

International Intelligence

Israel's Sharon will run for prime minister

In a move certain to destabilize the internal Israeli political situation, hard-line Likud leader Ariel Sharon has announced that he will run for prime minister in the next elections.

As Israeli defense minister in 1982, Sharon oversaw the invasion of Lebanon, in which Israeli soldiers supervised the mass murder of hundreds of Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps. A vociferous opponent of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization accord, Sharon has been commuting back and forth between Israel and the United States for the past year, usually in the company of leaders of the violent West Bank settlers movement, to raise funds for an armed insurrection against the Rabin government.

The Israeli elections, which must take place sometime in the next two years, are a first: Voters will directly elect the prime minister, rather than vote for a party slate.

Sharon's announcement signals a further rift inside the Likud bloc, which elected Benjamin Netanyahu as its chairman last year. Netanyahu responded to Sharon's announcement by calling for his expulsion from Likud. "Arik Sharon is a permanent subversive. The time has come for such a man to leave Likud," Netanyahu told Israeli Army Radio on May 27.

Central American chiefs back Venezuela's CAP

Six Central American Presidents, plus the prime minister of Belize, signed a letter to jailed former Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez on May 24, offering him their solidarity and thanking him for his support for "peace and democracy" in Central America. The seven met in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore to discuss various matters relating to trade, and the upcoming summit of Ibero-American countries scheduled to take place in Miami in December.

Pérez, or CAP, as he is known, was

jailed on May 18 for misuse of public funds. He earned the hatred of the Venezuelan citizenry for his slavish adherence to the austerity dictates of the International Monetary Fund, which wrecked the national economy. Perhaps some of his colleagues who signed the letter fear the same fate.

The signers include Violeta Chamorro of Nicaragua, Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, Guillermo Endara of Panama, Roberto Reina of Honduras, Ramiro de León Carpio of Guatemala, José María Figueres of Costa Rica, and Manuel Esquivel of Belize.

According to Santo Domingo's *El Nuevo Diario* May 25, the letter addressed CAP as a "dear friend" who, in the last 20 years, "when Central America faced the most severe crisis of its history," offered "his unconditional support, which was decisive for the building of peace, democracy, and reconciliation." The seven leaders told Pérez that his efforts "had not been in vain, and that our peoples remember with gratitude your invaluable contribution to the consolidation of peace and democracy."

Tensions heat up in Balkan region

The discovery of three unexploded bombs at the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Istanbul at the end of May threatens to heat up tensions between Greece and Turkey, and throughout the Balkans and Aegean region more generally.

According to the London *Guardian* of May 30, the feud between the two countries is worsening. The Turkish government has formally accused the Greeks of providing training bases for the terrorist Kurdish Workers Party. Turkish authorities have circulated a memorandum to various European countries protesting the alleged Greek actions, but the Greeks are denying having done anything of the kind.

Meanwhile, Greek-Albanian relations worsen by the day, following the recent arrest in southern Albania of a group of ethnic Greek intellectuals and professionals accused of fomenting separatism. The Albanian Foreign Ministry denounced the "warmongering calls of top Greek authorities"

and the "storm of threats" coming from Athens. The statement from Tirana asserts that "the game of [another] Bosnia in the south of the Balkans means a broader Balkans war for which [the Greeks] will bear total responsibility."

Further, the Serbian authorities in Albanian-populated Kosova carried out a wave of arrests of Albanian political activists on May 30.

U.N. official calls for no arms sales to Africa

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) director James Speth has proposed phasing out all arms sales and military aid to Africa over the next three years. He made the call on May 24 at a meeting of the African-American Institute, where U.S. Africa policy is for the most part made.

Military aid, he said, should be most urgently phased out for countries on the verge of conflict, such as Burundi, Zaire, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Algeria. Speth said that wars are making a "mockery" of development efforts, by consuming resources that would "otherwise be spent on education, health, housing, and other areas of development." The fact that banning arms sales does not address the causes of wars, and would do nothing to stop them, he did not mention.

Speth also said that the UNDP was working on a proposal, called the Poverty Divided Accounts, which would require countries receiving debt relief to commit at least 25% of the debt relief to programs aimed at the poorest segments of society.

Russian human rights activist tours Germany

Viktor Kuzin, a former member of the Moscow City Council and the founder of the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights Defense Without Borders, conducted a speaking tour of Germany at the end of May as the guest of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity (BBS). The BBS, a new party headed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, is running candi-

Briefly

● **ZAIRE'S** competing political factions have all rejected U.N. mediation in their civil conflict and, in particular, have rejected a proposed visit of Lakdar Brahimi, the former Algerian foreign minister and an envoy of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

● **MAURICE STRONG** could become the next U.N. secretary general, replacing Boutros Boutros-Ghali, according to rumors cited in the *Toronto Globe & Mail* on May 24. Strong, the head of Ontario Hydro, was secretary general of the 1992 U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (Rio '92). A rabid environmentalist, he co-authored a recent report for the Canada Council 21, calling for redeployment of Canadian troops from NATO to the U.N.

● **YEMEN** will not allow the U.N. to intervene in its internal affairs, Abdulaziz Abdulghani, a member of the presidential council of Northern Yemen, told reporters on May 31. "It is a dangerous precedent to discuss any internal issue in any country, as this is not provided for in the U.N. charter," he said.

● **THE CROATIAN** government is acting like a guinea pig for Tavistock Institute experiments in "political bizarroism," wrote analyst Srecko Jurdana in the Croatian daily *Slobodna Dalmacija* of May 31. The National Day of the Croatian State, which was celebrated the day before, was actually a day on which one-third of the national territory is still occupied by the Serbs, he added.

● **BOSNIAN** President Alija Izetbegovic threatened to withdraw from the Geneva peace talks on May 30, "because the Serbs have not withdrawn from the Gorazde exclusion zone. You know that was our condition for going to the negotiations on a general cessation of hostilities." Serbian forces were supposed to have left the Gorazde exclusion zone by April 23 or face NATO bombardment. Nothing happened.

dates for the European Parliament elections on June 12 and other offices this year.

At a meeting on May 25 in Backnang, near Stuttgart, Kuzin gave a report on the situation in Russia, which he described as very critical. Three years ago, everybody was full of hope for Boris Yeltsin, but these hopes did not materialize. Now, we have Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, but he is just the other side of the Yeltsin coin, who is used as a bogeyman to enable Yeltsin to sell his policy. The press is controlled by Yeltsin, and without massive coverage in the media, Zhirinovskiy would have never gotten such a big vote.

Mafia activity and corruption are taking over political life, said Kuzin, and economic genocide is going on, which includes the fact that 800,000 more people died than were born in 1993.

Kuzin called for increased cooperation between the western industrial countries and Russia, before it is too late.

Schiller Institute honors French Resistance

The Schiller Institute announced that it will hold a Franco-German conference in Lyon, France on June 25, on the theme "1944-1994: The Resistance, Then and Now." Lyon was the center of the French Resistance to the Nazis during World War II.

According to the conference invitation, "We shall not wallow in nostalgia, but rather propose to draw the consequences for our own action in the present crisis. In the heroes of the Resistance, in their courage, in their moral greatness, in the far-sightedness of their political views, is to be found an ideal for our own day."

Speeches will deal with the following topics:

- The French Resistance and the Free French, as opposed to the spirit of submissiveness;
- The German Classical period, spiritual basis for the resistance against Nazism;
- How the British elite betrayed the European resistance movements;
- The "new world disorder": the Anglo-American oligarchy, the role of the

U.N., and the neo-malthusian population conference in Cairo;

● The tasks for the Resistance movement today: peace through reconstruction and development.

U.N. slaps North Korea on nuclear inspection

The U.N. Security Council issued a statement on May 31 criticizing North Korea, after U.N. nuclear police determined that the country was in violation of U.N. nuclear inspection demands. The statement, signed by all 15 Security Council members including China, "strongly" urged North Korea to let the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conduct tests by halting its change of fuel rods at nuclear reactors. It threatened that "further Security Council consideration will take place," but did not mention economic sanctions.

The statement also calls on the IAEA to negotiate again with Pyongyang and to keep two inspectors in North Korea, although most of the IAEA team left on May 30.

The U.N. provoked this latest round of tension on May 28 when IAEA director Hans Blix issued a statement claiming that North Korea had "rejected all IAEA proposals . . . to select, segregate and secure fuel rods" at its plutonium reactors. Blix said fuel was being discharged at a "very fast pace" and that if this continued, "the opportunity to inspect . . . will be lost within days."

The conflict took a new turn on May 31, when South Korean President Kim Youngsam ordered his cabinet to draw up war contingency plans. The government, he said, "should prepare for the possibility of an unexpected move by North Korea facing a crisis."

"The North could commit a provocation at any time, so we are in a very dangerous situation now," Kim said in a speech at an airbase on May 28. "Currently, a large number of factories [in the North] have halted operations, and electricity is supplied to the rural area for only about three hours a day."