

# International Intelligence

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## *New slanders in Poland against LaRouche*

Poland's biggest Polish daily, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, published in its weekend edition on Oct. 9-10, a lengthy attack on the trade union Sierpien '80, which has been regularly publishing various works by Lyndon LaRouche, as well as news bulletins from the Schiller Institute. *Gazeta's* attack on the union devotes a few paragraphs to the LaRouche movement, retailing the shop-worn slanders from the Anglophile media outlets. *Gazeta's* attack on Sierpien '80 was occasioned because the union was one of the organizers of a major Sept. 24 demonstration against the government's neo-liberal economic policies which are destroying the country.

Moreover, *Gazeta's* authors also seem to be nervous about some of the articles appearing in *Kurier Zwiazkowy*, which included excerpts from LaRouche's feature "Can You, Personally, Survive This Bust?" and his shorter memorandum, "Is World War III Coming?" The *Kurier* has 50,000 circulation, and is distributed free in thousands of enterprises, and mailed to various institutions and government agencies.

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## *Water official warns, Israel facing crisis*

Outgoing Israeli Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir warned the Knesset (Parliament) State Comptroller's committee that if Israel does not decide by the end of this year to speed up plans to build water desalination plants, "I won't be responsible for the disaster that befalls the water situation here," according to the daily *Ha'aretz* on Oct. 12. Israel has had plans for the development of conventional desalination plants for many years. One important such plant could be built at Ashkelon, where the desalination process would use the excess heat generated by the new power station there.

Ben-Meir continued: "Elements in the Treasury [Ministry] are preventing the state from moving ahead toward desalination, and again and again, because of their short-

sighted view; we have to feel there's an impending water crisis. . . . I expect all those who, despite common sense, are delaying the implementation of desalination to look the citizens of Israel in the eye and say that, despite the fact that desalination is within the means of the state, they're delaying it and, because of economic considerations, they are threatening to damage our limited water supplies." He warned that even if the coming rainy season produces an average rainfall, water allocations to agriculture would have to be cut by 50%. If rainfall is low, allocations will have to be cut by 80%. Israel has been drawing too much water from its underground reservoirs, and 60% of its drinking water is below European standards. He also rejected proposals for cleaning sewage water to use in agriculture, because such low-grade water would pollute the existing watershed.

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## *OSCE condemns attack on Ukraine's Vitrenko*

The election commission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe condemned the Oct. 2 bomb attack against Ukrainian Presidential candidate Natalia Vitrenko. The OSCE's press release, datelined from Kiev on Oct. 5, was posted by the U.S. Information Agency on its website:

"An Election Observation Mission in Ukraine strongly condemns the violent attack on Presidential candidate Natalia Vitrenko and her supporters on Saturday, 2 October 1999. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), is deeply distressed that so many people have suffered in this attack and expresses its deepest sympathies to those injured and their families.

"There is no place for violence in election campaigns, and it is totally unacceptable that any candidate or their supporters should be confronted with violence or the threat of violence. Such actions are completely contrary to both the letter and the spirit of OSCE commitments on free elections.

"The Election Observation Mission has

dispatched a team of observers to gain first-hand knowledge of what happened last Saturday night. It is not the job of the Observation Mission to determine who is at fault. This is rightly a matter for the authorities, who should undertake a full and complete investigation of the events in accordance with internationally recognized principles of due process of law."

The OSCE was invited by Ukraine to send an Election Observation Mission, for the Oct. 31 Presidential election.

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## *London Telegraph pushes new Franco-German war*

In some strange celebration of the tenth anniversary of German reunification, on Oct. 7, the *London Daily Telegraph* printed an article by the Académie Française permanent secretary Maurice Druon, projecting military conflict between France and Germany, and urging a Franco-British alliance against "German imperialism." Druon's ravings had earlier appeared in *Le Figaro*, one of France's leading dailies.

Druon begins with the bizarre argument that European wars begin 10 or 15 years after a new century begins, citing Napoleon and World War I, before launching into tirades against what he characterizes as proof of "German imperialism": He denounces Chancellor Gerhard Schröder for demanding that "German become a working language of Europe's key institutions, on the same footing as French and English. What will be next?"

"A nation's influence is measured by the extent to which its language is used in the world," he asserts. According to Druon's logic, current trends in Europe reinforce a "Europe of regions," which "benefits only Germany," which, he alleges, is seeking rights for German-speaking minorities in Czechoslovakia (sic), Luxembourg, Silesia, and other countries. "So here we are, with Austria already under Germany's wing, bound for empire once again. Language will help Germany to exercise the preponderance to which it truly aspires. Backed by the size of its population and its linguistic area, with

**CHINESE PRESIDENT** Jiang Zemin began an official visit to Great Britain, France, and four other countries on Oct. 19. The four-day visit to Great Britain is the first by a Chinese head of state. Jiang, who has visited France previously, will also go to Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia. Jiang was invited to Britain by its head of state, Queen Elizabeth.

**VUK DRASKOVIC**, a former cabinet member in Serbia and now an outspoken opponent of President Slobodan Milosevic, charged on Oct. 4 that he was victim of a vehicular assassination attempt, 25 miles outside of Belgrade. A truck swerved into the left lane, as Draskovic was driving in a convoy of three cars, with his wife and leaders of his Serbian Renewal Movement. The crash killed three of his bodyguards and his brother-in-law. The driver of the truck fled the scene.

**CORSICAN TERRORISTS** from the Corsican National Liberation Front Historic Wing took credit for the Oct. 8 bombing which destroyed the French government tax office on the island. The bombing coincided with an official visit by French Justice Minister Elizabeth Guigou, who was speaking in the city of Bastia.

**OSAMA BIN LADEN** is planning terror attacks in Turkey around the Nov. 18 conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Istanbul, Turkish sources told Voice of Russia on Oct. 8.

**ISRAEL** holds the sixth-largest amount of weapons-grade plutonium, according to the London *Times* of Oct. 9, which cites a secret document from the U.S. Department of Energy. Israel is estimated to have 300-500 kg of weapons-grade plutonium. Russia ranks first, with 140 tons; followed by the United States, with 85 tons; Britain, with 7.6 tons; France, with 6-7 tons; and China, with 1.7-2.8 tons. India is said to have 150-250 kg, and North Korea, 23-35 kg. Pakistan is not mentioned.

its government triumphantly reinstalled in Berlin, we shall now see Germany becoming more and more demanding, dominating, imperial. . . . When people realize what is going on, there is the real danger that the tensions will turn into a confrontation."

Druon then sides with those in Britain who see a "major danger" in Prime Minister Tony Blair's alignment with Schröder. What is needed, he says, is a "solid Franco-British *rapprochement* in the conduct of European affairs. . . . That is the only possible response to the arrogance Germany is tempted to display. And it would be in keeping with Great Britain's centuries-old policy, which has always sought to maintain a balance of forces on the continent. . . . So may Great Britain not take to the high seas once more? . . ."

## *How much is Canada paying FARC kidnappers?*

This question is raised by declarations made in late September by Canadian government officials, who are coordinating attempts to free the 12 foreigners (8 of them Canadians) who were kidnapped on Sept. 11 in Ecuador, near the Colombian border. According to reports by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. on Sept. 28, Canada's Secretary of State for Latin America David Kilgour went to Ecuador and Colombia, accompanied by Brian Dickson, the director of the South American division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. CBC reported that Kilgour told the families of the 12 kidnap victims, that their "best hope is that they have been taken by the FARC," the narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. Kilgour told CBC that a kidnapping by the FARC is not an attempt to make a political statement: "It's simply [that] cold, hard American dollars is what they want. And so, that, in a very real sense, should reassure the families, 12 families, that if it is the FARC, that their chances of getting them out are excellent. We have a 1,000% batting average in getting Canadians released from FARC up to now."

The *Ottawa Citizen* of Sept. 27 was told by Dickson that the FARC may negotiate

over its hostages for weeks or even months, but it does negotiate a ransom and then releases its captives; therefore, he said, if the FARC is responsible, there would be a predictable set of negotiations.

Both officials claim that Ecuadoran government and military officials presented "persuasive reasons" that the FARC did not carry out this kidnapping.

## *China's Foreign Minister visits North Korea*

China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan visited North Korea's capital on Oct. 5 to celebrate 50 years of relations, and held talks with Foreign Minister Paek Nam Sun. "Developing friendly, cooperative relations completely accords with the basic interests of our two people and nations," read a message from Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Premier Zhu Rongji, and parliament head Li Peng. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il and other officials added that friendly relations between the two nations "will certainly pass from generation to generation, consolidating and developing."

Tang's five-day visit is one of the highest-level foreign visits to Pyongyang in several years and it is clear that China is trying to work with the sane part of the Clinton administration to further open North Korean trade ties to the United States. "This is a very important visit, especially at this time, as China hopes to use its position as a go-between and seeks to improve North Korea's understanding of the outside world," Jia Qingguo, a scholar at the School of International Studies at Beijing University, told *Agence France Presse*.

Tang's trip could also result in a summit between Jiang Zemin and Kim Jong-Il, Jia said, but this would require significant planning. "Recently many Chinese high-level leaders have visited South Korea . . . so a triangular relationship between China, North Korea, and South Korea will only improve understanding between the North and the South," he added. "China has seen better ties between North Korea and the U.S. as beneficial."