

International Intelligence

Pope urges world leaders to relieve African debt

In a six-day trip to Africa on Sept. 14-20, Pope John Paul II called upon world leaders to take responsibility to remedy the calamities that have befallen the African continent. "It is the world's moral duty to ease the suffering of Africans," the Pontiff said in his first stop, in Yaounde, Cameroon.

In a statement generally ignored by western media, the Pope attacked "the crushing burden of debt, unjust trading conditions, the dumping of harmful wastes, and the overly demanding conditions imposed by structural adjustment programs," referring to International Monetary Fund conditionalities.

The occasion of the Pope's visit was the signing of *Ecclesia in Africa* ("The Church in Africa"), the 150-page document which grew out of last year's Synod of African Bishops in Rome. The Pope had vowed that he would end the Synod in Africa, which had begun in Rome. The Synod document includes the formulation, "Another extremely important issue is that of the excessive burden of the international debt. The Pope appeals to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and all foreign creditors to alleviate this debt."

Chernomyrdin group charged with corruption

The Russian power struggle is escalating as figures associated with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his energy-, raw materials-, and speculation-based grouping are being charged with corruption. The latest case was the arrest on Sept. 22, of Pyotr Yanchev, director of the Balkar Trading Company, for corruption in the huge sale for hard currency of Russian oil. Chernomyrdin himself in April personally signed the license for Balkar Trading to export 9.43 million tons, or around \$2.5 billion worth of Russian oil.

Russian Deputy Prosecutor-General Oleg Galdanov confirmed on Sept. 29 that a

corruption case would be brought against Yanchev. On Sept. 23, a planned meeting between Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin, at Yeltsin's holiday spot near Sochi on the Black Sea, was suddenly canceled.

Following this came a Yeltsin decree to create a Federal Energy Commission, associated with the Economics Ministry, to scrutinize all companies planning to be involved in oil and gas deals.

Another scandal targeting the upper reaches of the government was cited by the London *Guardian* of Sept. 30. This was the arrest earlier this year of Valentina Solovyova, founder of Vlastilina, a pyramid-scheme financial company, modeled along the lines of the notorious MMM. She claimed that Vice Premier Oleg Soskovyets and Speaker of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeiko were involved in the firm's shady operations.

The *Guardian* reported that behind the attacks on Chernomyrdin is the Russian Security Service head, and Yeltsin intimate, Gen. Mikhail Barsukov, and his friend, Gen. Aleksander Korzhakov, head of Yeltsin's security.

French 'breakthrough' in anti-terror war

The Paris leak-sheet *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported on Sept. 27, that French Prime Minister Alain Juppé has called for breaking all contacts between the French secret services and their Algerian counterparts. This was the result of Interior Minister Jean Louis Debré's suspicions that the Algerian secret services might have played a role in the recent wave of French terror bombings, which have killed or injured 130 people since last June.

Two days after this report, on Sept. 29, Khaled Kelkal was killed by French police marksmen when they attacked his hideout outside Lyon. He became France's most wanted man after his fingerprints were found on an unexploded bomb beside a high-speed railway line near Lyon in August.

French authorities, cited in a *New York*

Times article written from Paris on Oct. 1, tied Kelkal to the killing of a key Muslim Imam involved in the Franco-Algerian peace process, as well as to the wave of guerrilla bombings in France. This was a major breakthrough for investigators, Interior Minister Debré said.

Debré said the government has evidence that Kelkal was involved in at least three terror actions, starting with the July 11 killing of Imam Abdelkader Sahraoui at his mosque in Paris. Sahraoui was a founder of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS.

Debré said police opened fire in legitimate self-defense after Kelkal ignored orders to surrender and started shooting at police when he was cornered. Then, the gun which was used to kill the Imam was found in Kelkal's hideout, along with detonators, cartridges, guns, and other equipment similar to those used in several other attacks in France since July.

Also on Sept. 29, professional gunmen assassinated former Algerian Foreign Minister Aboubaker Belkaid, one of the leading hard-line "eradicators" in the Algerian regime and an adviser to the Algerian presidency.

In Brazil, 300 hear EIR speaker on food security

Lorenzo Carrasco, *EIR's* correspondent in Brazil, was the guest speaker at a forum on food security held on Sept. 27 in the halls of the state legislature of Rio Grande do Sul. Among the participants at the meeting, convened to discuss the agricultural crisis, were at least 60 municipal mayors from the southern part of this breadbasket state on the border with Uruguay and Argentina. Also in the audience were state legislators, city council members from different municipalities, representatives from all political parties, leaders of industrial associations, and the leaders of several farm organizations including Fedearroz (rice producers) and Fecotrigro (wheat producers).

Carrasco spoke about Lyndon LaRouché's long-standing forecast of a worldwide food crisis because of the free-

Briefly

● **AUGUSTO PINOCHET**, the commander of the Chilean Army, criticized the Frei government over the issue of alleged human rights violations by the Army and efforts to "punish" military officers by overturning the 1978 amnesty. His angry remarks, made in a televised interview in Chile, are also being publicized in Argentina.

● **MUAMMAR QADDAFI**, the Libyan head of State, suggested to a Sufi meeting in eastern Libya that, as a solution to Nigeria's "political and religious crisis," the country should be divided into two separate states, a Christian one and a Muslim one, Gabon radio reported Sept. 19.

● **SUDAN** has warned Egypt that hosting the Sudanese opposition conference in Cairo in late September, "represents a new escalation in the tension between Cairo and Khartoum."

● **KARADZIC** and Mladic, the leaders of the criminal "Bosnian Serb" regime in Pale, should be handed over to the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, asserted Bosnia's Foreign Minister Muhamad Sacirbey at the U.N. after the signature of the "Basic Principles" on Sept. 27. As long as they are free, "not only Bosnia is in danger but peace is in danger," he said.

● **THE MONT PELERIN** Society, which promotes "free trade" in everything, including narcotics, concluded a "regional" gathering in South Africa in late September, to be followed by another in Cancún, Mexico, in January 1996, and by the biannual international summit of Mont Pelerin, in the summer-fall of 1996.

● **IN TAIPEI**, the National Endowment for Democracy (of Ollie North notoriety) co-sponsored a conference Aug. 27-30 on "Third Wave democracies." Speakers included Harvard's Samuel Huntington and the Russian shock therapist and former prime minister, Yegor Gaidar.

trade polices of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. He also discussed Ibero-America's debt crisis, the derivatives bubble, the coming financial and monetary disintegration, and the hoarding of commodities, including food, by the oligarchy.

German Social Democrats to reshuffle executive

A major reshuffle in the executive bodies of the German Social Democrats is in the making, probably even before the mid-November national party convention.

The SPD chairman and leader of the Bonn parliamentary opposition, Rudolf Scharping, is under siege from a faction led by Gerhard Schroeder, the state governor of Lower Saxony. A number of prominent resignations from top party posts in protest of Scharping's policies, such as of Karsten Voigt as the party's foreign policy spokesman, of Uwe Jens, economic policy spokesman of the parliamentary group, and of Schroeder himself as economic policy spokesman of the party executive, occurred in September.

The Social Democrats lost 10% of votes in the Bremerhaven by-elections Sept. 24, falling visibly behind the Christian Democrats—which is a bad omen for the Oct. 22 municipal elections in Berlin. Moreover, several SPD state governors have announced their intent to vote, in the Chamber of States (Bundesrat) on Oct. 13, against a planned big increase of salaries of Bonn parliament members (which Scharping backs) "as inappropriate at a time of overall low incomes and rising jobless rates." Should they vote to block the salary increase, many knives will be out inside the SPD parliamentary group to oust Scharping, taking this veto as a welcome pretext.

Scharping has also discredited himself by showing deep disinterest in discussing industrial policies for the creation of new jobs. For the jittery aerospace sector, he is openly opposing the project of a new jet fighter (which would secure several

thousand jobs) as an alleged militaristic venture and "waste" of money. Schroeder, however, has surfaced as a spokesman for the fighter project and other projects in the aerospace sector. Scharping is also blamed for the increasing tensions between the party, labor, and industry over his endorsement of coalitions with the anti-industrial Greens.

Serbian chauvinist links war to anti-urban trend

The Serbian war effort is central to a global trend toward destroying urban civilization, writes Serb chauvinist author Dragos Kalajic, in the Belgrade magazine *Duga*, according to an account published by TWRA, the Bosnian press agency, on Sept. 28.

Kalajic is identified by TWRA as a spiritual leader of the chauvinist paramilitary group "Beli Orlovi," the which has been deployed by Serb dictator Slobodan Milosevic, in the aggression against Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Kalajic is the spiritual leader of the group, while its leading "mass slaughterer," Mirko Jovic, is the chairman of the Serb Peoples Renewal Party.

TWRA cites the article by Kalajic, in the latest edition of *Duga*, in which he attacks certain Serbs whom he considers "outcasts," for claiming that "rural uncivilized Serbs are shelling Muslim Sarajevo, only because they hate all that is urban." Counters Kalajic: "I oppose this, with the remark that such anti-Serb charges should be taken as praises to the Serbs. Homer rewards every hero of his epic, with the title 'a town destroyer.' After all, true Europeans do not like living in towns, and do that only for existential necessity. To be informed of the places where true Europeans like to live, we should see where they put up their weekend houses. The greatest metropolises like London or New York are populated mainly by the poor, forced by poverty to live there. The rich, or better-off Europeans live far from the metropolis, in villas and residential areas of a rural type, imbued with the natural green."