

International Intelligence

Indonesia's Wahid makes state visit to China

Indonesia's new President, Abdurrahman Wahid, chose China as the country to which to make his first state visit, although he has travelled to 13 countries since his election on Oct. 20.

On arriving in Beijing on Dec. 2, Wahid received a red-carpet and 21-gun salute welcome in Tiananmen Square, followed by a 90-minute meeting with President Jiang Zemin, who expressed his appreciation that Wahid chose China, which selection "fully demonstrates Your Excellency's attached importance to developing Indonesian relations with China." Jiang declared support for the efforts of Wahid's government "to safeguard the unity and territorial integrity of Indonesia. Indonesia's stability and prosperity is beneficial to the region's peace and development."

According to Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab, Wahid told Jiang that, while enmity against ethnic Chinese may exist in a small segment of Indonesian society, it is not shared by the majority nor endorsed by the government, and the perception of such enmity should not affect bilateral relations.

Wahid was accompanied by his wife, six ministers, and an entourage of 90 Indonesian businessmen, each of whom paid \$2,000 for the privilege. Among them are several prominent Indonesian Chinese businessmen. Economic Coordinating Minister Kwik Kian Gie said that the two leaders agreed that a branch of Bank of China should be opened in Jakarta.

Book exposes Prodi's 'invisible government'

A new book by former Italian prosecutor Ferdinando Imposimato reveals the depth of corruption of former Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who is now president of the European Union Commission. *High-Speed Corruption: Travel in the Invisible Government*, which Imposimato co-authored with G. Pisauro and S. Provvisionato, takes its departure from EIR's exposé of the *Britannia* plot—hatched in 1992 among British and Italian influentials aboard the British

royal yacht off the coast of Italy—to wipe out traditional institutions and politicians, which stood in the way of privatizing Italy's state sector, through phony "corruption" scandals and prosecutions.

According to *High-Speed Corruption*, the two front-men for this operation, run by Prince Philip's Transparency International, were Prodi and Milan "Clean Hands" Prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, who, in order to overthrow the postwar anti-fascist party system, made direct deals with the Mafia. The analysis and the new revelations in the book are important, not least because the same process is now being unleashed against Germany's Christian Democratic Union and its former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, through the CDU "black funds" scandal.

The aim of the so-called Clean Hands anti-corruption offensive in 1992-93, Imposimato writes, "was to restructure the political system . . . and a parallel restructuring of the business system, to the advantage of . . . large capital and financial speculation, and to damage the specific form of our economy based on small and medium-size industry." He continues: "The takedown of political parties has not eliminated, but rather has strengthened corruption, inefficiency, waste, and patronage." This new power now controls public funds, as Imposimato documents with episodes involving Prodi.

Schröder, Chirac seek Euro intelligence agency

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's proposal that Europe set up a rapid reaction force was discussed at the Dec. 10 European Union summit in Finland. Prior to the meeting, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and French President Jacques Chirac alarmed the British by insisting that such a force must have its own united European intelligence agency. In a declaration signed at their Nov. 30 Paris summit, Schröder and Chirac said, "As far as intelligence is concerned, which is a core element of the European Union's independent assessment and decision-making capacity, we are determined to federalize the existing or future means, including in the space field, in order to create common European capacities."

The British line against such a Euro-in-

telligence agency, is that it would undercut Britain's special intelligence relationship with the United States—meaning, it would undermine British intelligence operations *against* the United States, as well as against other countries, including EU members. The London *Sunday Times*, on Dec. 5, quotes spy novelist, Conservative Member of Parliament Rupert Allason, that the Europeans are living in "Cloud Cuckoo Land," and blustering: "In no circumstances would we want to confide with the French on the level of success achieved by the U.S., for example, in reading President Milosevic's private faxes. It is unthinkable that we would want to compromise our special relationship with the U.S. by enhanced cooperation with others."

Basque ETA terrorists say cease-fire at an end

On Nov. 28, the Basque terrorist organization ETA announced in its paper *Gara*, that its cease-fire, in effect since Sept. 18, 1998, would end on Dec. 3, and that ETA would then have its "new operative commandos" ready for action. ETA claimed that its decision was taken to protest "the repression" by Spain and France (Basque country spans their Pyrenees border region). ETA's leadership, most probably still hiding in France, was to decide on Dec. 3, when its commandoes were to resume the armed fight for a Basque state, independent of France and Spain.

In a press conference, Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar reiterated that Madrid will not give in to any of ETA's demands. The interior minister, as well, underlined that ETA had only used the cease-fire to reorganize its commando structure. There were major protests against ETA throughout Spain, as well as in the European Union headquarters in Brussels. Full support for cooperation against the terrorists came from French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who were in Madrid to sign an aerospace agreement between Aérospatiale, DASA, and CASA.

During the cease-fire, ETA supported itself by bank robberies, kidnappings for ransom, and extortion.