

International Intelligence

German Government Scraps Planned Maglev Project

A planned 34-kilometer maglev train track connecting the city of Munich to its international airport will not be built, German Transport Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee announced March 27.

He said the industrial consortium planning the Munich Transrapid line now estimates construction costs at above Eu3 billion, a third above the previous estimate of 1.85 billion.

The project was supposed to be financed by the German Federal government, the state government of Bavaria, German rail operator Deutsche Bahn AG, and an industrial consortium. The German government, in its typical cost-cutting approach, had set itself an upper financing limit of Eu925 million, and the state of Bavaria a limit of 500 million.

A qualified explanation of why the costs allegedly are now higher than forecast, and why the government, which is otherwise throwing billions of euros away to bail out failed speculators, does not have 1.2 billion to finance this pioneer technology project, was not available as of this writing.

China To Help Cambodia Become 'Battery of SE Asia'

Cambodia, still one of the poorest nations on Earth after suffering the most massive bombardment per square kilometer in history, under Henry Kissinger's madness in the 1970s, followed by genocide under the Anglo-French creation known as the Khmer Rouge, is now working closely with China to develop its vast hydroelectric potential.

Foreign Minister Hor Namhong announced in late March that, with primarily Chinese investment and Chinese construction assistance, Cambodia can become the "battery of Southeast Asia."

Only 20% of Cambodians have access to electricity, but the scope of the hydroelec-

tric program, which is supported by the Asia Development Bank's Mekong Power Grid Plan, will provide for both domestic use and eventually for export to Thailand.

Of 14 priority projects, six are underway, all by the Chinese. Half of the total will be dams along the Mekong River.

The Gorey-minions of the International Rivers Network and related green fascists are denouncing these plans, and China, for harming animal habitat to help improve the lives of humans.

Russia Discusses Moscow Meeting with Palestinians

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held talks March 21 with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah on the West Bank, where they discussed the Russian initiative for holding a peace conference in Moscow, to reverse the setbacks that have followed last year's peace conference in Annapolis, Md.

Lavrov told Abbas that he has discussed the conference with the other Quartet members—United States, the European Union, the United Nations—and other Arab countries.

During a joint press conference with Abbas, Lavrov said they were prepared to do anything to assure the success of such a conference. "We will also work to speed up the international community's efforts in order to implement what was agreed upon in Annapolis," Lavrov is quoted as saying on Israel's Ynet. Denouncing Israel's continued settlement building, he said, "We call for an immediate halt to settlement activity." Lavrov also called for Israel to lift the siege on the Gaza Strip.

For his part, Abbas said that it is necessary to hold a peace conference on the Middle East in Moscow as soon as possible. Abbas also said that he discussed with Lavrov "the Russian support to the Palestinian Authority, the internal Palestinian situation, and the ongoing dialogue between Hamas and Fatah in Yemen."

Said Lavrov, "Russia still supports the

peace process and will offer all possible help to the Palestinian side and will cooperate with other parties to implement what had been agreed upon in Annapolis."

Gore's Ice Scare Ignores Science of Antarctica

The London *Independent* and other media are promoting Al Gore's latest Malthusian scare about the breakup of the Wilkins Ice Shelf, located on the southern end of the Western Antarctic Peninsula, and reported to be about the size of Northern Ireland. The scare that the *Independent* wants to promote is about rising sea levels from the melting and collapsing of the Antarctic ice shelves.

But Al Gore's fellow warmaholics fail to acknowledge that these sea ice shelves are *already* floating in the ocean, and their melting or collapsing will do nothing to raise the sea level.

Dr. Duncan Wingham, professor of Climate Physics at University College London, and director of the Centre for Polar Observation Modelling, said, "Antarctica is a net sink and not a source of ocean water." According to his best estimates, Antarctica will lower global sea levels 0.08 mm per year.

The *Independent* article fails to point out that since the change in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation in the 1970s, the circumpolar ocean currents have been bringing warmer water into contact with the Western Antarctic Peninsula; and this is one of the many factors that influence the rate of collapse of the Western Antarctic ice sheets.

Gore and company have also failed to acknowledge that there has been a net gain in Antarctic sea ice. The much hyped loss in the Western Antarctic ice shelf was outweighed by increases in the Eastern Antarctic ice shelf. The Antarctic ice shelves show a net mass increase, with mass changes of -95 ± 11 gigatons per annum in West Antarctica and $+142 \pm 10$ gigatons per annum in East Antarctica. So far this year, the Antarctic sea ice is already increasing at an above-normal rate, just two weeks after the end of the Antarctic sea ice melting season.