

International Intelligence

China Launches New Asian Space Group

In a dramatic demonstration of how China has put itself forward as a regional space player, and as a challenger to the United States and Europe, an Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) will be officially set up next year, with Beijing as its headquarters, *China Daily* reported on Nov. 11. The member countries apparently will not include either the United States or Japan.

This decision was taken by 14 nations and the United Nations, meeting in Beijing. The countries attending are: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, South Korea, Iran, Malaysia, Mongolia, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Pakistan, Ukraine, and Chile. The AFP wire reporting the launching describes China as “the leading player in space exploration in the Asia-Pacific.”

Chinese National Space Administration head Luan Enjie (who was denied a visa last year to attend an international space conference in Houston), said the purpose of the new group is to promote the development of space technology and applications. “Each country, whether rich or poor, is entitled to conduct the peaceful exploration and study of outer space,” stated a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

It is reported that China and the other Asian countries will develop and launch eight satellites within the next eight years, mainly for Earth remote sensing, specifically of the Asia-Pacific region.

Israeli Writer Rips Slander of LaRouche

Journalist and commentator Israel Shamir, an Israeli citizen and defender of Palestinians, answered an attack on LaRouche which appeared in the U.S.-based magazine of the Socialist Workers Organization, called *Socialist Viewpoint*, in October. The magazine has not yet printed his reply. Journals like this one are used to perpetuate the Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) filth both among the Arab communities in the United States,

and among Jewish “peaceniks” who parlay neo-con, ADL, and Likudnik slanders, while “opposing” their originators.

Shamir wrote: “When an author and an editor [Nat Weinstein] of a left-wing magazine repeats word-perfect the last speech of Ashcroft at ADL in New York, it can’t but cause some eyebrow twitching. . . . What is worse, Weinstein’s style and rhetoric are those of Ashcroft and Abe Foxman.” Weinstein said that criticizing Israel “is the new anti-Semitism,” and devoted his attack 2/5 to Patrick Buchanan and 3/5 to LaRouche.

“Weinstein tries to adhere the label of racist, Nazi and fascist to LaRouche,” Shamir countered, “but alas, the label does not stick. Indeed, Weinstein is visibly upset that LaRouche is not a racist. . . . Weinstein is hard to please: LaRouche ‘uses anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist’ slogans, so he’s got to be a fascist (!). LaRouche ‘does not attack Jews, communists and striking workers,’ so he’s a crypto-fascist. LaRouche ‘learned from Trotsky,’ so he is a perverted fascist.” Shamir says that Weinstein’s argument reminds him of a piece by Israeli playwright Hanoch Levine. “The Military Governor’s standing orders for soldiers in Occupied Territories: A nervous pedestrian is a suspected Arab terrorist. . . . A calm [one] . . . a suspected cold-blooded Arab terrorist. . . . A looking upwards [one] is. . . religious; a looking downwards [one] is a suspect shy Arab terrorist. . . . A pedestrian whose eyes are shut. . . a suspected sleeping Arab terrorist. A stay-at-home person is a suspected sick Arab terrorist. The above-mentioned suspects should be arrested, and after a warning shot, taken to the morgue.”

Aeschylus’ Lost Trilogy Will Be Played

BBC News reported on Nov. 14 that a lost trilogy, written by the great Classical Greek playwright Aeschylus, will be staged in Cyprus, for the first time in more than 2,050 years, after fragments of the text were found in an Egyptian mummy. The play, a trilogy on the Trojan War, entitled *Achilles*, was

lost, scientists believe, when the famous Library of Alexandria was burned down by the Romans under Julius Caesar in 48 B.C.

But according to Andy Bargilly, director of Cyprus’s national theater company Thoc, “In the last decades, archaeologists found mummies in Egypt which were stuffed with papyrus, containing excerpts of the original plays of Aeschylus.”

Drawing on references to the trilogy from other ancient sources, and the recently discovered papyrus texts, researchers believe they have the closest possible adaptation of Aeschylus’ masterpiece. Thoc is planning the world premiere in Cyprus and Greece next Summer. A Greek author, Elias Malandris, has worked on the project for a decade.

“We do think it is a faithful adaptation to a large extent, but nobody can say 100%,” said Bargilly. “People working on ancient texts knew that the trilogy existed because it was mentioned in Aristophanes and other writers of ancient Greece.”

Described as the “Father of Tragedy,” Aeschylus is said to have written 90 plays, although only a handful survive; these include *Agamemnon*, *Eumenides*, and *Prometheus Bound*.

HIV Vaccine Fails; 2010 Cases Will Double

VaxGen’s experimental vaccine against HIV has clearly failed in tests in Thailand, the Brisbane, Australia-based company announced Nov. 12. It had announced the failure of its North American trial in February.

Meanwhile, the number of people infected with HIV worldwide will increase from more than 42 million to more than 87 million by the end of this decade, a BBC News story asserted, also Nov. 12. The story recalled that the AIDS epidemic is taking hold in India, Russia, and China, which together make up half of the world’s population. Black Africa has most of the existing 42 million cases, with infection rates above 30% in some countries.

“Now that VaxGen’s vaccine has failed,” wrote Associated Press reporter

Paul Elias in a Nov. 13 story, “attention has turned to the two dozen other experimental vaccines now being tested on 12,000 human volunteers in experiments around the world. But none of those are as advanced as Vax-Gen’s two failed experiments, and any successful candidate is years away.”

Russian Prosecutor: Nationalize Central Bank

A hint of what some of the Russian *siloviki* (men from the uniformed agencies) directly involved in the prosecution of Yukos Oil ex-CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky and others, have in mind as necessary changes in Russian economic practice, was given in a Nov. 13 Pravda.ru commentary by Dmitri Chirkin. He reported that Russia’s Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kolesnikov took the occasion of a Nov. 12 conference on combatting pirated goods, to suggest some far-reaching economic policy changes. Kolesnikov offered his view that “the [Russian] Central Bank should become a state agency, subordinate to the government or the President of the country, and the interest rate on loans should be zero. . . . What profit are we receiving in the Central Bank? The Central Bank ought to be supplying the circulatory system of the economy with money.”

As Chirkin points out, Kolesnikov’s remarks imply radical changes, insofar as the 1993 Russian Constitution and the Law on the Central Bank enshrined the principle of a legally distinct central banking institution, independent of the Federal government—the Venetian/Anglo-Dutch model of an independent central banking system, imported into Russia in the 1990s.

The previous day, during a round-table discussion held at the State Duma, Kolesnikov also spoke about “corruption in the upper echelons” as Russia’s gravest problem: “That corruption in the elite institutions of power, which involves the largest-scale thievery of state assets, simultaneously inflicts the greatest moral damage, by creating a negative image of the state authorities.” He said he was talking about people “who look

really nice—all smooth, with ties on.” Kolesnikov, notes Chirkin, is a blunt speaker, but does not speak out often or without a purpose. He was the first to announce some of the criminal cases against Boris Bezovskiy, and he warned of Khodorkovsky’s impending arrest, a few days before it occurred.

Pope, Int’l Red Cross Reject Israeli Violations

In his Nov. 16 Sunday prayers, Pope John Paul II, for the first time, denounced the Sharon government’s 270-mile-long apartheid wall. This criticism came, pointedly, on the eve of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s arrival in Italy. The Pontiff said, “The Holy Land does not need walls, but bridges. The construction of the wall between the Israeli people and Palestinian people is seen by many as a new obstacle on the road leading to peaceful cohabitation.” He also said, “Unfortunately, the momentum for peace seems to have stopped.”

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has announced that it is cancelling the food program for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, which cost the ICRC about \$46 million in the last one and one-half years. They are doing this, even though a Red Cross official in the territories, François Bellon, told Israeli Defense Forces generals that the Palestinian Authority area is “on the verge of an ‘explosion’ . . . ‘the worst ever humanitarian crisis,’” reported the *Independent* of Nov. 16. The ICRC says that the blame for this disaster is Israel’s, according to spokesman Vincent Bernard. The relief was only “designed to assist in a humanitarian emergency, not to address the longer-term problems caused by curfews, closures and the collapse of the economy,” which are due to the Israeli policies. Bernard also warned Israel that they have responsibilities “as the occupying power.” For now, the badly-strapped World Food Program of the UN is stepping in to help the Palestinians, but if all the relief organizations leave, the food would cost Israel \$1.6 billion a year.

KOFIANNAN: Third World is losing massively to capital flight. Speaking at a dialogue of the UN General Assembly on financing for economic development, the Secretary General warned that developing countries made a net transfer of \$200 billion to other countries in 2002 alone, and that this was the sixth straight year of such bleeding through capital flight. Annan said, “Funds should be moving from developed countries to developing countries, but these numbers tell us the opposite is happening.”

GULF states’ Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have launched a project for a regional transport network, coherent with LaRouche’s Eurasian Land-Bridge idea. According to Arab sources in Dubai, the nations’ ministers made a decision in October to go ahead with linking existing, and building new rail networks across the GCC. The plan fits *EIR*’s proposals to link up the region’s railways with the Eurasian Land-Bridge. The initiative was covered in some Gulf press.

POVERTY is increasing in Germany, one of the richest nations in the world; its Federal Statistics Agency on Nov. 18 reported an increasing number of poor citizens that are forced to live on social welfare. Dominant in the rise of poverty, with 75% of all cases registered, is the loss of jobs, or the inability to take a job (e.g., family reasons, health, youth), the Office found. More than 3 million Germans who lack a regular job are not reported in the official jobless statistics.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin brought up world monetary reforms at a meeting in Moscow, Nov. 13, between Russian government officials, economic-financial experts, and an International Monetary Fund delegation led by Fund Director Horst Köhler. Putin said that Russia wanted to “assist” with proposals by Russian experts in the IMF for “reforming” the Bretton Woods global monetary system.