine and West African hashish and marijuana make their way to Polish ports or airports, from which they are shipped to France, Germany, and Britain. On Dec. 1, for example, Polish customs officials seized a half-ton of marijuana that had arrived on a KLM flight from Lagos, Nigeria. It is said that the Italian Mafia and the Colombian Cali Cartel are involved in drug smuggling through Poland, with the Cali Cartel reportedly using Polish couriers to smuggle narcotics over the Polish-German border.

MSIA launches election campaign in Colombia

The Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Colombia, associated with the policies of Lyndon LaRouche, has joined in an electoral alliance with two other organizations, National Participation and the National Reserve Alliance (ARENA), and will be fielding a full slate of candidates for the senatorial and congressional elections scheduled for March 13. National Participation and ARENA are largely made up of retired military officers and retired non-commissioned officers, respectively.

The program of the new slate is centered around a six-point program:

- 1) defense of the right to life, national sovereignty, and the Armed Forces;
- 2) fight against corruption and instability;
- 3) use of the Cusiana oil fields to industrialize the country and create jobs;
- 4) protection and strengthening of the agricultural and industrial sectors;
- 5) education to restore national values and Christian moral principles; and
- 6) great infrastructure projects for Ibero-American integration.

In registering its slate on Jan. 26, the alliance entered its first battle. As is the practice in Colombia, slates draw numbers to

determine ballot position. Despite drawing a number which would have placed the slate in a prominent sixth place (out of some 250 positions), slate representative and senatorial candidate Gen. Hernando Zuluaga (ret.) was informed that the number was "incorrect" and was given number 252 instead. A legal challenge has been undertaken.

Swedish colonel hits 'Partnership for Peace'

In an article in the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet* on Feb. 1, Col. Bo Hugemark, the former chief of the department for military history at the Military High School in Stockholm, attacked the disastrous effects of NATO's "Partnership for Peace" policy, which denies membership in NATO to those eastern European countries that are seeking it, and offers them a "partnership" instead.

These countries "are politely stating their appreciation" for the arrangement, but they are "deeply disappointed," he wrote. "The image of Munich in 1938 is easily called forth by a Czech. The image of the far-too-late guarantee by England and France is seen by a Pole. The image of a new Molotov-Ribbentrop pact is seen by a person from the Baltic countries.

"Even Sir Samuel Hoare and M. Pierre Laval, the men with the plan to finish the war in Ethiopia by giving Mussolini a large chunk of land belonging to the victim, have had their worthy followers in Mr. Vance and Mr. Owen.

"On top of this treason, one must add the inability to push through the mandate that the U.N. troops have in Bosnia. The reason: pure sabotage on different levels. Evil will, not only incompetence and bureaucracy."

"Against this background," Hugemark concluded, "the unwillingness of NATO to accept more members is worrying, a signal that revanchism has a green light. The West might de facto have repeated Munich. They have, in any case, revived the world of Yalta; the Russian sphere of interest has been established."

● **BELARUS** President Stanislav Shushkevich was ousted by the Parliament on Jan. 26, ending in all but name the independence of Belarus, and preparing the way for its re-joining Russia. The Parliament, whose majority is overwhelmingly ex-communist, favors reuniting with Russia. Shushkevich was the only top-ranking figure resisting this policy. A successor has not yet been chosen.

● **EUROPEAN-WIDE** cooperation on ballistic missile defense technologies will be the most likely driving force for reversing the past years' technological stagnation in Europe, a well-informed strategist told *EIR*. He said that French-Russian technical-scientific discussions and cooperation in this domain were already far advanced.

● **NIKOLAI OGARKOV**, the author of the Soviet Union's war mobilization plan, died on Jan. 23 at the age of 76. He was chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces and first deputy defense minister for more than seven years. In an interview with a Russian newspaper conducted on Nov. 1, 1993, Lyndon LaRouche described Ogarkov as "a very dangerous adversary, because he is sane."

● **JAPANESE** Vice Foreign Minister Kunihiko Saito on Jan. 31 flatly denied British reports that Japan is building a nuclear bomb. He said that the Japanese Foreign Ministry will "pursue the matter with the British Defense Ministry."

● **ARMENIAN** President Levon Ter-Petrosyan on Jan. 30 accepted a new Russian plan to end the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The plan provides for a cease-fire beginning Feb. 1. According to unconfirmed Russian media reports, the second phase provides for a Russian "peacekeeping" force to be stationed in "zones of conflict" starting on March 1.