

# International Intelligence

---

## **Japanese Leader Sees Economic Crisis**

Former Japanese Deputy Finance Minister Eisuke Sakakibara pointed to the threat of a global economic crisis, in an interview with the German news weekly *Der Spiegel* on Dec. 2. Sakakibara, who was known as “Mr. Yen,” noted that the usual monetary and fiscal measures are no longer sufficient to deal with mounting problems in the world economy. The example of the Bank of Japan shows that central banks have reached their limits and even “Greenspan’s magic” is finally disappearing. Sakakibara adds: “The situation of the world economy is very serious. As Deputy Finance Minister, I was involved in fighting the global financial crises of 1997 and 1998. At that time, the origins of crisis were Asia, Russia, Brazil. Today, the situation is much more dangerous. Today, the centers of crisis are Japan, the United States, Germany. On top of this, there is an extremely dramatic situation in Latin America.”

*Spiegel* asked whether we are heading into a “world economic crisis,” to which Sakakibara responded, “This threat is real, indeed.” Globally, stock markets have plunged, but have by far not reached their bottom, he said. Meanwhile, banks in Japan and Germany, and also in the United States, are accumulating bad debt at an incredible speed. In spite of globalization, we lack “global financial institutions” that would be able “to control a worldwide financial crisis.”

---

## **AIDS at Center of African Food Crisis**

“AIDS attacks exactly those capacities that enable people to resist famine,” says Alex de Waal, director of Justice Africa, whose analysis appeared in the *New York Times* on Nov. 19. About 29 million Africans are infected with HIV, of which 3 or 4 million are dying each year. Only 30,000 are receiving anti-retroviral treatment.

Previously, African societies adapted to drought. The victims were almost exclu-

sively young children and the elderly. Young adults rarely died, and women—chiefly responsible for agricultural work—survived better than men. Women knew what wild grains, roots, and berries could be eaten during famine. Families scattered their members over a wide area and called on distant relations for help when times got hard.

But AIDS attacks exactly those capacities, killing young adults, especially women. When the rains come, people must work 16 hours a day planting and weeding the crop. If that critical period is missed, the family will go hungry. In a community depleted by AIDS, each adult still able to work must produce more to feed the same number of mouths. Meanwhile, the burden of care for the sick has increased in rural Africa. In the cities and towns, many employers—private and public—have withdrawn benefits. Town dwellers who fall sick go home to the village to pass their final months. Orphaned town children are sent to the village to be cared for. The extended family cannot cope with the increased burden.

In former famines, relief workers, recognizing the physiological resilience of adults, ignored adults’ nutritional needs and focused on children. But an adult living with HIV needs better nutrition—more calories and especially more protein—to stay healthy. Malnutrition accelerates the progression of AIDS, de Waal says.

As their livelihoods, family networks, and coping strategies collapse, millions of young women are turning to “survival sex” to feed their children, with consequences for HIV transmission.

---

## **Inspectors Need A Year: El-Baradei**

“It will take us, probably, around a year before we can come to a reasonable conclusion” about Iraq’s weaponry, stated Mohammed el-Baradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA), in an interview with BBC’s “Breakfast with Frost” at the beginning of December. The *Guardian*’s report adds its own comment, that the “hawks in Washington” are certain to be “rankled,” by what el-Baradei is saying.

The IAEA official affirmed, “We will be able to report progress as we go along, but we are not keen to rush to a conclusion. . . . We’d like to take our time, and I hope the world will bear with us, as we go through this difficult task.”

El-Baradei also asserted, that the first week of inspections, at several sites, had unfolded without difficulties: “We are off to a good start, but we are far from reaching a conclusion. I would like to avoid a war. War is not good for anybody, but we do have an important job to do, and we have to do a thorough job. . . . There is light at the end of the tunnel for Iraq, if it cooperates fully.” If Iraq doesn’t “come clean,” he noted, citing the UN Security Council resolution, “grave consequences” will follow.

---

## **Did Al-Qaeda Stop Working for U.S., U.K.?**

As *EIR* has reported, the British foreign intelligence arm MI6 worked closely with so-called Islamist terrorist groups safe-housed in Britain, to destabilize Arab and Muslim nations.

Recently, David Shayler, a former MI5 (domestic intelligence) agent who was sentenced to six months in jail in November for disclosing “government secret information,” told *Guardian* reporter Martin Bright, in October, that MI6 hired one of Osama bin Laden’s closest collaborators to assassinate Libya’s Col. Muammar Al-Qaddafi in 1996. Bright, who could not publish the article in the *Guardian*, but did so in the Pakistani daily, *The Dawn*, received a gag order from the British Attorney General, threatening him with prison, if he publishes any further information received from Shayler.

Bright wrote that Shayler claims that “the Libyan Islamic cell paid by British intelligence agents to assassinate Colonel Qaddafi in February 1996 were members of Al Qaeda.” The Libyan cell is believed to have included one of Osama bin Laden’s most trusted lieutenants, Anas al-Liby, who remains on the U.S. government’s Most Wanted List, with a reward of \$25 million for his capture.

What is interesting in the story, is that

**A PORT VISIT** by a U.S. destroyer to a mainland Chinese port—the first since April 2001—signifies the re-establishment of China-U.S. military-to-military relations, placed under review by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and virtually frozen after the U.S. EP3 reconnaissance plane's midair collision with a Chinese fighter. The *USS Paul Foster* docked in the Chinese port of Qingdao on Nov. 24. In addition, a very large Chinese military delegation will be visiting Washington early in December.

**FIREFIGHTERS'** union chief Andy Gilchrist, leader of Britain's striking Fire Brigades Union, called on fellow trade unionists on Dec. 1 to help him replace Prime Minister Tony Blair's so-called "New Labour" "with what I'm prepared to call Real Labour." He said the Party should return to values of "real social progress, on real justice for working-class people and, indeed, for fairness for all." Gilchrist also denounced the Blair government for setting aside £1 billion for a possible war with Iraq while refusing to release money for the firefighters' pay demand.

**THE VATICAN** and Italian governments will intervene on Argentina's behalf, at the International Monetary Fund, and with major industrialized nations' governments. Argentina's Finance Minister Lavagna received commitments Nov. 29 from the Italian Finance and Foreign Ministers, and from Vatican officials. The Italian government "is actively organizing strong support for Argentina" among the G-7.

**WINSTON CHURCHILL** wanted Russia threatened with nuclear attack after World War II, say the diaries of Guy Liddell, head of the espionage "B" Branch of MI5 between 1939-45, recently declassified and seen by *Telegraph* reporters. The paper says British Prime Minister Churchill "reportedly complained to a friend that the Americans had failed to make sufficient political use of their newfound power: he would have threatened Russia with the device."

al-Liby lived in Manchester, England, until May 2001, when he eluded a police raid on his house and fled abroad, says Bright. Shayler claims he was first briefed about the plot during formal meetings with colleagues from MI6 when he was working on MI5's Libya desk. London's *Observer* newspaper had revealed that the MI6 officers involved in the alleged plot were Richard Bartlett, who has previously only been known under the codename PT16, and had overall responsibility for the operation, and David Watson, codenamed PT16B.

The assassination attempt on Qaddafi was finally made in February 1996 during an official parade near the Libyan leader's hometown of Sirte. A bomb or a grenade was thrown at the cavalcade, killing several bodyguards. In the subsequent firefight, three militants were killed. A top-secret MI6 document leaked on the Internet two years ago confirmed that British intelligence knew of the plot, which involved five colonels, Libyan students and "Libyan veterans who served in Afghanistan." Shayler claims this last phrase is intelligence shorthand for Al-Qaeda.

---

## Italian Minister for 'New Deal' for Europe

In an interview with *La Stampa* Nov. 16, which has unleashed a public debate in Italy, Economy Minister Giulio Tremonti called for a "Colbertist" economic policy, a halt to privatizations, and protectionist measures; and revealed that a "New Deal" program is being worked out by some European chancelleries. Tremonti even had positive words for the recent European Social Forum demonstration in Florence, at which the Catholic Church and the trade unions had intervened in the "anti-globalization" movement to isolate its pro-terrorist wing (see *EIR*, Dec. 6).

According to Tremonti, 11/9 has emphasized latent crises which were growing elsewhere. "In a few years, two continents have disappeared. No news comes from Africa any longer. South America alternates autarchic temptations with global alliances, modern finances combined with archaic politics.

Roads, trade ways disappear." Tremonti criticized the "utopia of privatizations" which in Italy led to the formation not of public companies, but often just to property changes, each time marked by the increase of debt. At the same time, those firms which were kept in the state ownership are today in good health, the Minister insists. Against the "decline" of the country, Tremonti says: "We could even take the direction of a new New Deal. Using the State."

---

## UN Challenges Food Destruction by Israel

Separate statements issued on Dec. 3 by the World Food Program (WFP) and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, condemned the deliberate Warsaw Ghetto-like destruction of a WFP food warehouse in Jaballia, in the Palestinian Authority's Gaza Strip, on Nov. 30 by Israeli Defense Forces.

More than 500 metric tons of food, donated by the European Commission, Sweden, and others for destitute Palestinians affected by the "humanitarian crisis" in Gaza, was blown up by IDF, despite the building being well marked as a WFP protected area and the storage rooms being stickered with WFP labels. Six IDF tanks surrounded the building, ordered an evacuation of the people inside, and refused to allow the WFP staff to remove the food before the building was blown up. The food was earmarked for 41,300 people in the area who are without food and shelter.

The WFP statement denounced the fact that the IDF refused to allow removal of the food, and said, "This act has been carried out against basic humanitarian principles." It asked the Israeli government to "conduct a thorough investigation of the incident and take full responsibility for the losses incurred by" the WFP. UN Secretary General Annan's statement said he is "extremely concerned at the demolition by the [IDF]." He also supported the WFP's request for an investigation and repeated his call on Israeli authorities "to live up to their commitments and obligations" to aid in the "emergency humanitarian assistance in the occupied Palestinian territory."