

International Intelligence

Azerbaijan coup attempt endangers region

Azerbaijan President Haidar Aliyev, following a reported coup attempt by Interior Ministry forces, warned on March 15 that the country could plunge into civil war. Aliyev, a former Communist Party leader, vowed to crush the "putsch" and called on Deputy Interior Minister Rovshan Javadov and his rebellious OPON police force to lay down their arms.

According to the local Turan news agency, dozens of people had been killed in fighting between OPON and government forces on March 15.

The internal crisis in Azerbaijan, and the Russian-orchestrated war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, make the prospects for the \$7.1 billion oil deal signed with western oil firms, called the "deal of the century," look rather bleak. The oil would have been piped south, via Armenia and Turkey. An alternative proposal to pipe Azeri oil north into Russia has been checked by the war in Chechnya.

Ugandan civil rights movement formed

Godfrey Binaisa, the former President of Uganda, announced on March 12 in Stockholm, Sweden that he had, in discussions with fellow countrymen, initiated the formation of the Ugandan Civil Rights Movement. Motivated by the deteriorating economic and social situation of the people of Uganda, who, he said, have suffered under the austerity policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, Binaisa called on all Ugandans of good will to unite and work for peaceful change.

The policy of liberalization and privatization of the economy, which British Minister for Overseas Development Baroness Lynda Chalker convinced the Ugandan government to adopt, only benefits the small layer of wealthy people, whereas the 95% majority of the Ugandan people are faced with hunger, mass unemployment, and a breakdown of the health and education sys-

tems. In the last few years, no significant amount of money has gone into the repair and expansion of roads and railway infrastructure of the country.

Faced with a subculture of corruption, Binaisa called on the young generation of Ugandans to regain the moral high ground and look at the fate of Africa over the last 30 years. The dreams of the independence fight were never realized, because the old colonial system was replaced with a new one called the IMF and the World Bank. Those dreams, which envisaged the formation of a prosperous African Economic Community by the year 2000 and eventually the establishment of the United Sovereign States of Africa, were, during the 1970s and 1980s, crushed by the burden of foreign debt and the murderous austerity of the IMF's structural adjustment programs.

The Ugandan Civil Rights Movement, he said, will work under the banner of "Peace Means Development," for realization of an ambitious regional development plan for infrastructure, agriculture, and industry encompassing the entire region bordering the Great Lakes area in East and Central Africa.

Binaisa was the keynote speaker at Schiller Institute conferences in Copenhagen and Stockholm in March.

Did London get a tip on Tokyo nerve gas attack?

International analysts are puzzling over the "coincidence" that the London *Sunday Times* published an article headlined "Did Terrorists Kill with Deadly Nerve Gas Test?" in its March 19 issue, one day before the terrorist attack in Tokyo in which sarin nerve gas was released on a crowded subway killing eight and sending 1,000 to hospitals.

The *Sunday Times* article reported on an event that occurred on June 27, 1994, in Matsumoto, Japan, in which eight people mysteriously died from a dosage of sarin leaked into the atmosphere.

According to reporters Jonathan Annells and James Adams, "western intelligence agencies" looking into the deaths "are con-

vinced it involved terrorists. They fear that sarin, a chemical weapon described as the 'poor man's atomic bomb,' is in the hands of a terrorist group, presumed to be the Japanese Red Army Faction. . . . Japanese police and security services are racing to catch the killers before they commit mass slaughter." Annells and Adams report that the Japanese police have created a "special sarin unit," which is involved in an "intensive investigation," as they believe the Matsumoto attack "was a trial run by terrorists."

Commenting on the timing of the *Sunday Times* article, an informed Moscow strategist told *EIR* that the Tokyo atrocity was receiving very wide coverage in Russia. "But of anything I've heard, this *Sunday Times* angle is the most interesting; it is an extremely interesting lead to follow up."

Turkish troops pursue Kurds into Iraq

Up to 35,000 Turkish troops, backed by tanks and artillery units, crossed three miles into northern Iraq on March 20 to attack Kurdish guerrilla bases.

"From the early hours of March 20, under orders from the government, the Turkish Armed Forces began an operation against many PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] camps in areas adjacent to our country," Anatolian news agency quoted Prime Minister Tansu Ciller as saying.

The Turkish forces plan to push 25 miles into Iraq along a 150-mile front, a military spokesman told a news conference in Ankara. According to the spokesman, between 2,500 and 2,800 PKK guerrillas are believed to be in camps on the Iraqi side of the border.

Several days before, Turkey had warned that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) was involved in recent provocations against Iraqi troops. "We have reports that local [Kurdish] forces in northern Iraq are opening harassing fire on Iraqi troops permanently positioned south of the 36th parallel," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said. The spokesman praised the "cool attitude of the Iraqi side in the face of such harassment."

Turkey also warned the PUK against any

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moves to seize the oil city of Kirkuk, controlled by Iraq.

"We are also receiving reports that the local forces plan to start an assault on Kirkuk. I wish to stress that Turkey will in no way accept such a development that will harm Iraq's territorial integrity," Ataman said.

High Council for Civil Defense named in Sudan

Sudanese Interior Minister Brig. Al-Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair on March 18 decreed the formation of a High Council for Civil Defense.

No reasons were given for the formation of the council; however, the British-backed Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said it would strike at targets in northern Sudan, including in Khartoum, in coordination with banned political parties in the north, to overthrow the government of Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir. London is the staging ground for this "coalition government in the wings," between the SPLA and the banned political parties in northern Sudan.

Due to fighting in southern Sudan, a steady influx of Sudanese refugees (some 150 a day) continues to arrive in the Kokobo area of northern Uganda. Most of these refugees are below 15 years of age and 10% suffer from malnutrition.

Bosnian Army is stronger, says general

Bosnia's Army Commander Gen. Rasim Delic said that his army has made use of the cease-fire, which began on Jan. 1, to train and reorganize its units. In an interview published on March 16 in the Sarajevo daily *Oslobodjenje*, Delic said that the government now has 200,000 men under arms, and a new command structure making field units more flexible. "We have created a large number of maneuver brigades without specific [geographic] zones of responsibility. They are stationed in barracks, ready to carry out assignments on any part of Bosnian

territory," Delic said.

"The probability the war will continue is greater than the possibility there will be a just solution for Bosnia," General Delic said. "It is realistic to expect the war to continue. We are prepared for that."

According to a Reuters account of the interview, Delic said he doubted that a wider Balkan war involving Croatia or Macedonia was in the offing, but he suggested that such a development would work in favor of the Bosnian Army. "I think it is exaggerated to expect a wider war on a Balkan level," he said. "As a soldier I'd like that to happen because it would be a relief to the Bosnian Army. The aggressor would be stretched out and could not expect to bring new arms and soldiers in from Serbia and Montenegro whenever they wanted."

Algerian conflict set to escalate

The decision on the part of the Algerian government to re-arrest two leading members of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has created an increasingly tense situation in the country, as the government has announced plans to mobilize the population in the armed struggle, through the creation of militias. The French daily *Libération* on March 20 quoted Algerian Interior Minister Meziane Cherif saying that the number of "communal guards" would reach 40-50,000. Though denying that these constituted militias, he stated that citizens should be encouraged "to defend themselves in cases where the security forces are not present. . . . It is not a question of having the anti-terrorist fight assumed by forces other than those of the security services."

The conflict in Algeria has heated up over the past month, after 200 prisoners were killed in a mutiny at Serkadji Prison, believed to have been organized by agents provocateurs. Both the French and U.S. governments have realized that the situation is being pushed to the brink; the French press reports that the United States and France have agreed on joint military maneuvers for evacuating civilians from Algeria, should the need arise.

● **BOLIVIA'S** Adm. Miguel Alvarez (ret.) charged that "there is a strong plot in existence to eliminate the Armed Forces, and the targets of this new attack are civilians and military men," according to the daily *Gestión* on March 17. "I say that this plot is being carried out in the framework of the so-called 'Bush Plan,' a strategy attributed to the former American President George Bush to eliminate Latin America's armed forces."

● **THE MURDER** of two prominent Burundi leaders has shaken hopes for the fragile peace in the region. The two are Energy Minister Ernest Kabushemeye, leader of the second-largest Hutu party and ally of Burundi's moderate President, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya; and Lucien Sabuku, an Interior Ministry consultant and former mayor of Bujumbura. More than 100,000 people have been killed since October 1993.

● **PRINCE PHILIP** arrived on the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar on March 15 on a five-day private visit as president of the World Wide Fund for Nature. He was scheduled to camp in protected areas where the fund operates.

● **THE LEADERSHIP** of the Palestine Liberation Organization met in Tunis on March 18-19 and criticized chairman Yasser Arafat's Gaza-based Palestinian Authority for conceding too much to Israel in the peace process. One of the options discussed at the meeting was the possibility of "suspending negotiations with Israel" until it fulfills its commitments under the Oslo Accords.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** and other high Vatican officials received Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz on March 16, to review the effects of the U.N.-imposed embargo on Iraq. The daily *Al-Arab* reported that Aziz was assured that the Vatican will use its diplomatic power in an effort to persuade the U.N. to review the sanctions.