

International Intelligence

France's Chirac Rejects 'Clash Of Civilizations'

French President Jacques Chirac, in a speech to the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on Oct. 15, rejected the concept of a "clash of civilizations," as propagandized by Harvard's Prof. Samuel Huntington, and called for a dialogue of civilizations instead.

"Increasingly, we hear talk of a clash of civilizations," Chirac said. "This, it is claimed, will mark the 21st Century in the same way as the 19th Century was an age of conflicting nationalities and the 20th Century that of ideologies. People claim this clash of civilizations, present and future, will be more radical, more violent, and more impassioned because it will be a conflict of cultures and religions.

"We must refute this way of thinking, which feeds on all our fears. We must do so because to adopt it, would mean to fall into the trap the terrorists have laid out for us, their aim being precisely to stir up men and to set cultures and religions against each other. . . .

"Above all, we must oppose this way of thinking with another reality, a political, cultural, and moral one: we must oppose it with our own resolve, founded upon respect, exchange, and dialogue among all cultures. This is inseparable from the uncompromising assertion of values that make us what we are."

Anger Grows At British Harboring Of Terrorists

British security services ignored terrorist recruitment and fundraising for years at the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, according to an Algerian informant who provided information to both British and French authorities, the London *Daily Telegraph* reported on Oct. 13.

The informant, Reda Hassaine, said that the French had becoming increasingly infuriated that British authorities wouldn't do anything about the mosque's operations. "The French felt British law was very, very soft on these people. . . . It gave these people

flats, benefits, passports, citizenship," Hassaine said. "The British thought that by having them there and keeping an eye on them, Britain would be safe. I have been told at the mosque that there will not be an attack on England because they were living there. But the French were enraged. . . ."

The *Daily Telegraph* notes that French counterterrorist experts refer to the British capital as "Londonistan."

In a related story, terrorist recruiter and trainer Abu Hamza al-Masri bragged openly about his activities in London, Associated Press reported on Oct. 23. Al-Masri is the imam of the Finsbury mosque. Al-Masri told AP: "War must be fought against America. Without it, they will own the land, and God will not like it." AP mentions that Labour Party Parliamentarian Andrew Dismore and others are trying to change the law to make it possible to expel British citizens like al-Masri for terrorism.

More than 20 Islamic terrorists, including those wanted for murders of at least 100 people abroad, are currently living freely in Britain, the London *Sunday Times* reported on Oct. 14. "Last week several governments accused Britain of harbouring terrorists and demanded they be expelled immediately to face justice."

Mahathir: 'Jihad Means Development Of Nation'

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, in an interview on state-owned Malaysian television on Oct. 15, urged the "superpowers" to use economic development as a weapon against terrorism.

"We should find out why they resorted to terrorism," he said, with reference to the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. "We should make some efforts to try and eradicate the causes. . . . We do not agree with the raids [against Afghanistan], because many innocent people will become victims, but this is not a war on Muslims."

Asked about calls for a *jihad*, or holy war, of all Muslims in defense of Afghanistan, Mahathir said: "We feel that this is not a *jihad*, definitely not a way to go on *jihad*. We can embark on *jihad* through vari-

ous ways, for example by developing our country until it is so strong that no one can pressure us, that is also *jihad*."

War On Bin Laden Is 'Folly,' Says Von Bülow

Former Assistant German Defense Minister Andreas von Bülow does not buy the story that Osama bin Laden was behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks. He called the Afghanistan war a "great folly," in an interview with the *Rheinische Post* on Oct. 18. Von Bülow, who served the Social Democratic-led government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt until September 1982, categorically opposed sending ground forces into Afghanistan:

"Three weeks before the arrival of winter, one will hardly achieve anything," he said. "And I am not convinced, either, that bin Laden is the organizer of the whole affair. . . . Neither the Europeans nor the Muslim states have been presented with any striking evidence. The guesses do not qualify for a trial, but they are thought to suffice for warfare. The fact of the matter is, that the American foreign intelligence did not know about the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. beforehand, yet stated the day after already, that bin Laden was behind them. With that approach, one documents one's total incompetence."

Bülow does welcome an overthrow of the Taliban regime, adding that "it was supported by the CIA, before," but warns against a takeover by the Northern Alliance as not being any better. "All in all, the war is a great folly. First of all, one should relieve the millions of Afghans from the acute famine."

Asked about the role of German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Von Bülow said: "The European political leaders are presently pulling their nations into a uncontrollable swamp, from which it is difficult to escape. They are the co-executors of American directives, without being consulted or informed before. This is uncritical followership, rather than solidarity with the U.S.A."

"I fear that America has not thought through the end results which its intervention will have in the Muslim world. It is

more concerned about the effect on the media, than about the matter itself," Von Bülow said.

Turkish Daily Quotes LaRouche On The Crisis

On Oct. 5, the Turkish daily *Zaman* published a lengthy article with excerpts from Lyndon LaRouche's July 24 international webcast (published in *EIR* on Aug. 3), and also his analysis of the Sept. 11 events. (For the full text in English translation, see www.zaman.com.tr.)

Author Ali Unal, a prominent columnist, writes that LaRouche, a pre-candidate for the 2004 Democratic Party Presidential nomination, addressed a videoconference audience of 250 on July 24—"namely 48 days before Sept. 11"—and warned that the current financial and economic system is bankrupt, and that this is propelling the world toward war.

"Under such circumstances," the paper quoted LaRouche, "world wars are orchestrated. World War I was started by the British, to stop similar developments in Asia. The British had first fired up the Balkans and later the world. . . . Now some influential people within the U.S. and Britain—Brzezinski is one of them—want to start a war to stop the developments in Asia. August is the best month for this kind of thing. They are going to call this war, a war between the West and Islam. We have to stop this war. For this, we need to stop Sharon in Israel. This man loves wars, has no other worries other than starting a war. He must be stopped. We have to establish peace in the Middle East, revive our system, back to Roosevelt's principles, and start an economic recovery program."

The article then quotes LaRouche's evaluation after the Sept. 11 attacks: that they must have involved a domestic rogue operation, and could not have been done from outside the United States. "This was an attempted coup d'état intended to topple the government of the U.S., if successful; or, to draw the U.S. into a war, if not successful. Those perpetrators are planning new operations to achieve their goals." LaRouche advised people not to listen to CNN. "If you

follow them, you will be helping those perpetrators and their cause, which is to start a war."

Russian Experts Dispute 'Bin Laden' Theory

Russian military and intelligence officers are engaged in an ongoing discussion of who committed the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, and with what motive.

The latest such person to come out publicly saying that the "bin Laden/al-Qaeda" story doesn't add up, is Leonid Shebarshin, one of the highest-ranking former Soviet intelligence officers. Chief of the First Main Directorate of the KGB (foreign intelligence) from 1989-91, Shebarshin was also formally the last head of the KGB. During his intelligence career, Shebarshin was posted in India, Pakistan, and Iran. He was KGB resident in Tehran during the tumultuous period of 1979-83. During a visit to Argentina in 1994, he was billed as "Russia's greatest expert on Islamic fundamentalism."

Interviewed in the daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* of Oct. 20, Shebarshin said, "I am accustomed to work with facts, and I do not have enough evidence, to reach any definite conclusions about who did this. There was a lot of reporting about what happened. But it was basically emotional. There were very few facts. More than 6,000 people were killed—that is the only completely real fact."

Shebarshin pointed out that Osama bin Laden was blamed immediately. Now, "a month has passed, but no proof of his complicity has appeared." As to the al-Qaeda organization, much effort had been expended by U.S., British, and Israeli intelligence services to monitor the group constantly. "All electronic communications were monitored for this purpose. E-mail, radio communications, telephone calls—all of this was monitored. It is difficult even to imagine, that the preparation and execution of such a large-scale operation as the attack of Sept. 11, could have occurred without using electronics and the air waves. It is even more difficult to imagine, that this would not have been intercepted and recorded."

RUSSIAN Chief of Staff General Kvashnin announced the closing of military facilities in Cuba and Vietnam, for financial reasons. The radar site at Lourdes, Cuba, a favorite target of anti-Cuba networks in the United States, will be dismantled, while the Navy base at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam (a former U.S. base), will be abandoned.

ACCUSATIONS about a "Rhine-Main terror cell" in Germany having been involved in planning the Sept. 11 attacks, were substantially weakened on Oct. 17, when one of three arrested suspects was released. German prosecutor Kay Nehm said there was no evidence against him. Two men are still in custody.

CZECH OFFICIALS say there is no evidence that Mohamed Atta, suspected leader of the Sept. 11 hijackers, met with any Iraqi officials when he was in Prague last year, as some have accused. The *New York Times* reported that one Czech official said that some of the reports of the alleged meeting came from small businessmen who appear to have denounced their competitors for having done business with Atta.

A BRITISH EXPERT on bio-terrorism told *EIR* that he believes the anthrax scare is "a follow-on McVeigh operation," referring to Oklahoma City terrorist Timothy McVeigh. "The fact is, al-Qaeda and bin Laden have nothing to do with it, although I'm sure they are laughing all the way to the bank, at the success of this operation in closing down America."

SAUDI Interior Minister Prince Nayef warned Saudi security officers not to sympathize with the Taliban, in a televised speech on Oct. 18. "Unfortunately, we find in our homeland those who sympathize with people who try to damage our security in the name of Islam," he said. Radical Saudi cleric Sheikh Hamoud al-Shuaibi has been calling on Muslims not to help "infidels" against the Taliban.