

# International Intelligence

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## Argentina signs Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Reversing the policy of decades by which it defended its right to independent technological development, the Argentine government voted the week of Nov. 28, 1994 to ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Succumbing to the pressures of the United States, United Nations, and International Atomic Energy Agency, the government agreed to sign the treaty as a demonstration of its commitment to "peace." Sen. Eduardo Menem explained the decision as "the logical corollary of Argentina's policy in favor of peace, following the 1983 reinstallation of democracy," according to the Dec. 3 daily *Clarín*.

Signing of the NPT is in fact evidence of the government's decision to shut down its nuclear industry, the continent's vanguard industry, developed in the late 1940s. This has tragic implications for the rest of the continent, which will be denied the scientific infrastructure and capabilities which Argentina has developed over the years.

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## Call for a tribunal against U.N. 'mediators'

Croatian and Bosnian activists have launched an initiative for an international tribunal to try U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former U.N. mediator in the Balkans Cyrus Vance, and European Community mediator Lord David Owen. A resolution to this effect was adopted at a meeting in Zagreb, Croatia that included Dr. Zvonimir Separovic, former Croatian foreign minister and president of the Croatian Victimology Society; Dr. Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud, director of the International Center of the Legal Sciences; and Hamdija Kabiljagic, mayor of the embattled Bosnian town of Bihac. The gathering was attended by numerous refugee organizations from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The resolution called for the indictment of Boutros-Ghali, Owen, and Vance on five

counts of conspiracy against peace and of crimes against humanity. Boutros-Ghali, the group charged, should be tried, sentenced, and removed from his post as U.N. secretary general, for being, along with Owen and Vance, an accomplice in the Serbian occupation of two-thirds of Bosnia-Herzegovina and one-third of Croatia, in the killing of 300,000 civilians, and the wounding of 1 million and expulsion of another 3 million by the Serbs.

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## Italy's Berlusconi forced out of office

Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi resigned on Dec. 22, apparently recognizing that he would lose a no-confidence vote in Parliament which was to have taken place the following day. Berlusconi presented his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who must decide whether to name someone to try to form a new government, Italy's 54th since World War II, or dissolve Parliament and call new elections.

Berlusconi has been targeted by the "Clean Hands" prosecutors, who are dredging up any conceivable scandal against leading figures in all political parties, plunging the nation into a deep institutional crisis.

In mid-December, Berlusconi was interrogated for seven hours in Milan by chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli and his assistants. The prime minister is being investigated for having allegedly authorized a bribe of 300 million liras to policemen who were inspecting the books of Berlusconi's Fininvest corporation.

After the interrogation, Berlusconi issued a videotaped statement, charging that his government was the victim of a "conspiracy."

A new phase of the political soap-opera began before Berlusconi's interrogation, when prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro spectacularly resigned from the Clean Hands team. His decision was seen as preparation for a future political role, as suggested to him by his good friend Francesco Cossiga, a former prime minister. Di Pietro's resignation led

to a chain of other resignations in the judiciary, and an escalation of the conflict between the Executive and the Judiciary, all adding up to a worsening of the overall institutional crisis.

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## Jordan condemns 12 to death for terrorism

The State Security Court in Amman, Jordan at the end of December passed death sentences against 12 people on charges of conspiring to conduct terrorist actions. The list of charges, 164 pages long, mentioned that the members of the so-called Jordanian-Afghan group, who were trained in Afghanistan, attempted to bomb movie theaters and stores selling alcohol, and planned to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian officials involved in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, such as Jordanian Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Majali, Palestinian statesman Faisal Al-Husseini, and the former Palestinian delegate to the peace negotiations, Hannan Ashrawi.

Three of the defendants, a Jordanian, an Omani, and a Saudi, were sentenced *in absentia*. Muhammed Khalifa, a Saudi, was charged with financing the group. Three others in the group got life imprisonment, four were sentenced to shorter prison terms, and seven were declared not guilty. The same court will also pass sentences on another group, members of the banned Liberation Party, who are charged with planning to assassinate King Hussein at the University of Muta, in June 1993.

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## Delors won't run for French presidency

Former European Commission President Jacques Delors, the author of a White Paper for European infrastructure development that was substantially endorsed by the European Union, announced on Dec. 11 that his decision not to run as Socialist Party candidate for President of France is "irrevocable." This leaves Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac and, unofficially, Prime Minister

Edouard Balladur, both of the RPR party, as the leading contenders. The Socialist Party has announced that it will hold an emergency party congress in January to select a new candidate to replace the dying President François Mitterrand.

Delors, in a television interview, claimed that were he to become President, he would have to rule in a "cohabitation" government with the right-wing parties, and therefore would have no chance to bring his program to fruition. He also cited family reasons for his decision, and said that his age (70) means that he needs time for "reflection" rather than active political life.

The British press, which has loudly denounced Delors's infrastructure program, was euphoric about his decision not to run. "Delors the Realist," trumpeted the *Daily Telegraph* on Dec. 13, while the *Financial Times* headlined, "Bravo, Jacques," and called the decision "brave and realistic. . . . It is the right decision for Mr. Delors and for France."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, on the other hand, expressed his regret that he would not be working with a President Delors on European construction.

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## Parizeau: 'Quebec is a separate country'

Quebec's Premier Jacques Parizeau and his Parti Québécois introduced a bill to the Quebec provincial legislature on Dec. 6, declaring that "Quebec is a sovereign country." Under Title 16 of the draft bill, it says, "This Act comes into force one year after its approval by referendum, unless the National Assembly fixes an earlier date."

According to Parizeau, the bill will be discussed in public hearings and in the legislature, called the National Assembly, before being submitted to a referendum. In order to be ratified, it must receive a majority of votes in a referendum to be held in the province next year. "This will be a remarkably interesting period in our history," Parizeau told a news conference. "I think that the year 1995 will never be forgotten . . . everyone

is invited to come together to decide their future."

Federal and provincial politicians who favor keeping Quebec within Canada were quick to attack the draft bill. Sheila Copps, deputy prime minister of the Liberal government in Ottawa, called the draft bill "anti-democratic" and a "fraud." Daniel Johnson, Jr., leader of Quebec's opposition Liberal Party, said this was "a very unfortunate day for democracy in Quebec."

"They are attempting to take Quebec out of Canada by trickery rather than a courageous act of a population that wants to be sovereign," said New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna, whose province would be physically cut off from the rest of Canada if Quebec were to leave. "Surely on an issue so fundamental you'd ask for public approbation first, then look at legislation," he said. "Democracy just got flushed into the St. Lawrence River as Quebec separatists showed their true colors," the *Province* newspaper in Vancouver, British Columbia said in an editorial.

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## Mahathir hits West's role on human rights

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on Dec. 6 gave the keynote speech to a conference in Kuala Lumpur on "Rethinking Human Rights," slamming the hypocrisy of the western world's "human rights" record with respect to Bosnia. "The record of the democratic governments of the West is not very inspiring. Unless their own interests are at stake, as in Kuwait, they would not risk anything in the cause of democracy," he said.

Discussing the United Nations' handling of the war in Bosnia, Mahathir charged: "After a brave display of the prowess of western air superiority and sophisticated war planes, the whole NATO force withdrew and whimpered. The Serbs shelled and rocketed the Bosnians. People, innocent people, even patients in hospitals, were killed and wounded. The champions of human rights, worried that their soldiers might be scratched, did nothing."

## Briefly

● **DOUGLAS HURD**, the British foreign secretary, will visit Pakistan on Jan. 8-9. The visit comes at a time when Karachi is gripped by violence, which has already claimed the lives of about 160 people in December. Hurd is expected to meet with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The discussions will cover "regional issues," including Kashmir.

● **CLAUDE CHEYSSON**, the former French foreign minister, called for the easing of sanctions against Iraq, at a press conference in Baghdad on Dec. 18. "To isolate Iraq from the rest of the world represents a danger to peace. Humiliating Iraq gives a chance to fanatics in other parts of the world," he said. Cheysson met with President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

● **EUTHANASIA** in China: The China News Agency on Nov. 8 reported on a symposium in Shanghai on "Euthanasia and Care for the Dying," which "unanimously appealed for legislation and implementation of euthanasia as soon as possible." Polls in Shanghai and Beijing reportedly show that 79% of the population supports it.

● **NATO** is being made irrelevant by British and French obstructionism in Bosnia, the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* charged on Dec. 22. Military correspondent Karl Feldmeyer wrote that nothing can be expected from NATO as long as the two key U.N. commanders in Bosnia are deployed by the two powers that have sabotaged any action against the Serbs.

● **PAUL KAGAME**, military leader of the Rwanda Patriotic Front and vice president of the RPF government, told *EIR* at a press conference in Washington on Dec. 13 that he would not discuss his relationship with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda. "I think we should be judged by what we do in our problems in our country, Rwanda, and not be judged by what is happening in Uganda," he said.