

International Intelligence

N. Korea thanks Malaysia for humanitarian aid

While geopoliticians debate the advantage to be gained from making aid for starving North Korea conditional on such schemes as "human rights" reforms, officials from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the regional head of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were on hand in Kuala Lumpur on Nov. 12 to turn over a check for 19.5 million ringgit (\$5.9 million) to North Korean Ambassador to Malaysia Kim Jin Ok. The money was raised since Aug. 3, when *The Star* newspaper launched the humanitarian campaign with a donation of 2,054 ringgit contributed by schoolchildren. The Malaysian contribution is reported to be the single biggest contribution in response to an appeal launched in August. *The Star* is Malaysia's second largest daily, and is owned by the Malaysian Chinese Association.

In receiving the check, Ambassador Kim Jin Ok said, "We will never forget your generous help." Datuk Sulaiman Osman, national chairman of the Blood Program Committee, reported that "every ringgit collected was well used." Osman was part of a four-person team that toured North Korea in October. IFRC regional head Dr. Johan Schaar reported that 4,854 tons of rice had already been shipped and another 13,150 tons were en route, thanks to the funds.

Mahathir rebuffs U.S. Congress' provocation

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad refused to fall into a trap laid by three U.S. Congressmen, who circulated a highly provocative House resolution claiming that Mahathir's denunciation of mega-speculator George Soros was anti-American and anti-Semitic, and demanding that he resign or apologize. The ringleaders, partisans of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, are Gary Ackerman, Tom Lantos (like Soros, Hungarian-born), and freshman Robert Wexler, the resolution's formal sponsor.

According to *The Star* of Kuala Lumpur

on Nov. 11, the U.S. embassy was quick to distinguish the policy of the United States from the sentiments of the resolution's sponsors and signers.

Prime Minister Mahathir addressed the flap with characteristic good humor. Referring to the Congressmen, Mahathir commented, on Nov. 12, "It seems like their brand of democracy is to be able to dictate to others." The following day, he stressed that relations between the two countries remain friendly, adding, "We hope good sense will prevail in the U.S. Congress."

He did express frustration that what he had said, was distorted, and continued that he had only blamed George Soros, who lives in the U.S. and is Jewish, for speculative attacks on regional currencies. In the remarks attributed to him, he had been addressing a mistaken perception of an alleged conspiracy, for which Malaysia would *not* accuse Jewish people of being responsible. If anything, he said, "I have stuck my neck out in this country to try and show Jewish people are as normal as other people."

Regarding the Wexler resolution, he asked, "Is this how the world functions?" If world leaders have to apologize to the U.S. Congress for everything they say, "it is strange to me. I hope I am free to speak my mind."

World's oligarchs flock to London ceremonies

Two ceremonies, one a Nov. 13 "memorial service" for the late Sir James Goldsmith, and the other, the golden wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip on Nov. 20, brought many of the world's royalty, oligarchs, and their top retainers to London. The memorial service for Goldsmith coincided with the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as London was gearing up its "nuclear Armageddon" threat in the Middle East. Goldsmith was a board member of Conrad Black's Hollinger Corp., publisher of the *Jerusalem Post*, and a main bulwark for Netanyahu.

The memorial for Goldsmith, whose strong opposition to the Maastricht Treaty was not because it was wrong, but because

he wanted to see Europe's nations broken up into "environmentally sustainable" fiefdoms run by his aristocratic friends, drew some 700 people, including Baroness Margaret Thatcher, Sir Henry Kissinger, and casino gambler Sir John Aspinall; royal family members Princess Michael of Kent and Angus Ogilvy, as well as media tycoons Conrad Black, Kerry Packer and Rupert Murdoch; Tory party moneybags Lord McAlpine, banker/speculator Lord Rothschild, and South African Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

As concerns the 50th wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, the *Times* of London waxed nostalgic on Nov. 19, writing that the service at Westminster Abbey would include "eight crowned heads and their heirs, which Buckingham Palace officials believe is an unprecedented gathering, at least since the days when Victoria's relations used to assemble at her feet at Balmoral." Others included "a large contingent of the Duke of Edinburgh's Greek and German relations, [and] members of the Mountbatten family."

Mystery surrounds death of Leonid Brezhnev

The Russian opposition weekly *Zavtra* and the NTV network have referred to some strange circumstances around the death of Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev on Nov. 10, 1982.

NTV interviewed Brezhnev's son-in-law Yuri Churbanov, who said that on Nov. 7, Brezhnev was in relatively good health, and was preparing for the plenum of the Central Committee, scheduled for Nov. 15, which was to deal with issues of scientific and technological development. But, during the night between Nov. 9 and 10, Brezhnev was found dead in his bed. (During this period of 1982, just four months before President Reagan's announcement of the Strategic Defense Initiative, Lyndon LaRouche was conducting back-channel discussions on the prospects for ballistic missile defense, with Soviet representatives and the U.S. National Security Council.)

Zavtra's author suggests that the secret of Brezhnev's death is accessible to Acade-

MYANMAR'S State Law and Order Restoration Council went out of existence on Nov. 15, and has been replaced by a new State Peace and Development Council. The new council includes four members of SLORC, including chairman Than Shwe, Secretary One and intelligence chief Khin Nyunt, and Army Chief Maung Aye. The rest of the new 19-member council, according to the Hongkong daily *South China Morning Post*, are younger, regional army commanders, replacing some of the old guard of former head of state Ne Win.

AVIGDUR ESKIN, who gained notoriety in Israel for publicly chanting against Yitzhak Rabin the Pula D'neura prayer, which beseeches the Angel of Death to visit the person mentioned, has founded a new party, the Machane Tisrael, which plans to run Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, for parliament.

AUSTRALIA'S richest woman, Janet Holmes a Court, told a Perth meeting of drug experts that her model of an Australian republic would legalize drugs, including heroin. "I think that takes the profit motive out of it; what's the point of being a heroin pusher if you can't make any dough? I think we should try everything." Apparently she has.

WEI JINGSHEN, the well-known Chinese dissident, was released from prison on Nov. 16 and sent to the United States for treatment for a heart condition. The release was made less than two weeks after President Jiang Zemin returned from his tour of the United States.

POLAND'S Schiller Institute held a Nov. 13 seminar in Warsaw, to report on the Bonn conference "For a New Bretton Woods System," that had been keynoted by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche. Some 50 guests attended, including scientists, intellectuals, engineers, representatives of the President's office, the Foreign Ministry, the Solidarnosc leadership, and several embassies; a Senator, and a Member of Parliament.

mician Yevgeni Chazov, chief cardiologist of the U.S.S.R. and Leonid Brezhnev's personal physician. The article says that "not everything is clear with the role of Yuri Andropov in this death." The author emphasizes that Brezhnev was going to convey his post, not to Andropov, but to Vladimir Shcherbitsky, Politburo member and First Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine (whose death in 1991 was even more obviously violent).

For the Russian opposition press, questioning Andropov's figure is a really great achievement. While the liberals in power used to denounce the KGB (even though many began their careers as the KGB's "throwaway agents"), the national-patriotic opposition has had a directly opposite tendency of vindicating the KGB; this contorted historical thinking has swept under the rug the fact that Mikhail Gorbachov was a direct successor of Andropov, and that all Gorbachov's *shestidesyatniki* ("men of the Sixties") originated from Andropov's "pocket dissidents" Mikhail Gefter and Roy Medvedev.

Ireland installs first Northern-born President

Ireland's first Northern-born President, Mary McAleese, took the oath of office on Nov. 11, committing herself to reconciliation. Northern leaders attending included nationalists Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein and John Hume of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, as well as a Unionist Party member from McAleese's county. McAleese, who won the October election by a landslide, was born in Ulster. Her election is hailed, in the Irish press, as a harbinger of an era in which the "Troubles" of the last 25 years will finally be at an end.

The opening benediction at the swearing-in ceremony was delivered by clergy from Ireland's five main churches and its Chief Rabbi.

In her speech, she acknowledged that "to speak of reconciliation is to raise a nervous query in the hearts of some North of the border, in the place of my birth." Then, referring to the 800 schoolchildren invited to the ceremony—20 from each of all Ireland's counties—she urged, "I know the distrusts go

deep and the challenge is awesome. Across this island, North, South, East, and West, there are people of such greatness of heart that I know with their help it can be done. I invite them to work in partnership with me to dedicate ourselves to the task of creating a wonderful millennium gift to the Child of Bethlehem whose 2,000th birthday we will soon celebrate."

Former backer says U.S. should isolate Kabila

David Aronson of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace was an early booster of Laurent Kabila, the self-appointed stand-in President of Congo-Zaire, but, in a *Washington Post* article reprinted in the *International Herald Tribune* on Nov. 14, he has recanted on that score. Indicating that he initially had had high hopes for Kabila, Aronson writes, "What a difference a few months can make. The rumors of widespread massacres that trailed messily in Mr. Kabila's wake have long since proven terribly accurate. Ethnic fratricide has broken out in the east. In Kinshasa, Presidential corruption has again become the order of the day, even as more and more journalists and opposition leaders are jailed and beaten."

Especially important, Aronson notes: "Congolese increasingly view Mr. Kabila as a quisling from neighboring Rwanda and ask how Americans would feel if the United States were to be conquered by Cuba—an analogy that is not wholly inexact."

He indicates that the U.S. policy should be to give to Congo's non-governmental organizations up to \$100 million, but otherwise, "the United States should seek to isolate this new regime, and apply to it all the sanctions and international opprobrium that crimes against humanity should automatically elicit. We Americans have the keys to the IMF and World Bank, as well as to the Olympics and the UN Security Council. Private companies, such as Bechtel, that seek to do business with Mr. Kabila, should be made aware that collaborating with mass killers is not good for the corporate image. . . . A Kabila dictatorship cannot be allowed to take root, and elections are the only way to secure a peaceful transition."