

International Intelligence

Russian Navy still wants Kaliningrad

The status of Kaliningrad, site of the strategic Russian naval base in Lithuania, is on the Russian Security Council's agenda, reported the news agency Interfax on July 14. Russia considers the base to be an "enclave" that it owns. The Council is said to be concerned about guaranteeing Russian military shipments to the base through Lithuania, regional social problems, and the strength of Russian forces in the region.

On July 12, Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian President Boris Yeltsin's chief spokesman, was quoted as asserting that Moscow would decide unilaterally on the number of troops that it keeps stationed in the Kaliningrad region and that Russia's defense requirements would be the primary factor governing the disposition of forces there. Kostikov also said that Russia's defense requirements would be the primary factor governing the disposition of forces there. The current number of Russian troops stationed in Kaliningrad is unknown, but estimates generally begin at 100,000. In March, the Russian Defense Ministry announced plans to restructure its military forces there, with the aim of creating an integrated "special defense region."

British are miffed at Bastille Day snub

The British feel insulted that Germany was given higher priority at the French Bastille Day celebrations on July 14 than were the British, "against a background of worsening relations between London and Paris," the London daily *Independent* reported on July 15.

Under the title, "Bastille Snub to Britain Marks New Bitterness," the paper wrote: "While German troops rolled through Paris yesterday, the organizers of the annual July 14 military parade scrapped an invitation to the Royal Air Force (RAF) to take part in the accompanying fly-past. The RAF had offered to send four Tornados to fly over the

Avenue des Champs-Élysées but the French authorities decided against it four months ago, official sources said."

The *Independent* said that this was supposed to be the year of celebration of Anglo-French relations, with the 90th anniversary of the Anglo-French *Entente Cordiale* and so on, but this has all changed into "bitterness." The French are angered at British opposition to French policy in Rwanda, while the British feel their role in D-Day celebrations was relegated to a much lower place in French minds than the American role: "After Normandy, the Queen is said to have complained privately that President François Mitterrand had been offhand with her personally and towards Britain generally, playing up the U.S. role in 1944 and ignoring Britain. The French leader was more attentive to President Bill Clinton than to the Queen, one source said."

Tudjman's policy has shrunk Croatian state

The policy of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has resulted in the fact that U.N. "blue zones" have reduced the Croatian state's territory by 1,000 square kilometers, wrote journalist and military analyst Srecko Jurdana in the daily *Slobodna Dalmacija* on July 14.

In an analysis of the situation in the country three months after the signing of the "Zagreb Agreement" with the Serbs, Jurdana charged that large parts of those western Slavonian territories that the Croats were able to liberate in the war of 1991 have been handed over to control by the U.N., which does nothing to prevent the Serbs from returning to those areas. Especially the area around the city of Okucani, but also the Velibitkote region and lands outside of Zadar, have been opened to Serbian "settlers."

The Croatian government has its hands tied mainly for political reasons, according to the author, as Croatia is permanently prevented from using its military muscle by following directives from abroad; this, in turn, is weakening the military position of the Croats.

"Details" such as securing the water supply for the Croatian population of Biograd, a city in the "blue zones" that was cut off several weeks ago through Serbian sabotage of the water pipeline that used to supply the region, are not envisioned by the U.N. in its agenda for talks with the Croatian government, Jurdana wrote.

Prosecutors say mafia bombings aimed at pope

Rome prosecutor Vincenzo Coiro, who has been investigating two 1993 bombing attempts, revealed in a press conference on July 14 that eight Mafia members have been indicted for those crimes. He said that the bombings were intended as a warning shot across the bows to Pope John Paul II.

Coiro stated, according to *Corriere della Sera*, that "it is now certain that the Mafia wanted to send a warning directly to the church. Everything starts with the strong speech given by the pope last year in Temples Valley (Agrigento), an intervention, that disturbed the balance, the silent agreement of non-belligerence between the church and the Mafia."

Coiro has based his indictments on revelations from ex-Mafia members, among other evidence. There is now growing concern in the Vatican over the planned papal visit to Sicily Nov. 5-6.

Sir Jimmy Goldsmith raves against Clinton

Sir Jimmy Goldsmith, a board member of the Hollinger Corp. whose "Other Europe" party in France now has 13 seats in the European Parliament, denounced President Clinton's turn toward Germany, in a speech in London on July 12. Clinton demonstrated "his astounding lack of history, which is to be added to his astounding lack of wisdom," Goldsmith raved. The lesson that Britain should learn, as Washington and Bonn "clamber into bed," is that Britain is now paying the price for its post-Suez 1956 "ser-

vility" to the United States.

Goldsmith said that Franco-British ties should be strengthened, to deal with the new situation. Not only is the U.S.-British special relationship in trouble, but, he claimed, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President François Mitterrand are going their separate ways, as the "love affair at the heart of Europe" begins to cool off. Explaining this latter process, Goldsmith spoke derisively of Germany: "Germany needed to go out with a respectable girl on his arm. After the war, France was a respectable girl. Now that Germany has become stronger and more powerful and the respectable girl has become a little older, it's no longer quite as necessary."

Colombia's Samper meets French leaders

Ernesto Samper Pizano, the President-elect of Colombia and a leading advocate of drug legalization, was in Paris for a "private visit" during the Bastille Day celebrations of July 14, and viewed the commemorations along the Champs-Élysées with other world leaders. He is scheduled to take office on Aug. 7. Samper was received on July 13 by President François Mitterrand and Prime Minister Eduard Balladur.

In an interview with the daily *Le Monde* on July 16, Samper boasted that he will bring narco-terrorist guerrilla leaders into local and regional power structures. "If negotiation is useful," he said, "I will resume it. But the guerrillas have used the talks, especially during the last years, to tighten their grip. I believe that, in any case, the guerrilla movement itself has changed. Ten years ago, we were negotiating with a unified command. Today, the guerrilla movement is split into pieces, there is no longer any single authority. I count on negotiating with the local chiefs. . . . Obtaining power in the center doesn't interest them any more. They want to win mayoralties, posts in regional assemblies. And with the majority that I have in Parliament, I can bring about the passage of laws permitting them to enter into local and regional authorities."

Le Monde asked him what role can be played by ex-guerrilla Antonio Navarro, who transformed his M-19 movement into a legal political party, but only obtained 3.8% of the vote in the presidential election. Samper responded: "I will give him an official function, linked to the pacification of the country."

Tape-recorded telephone conversations made public after Samper's election revealed that the Cali cocaine cartel paid several million dollars to get Samper elected (see *EIR*'s cover story of July 15). Asked about this by *Le Monde*, Samper replied by denying the authenticity of the tapes, and blaming his electoral opponent, Andrés Pastrana: "No sum was paid by the Cali cartel. This argument was advanced by my unfortunate adversary, Andrés Pastrana. This is the first time in the history of the country that a loser thereby rejects his defeat. That will not prevent me from calmly assuming my functions on Aug. 7."

Successor named to EU's Jacques Delors

Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jacques Santer was named president of the European Commission on July 15, replacing Jacques Delors of France, who has pushed a program of major infrastructure projects through the European Union (EU). The previous candidate, Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, was defeated by a British veto.

In France, the business daily *Les Echos* and the leftist *Libération* both describe Santer as "the lowest common denominator," as does the *Financial Times* of London. Italy's *La Stampa* said that "a weak leader at the top of the EU Commission can only please London, which has long been hostile to European integration."

In an interview in the *Luxembourger Wort* newspaper on July 14, Santer said that he was a European federalist, but not a centralist. "The more Europe is decentralized the stronger it is," he said. He also made a strong case for a Europe built on free trade—which, Reuters noted, is a point likely to make him more acceptable to Britain.

● **THE ARGENTINE** daily *Clarín* on July 14 headlined its coverage of President Bill Clinton's visit to Germany, "Is the Special Relationship with England Breaking?"

● **THE CARICOM**, the 14-member association of the English-speaking Caribbean nations, issued a statement supporting former Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez, who is now in jail for corruption. The statement praised his alleged "noble efforts" for peace, democracy, and economic development; it was published as an advertisement in all the Caracas papers on July 14, in an obvious intervention against Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

● **A. SOLZHENITSYN** is being promoted for the Russian presidency by a growing lobby of literary and political figures, the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine* reported on July 15. Among the novelist's backers are Yegor Vinogradov, editor in chief of *Komintern*, and poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Spokesmen for the Democratic Russia movement said at a press conference that they would be willing to nominate Solzhenitsyn as their candidate.

● **URUGUAYAN** President Luis Alberto Lacalle announced backing for a "common position" against abortion at the U.N.'s International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled for Cairo, Egypt in September. Lacalle said he fully supported the proposal made by Argentine President Carlos Menem to all Ibero-American heads-of-state, to take a stand against abortion.

● **THE JAPANESE** Defense Agency's annual "White Paper," released on July 15, said that Russia still maintains approximately 240,000 ground troops in the Far East, with massive air and naval capabilities, and that the "future of the Russian military remains uncertain because it is linked to political and economic instability in Russia."