
International Intelligence

Cardinal Supports New Bretton Woods

Italy has the moral obligation to push for a New Bretton Woods financial system, said Milan Archbishop Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, in response to a question from *EIR* at a conference in Milan on Nov. 24. The Cardinal was addressing the 300 bankers and financial experts attending a conference organized by the Association for the Development of Banking and Stock Market Studies. The same Association had invited Lyndon LaRouche to speak on his New Bretton Woods concept at the Catholic University in Milan on July 5, 2001, after which it printed LaRouche's speech in its publication and sent it to 500 Italian financial institutions.

Cardinal Tettamanzi stressed in his speech that globalization, and particularly high-speed financial transactions over which no one has oversight, have dire consequences in terms of poverty and unemployment in many countries, and he called on bankers and financial institutions to put "man, moral issues, and the common good at the center of their activity," including taking concrete measures to "penalize financial speculation."

EIR's Liliana Gorini asked a question, reminding Cardinal Tettamanzi and the audience of LaRouche's call for a New Bretton Woods, which is also at the center of a motion to the Italian Senate. "Your Eminence, do you think that Italy could and should support this proposal?" she asked.

Tettamanzi replied: "... Not only *can* Italy promote it, but it *must* promote it, as difficult as it may be, and develop its energies in realizing this task in doing so."

Karzai Scores Pakistan For Harboring Taliban

After being careful for almost two years not to criticize Pakistan for terrorist pro-Taliban activities in Afghanistan, the Afghan government has come out swinging. Interim President Hamid Karzai told the Nov. 24 issue of the German weekly *Der Spiegel*, "We

cannot stop this terrorism as long as Pakistan does not cooperate. ... That is the key issue."

Referring to his discussions with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Karzai told *The Dawn* newspaper of Nov. 23, "I told him we shall only be able to defeat the imported terrorism if Pakistan helps—there is no other way. I believe Pakistan could and should do more against terrorism." Karzai said Pakistan could detain all Taliban leaders it finds within its borders or stop Pakistani religious leaders who spread hatred in the name of religion.

Karzai admitted, "Of course we have our own home-made security problems—with warlords, criminal gangs, and drug trade. ... But the actual terrorism is coming from outside."

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, in an interview with the *Gulf News* published on Nov. 24, said, "We are increasingly concerned over the cooperation, or should I say, the lack of it, of Pakistan as far as the Taliban is concerned, as far as the Taliban leadership is concerned."

Meanwhile, Taliban supremo Mullah Mohammad Omar has urged Afghans to boycott the Loya Jirga, the Afghan Grand Council which is to ratify the draft Constitution and endorse plans for general elections in June 2004. The Loya Jirga is to be held in December. Mullah Omar has been in hiding since November 2001 when the U.S. troops and the Northern Alliance ousted the Taliban from government in Kabul. He has vowed to expel U.S.-led forces from Afghanistan.

Schröder: Germany Won't Send Troops to Iraq

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, in an interview with the weekly *Der Spiegel* on Nov. 24, ruled out sending any German troops to Iraq. "We haven't been asked to send soldiers," he said, "and we do not have any intention of making an offer. ... We can talk about doing even more for the civilian efforts to rebuild Iraq, but there won't be any military deployment."

He said that he does not rejoice at the U.S. problems in Iraq, telling them that he told them so. "It would be completely wrong to have an attitude like that. I have no interest in throwing anything in anyone's face. ... It is in Germany's and Europe's interest that the process of democratization and reconstruction in Iraq succeed. We are ready to help in that."

Concerning Iraqi debts, Schröder said that the Club of Paris, a creditors group, had to discuss a long-term, generous rescheduling, resembling the solution found for Germany's debts 50 years ago. "Germany will certainly be helpful on the issue. We have not forgotten what helped Germany after World War II. Without the generous rescheduling of Germany's foreign debts, thanks to efforts led by the Americans, there would not have been any reconstruction or the economic miracle."

Israel Threatens Attack Against Iran

Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said, during a trip to the United States the week of Nov. 17, that he believed Iran is no more than a year away from possessing nuclear weapons, and that "under no circumstances would Israel be able to tolerate nuclear weapons in Iranian possession." Israel would be prepared to act unilaterally, he added, were the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to fail in curbing Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

Mossad chief Meir Dagan had previously told the Israeli Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that Iran was close to obtaining nuclear weapons, and that "such weapons pose, for the first time, an existential threat to Israel."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon then announced, on Nov. 23, that he has established a committee, whose steering committee he would head, to coordinate the campaign against Iran's nuclear program. The announcement came a few days after he held a not-so-secret meeting with Elliott Abrams, the neo-conservative director of Middle East affairs on the U.S. National Security Council.