
International Intelligence

Argentina To Show Ecuador How To Outflank the Banks

Argentina will advise the Ecuadorean government on debt restructuring and economic policy, to jump-start Ecuador's economy, which suffers from the combined effect of foreign indebtedness and a large budget deficit. According to an official Argentine government website, the high-powered Argentine delegation that visited Quito March 22-23, led by Finance Minister Felisa Miceli, signed several agreements with their Ecuadorean counterparts to share Argentina's experience in restructuring its foreign debt, and to offer advice on managing financial resources, trade, and tariff policy; strengthening the role of state banks; and gearing up the country's productive capabilities as quickly as possible, to begin to reverse the country's extreme poverty.

Foreign bankers couldn't have been pleased with the remarks of Ecuador's Finance Minister Ricardo Patino who, when asked whether the Correa government might consider the same type of debt restructuring that Argentina implemented, with a large write-down, coyly replied, "I don't know. We'll see how things go over the next few weeks."

Iran Joins South Asian Cooperation Association

Iran has joined the South Asian Association on Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as an observer. SAARC consists of seven South Asian nations—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It was set up at late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's initiative in 1987.

Welcoming the Iranian observer status, Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon said the Iranian application has been circulated among the SAARC member countries and will be formalized through a series of meetings in the coming days, *India Defence* reported March 30. As chairman of the SAARC, Menon pointed out, "India likes the idea of more involvement in

SAARC by our friend (Iran)." Menon indicated that the SAARC countries are now considering Afghanistan to be included as a full member nation as the eighth country in the upcoming summit.

Iran's inclusion as an observer in the present situation sends a message, one analyst pointed out. It shows that the South Asian nations have taken note of the threat to Iran's sovereignty posed by UN Security Council's resolutions, and the hostile postures of Britain and the United States.

Ibero Nations Investigate 'Operation Condor' Crimes

Scientists in Chile have exhumed the body of former President Eduardo Frei Montalva, who died in 1982, and found traces of mustard gas in his body, confirming long-held suspicions that Frei had been murdered—most likely by the Nazi doctors who worked for the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship and its secret police DINA, *La Nacion* reported March 11.

In January, Frei's son Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, also a former President, filed a petition asking a Santiago judge to rule his father's death a homicide. According to Frei family lawyer Alvaro Varela, scientists hired by the judge discovered that only minutes after Frei died, unidentified doctors entered and locked his hospital room, drained fluids from his body, and removed most of his organs. Frei was not the only such case. High-ranking Army officers who opposed Pinochet's atrocities died suddenly under unexplained circumstances.

In Uruguay, a prosecutor is considering whether to issue a formal request for Henry Kissinger's arrest and extradition, on charges of having overseen the atrocities committed under Operation Condor, *La Republica* of Montevideo reported March 26.

And *La Republica* of Madrid reported March 28 that the Spanish government has agreed to the request by Paraguayan investigator Martin Almada that it open its files on Operation Condor, which Spanish law has barred opening until 30 years after the end of the Francisco Franco dictatorship in 1975.

According to Almada, the plan is to open up all the files relating to the dictatorships established in the Southern Cone of South America: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Castro: Food-to-Fuel Plan Would Kill Three Billion

"More than three billion people in the world [would be] condemned to premature death from hunger and thirst," if food is used for fuel, the definitely not-dead Cuban President Fidel Castro charged in an article posted as the lead story of Cuba's newspaper, *Granma*, March 29. "The sinister idea of converting food into fuel was definitively established as an economic line in U.S. foreign policy March 26," when President Bush held forth with auto company executives, Castro wrote.

Without stating why, Castro argued that energy cut-backs are necessary worldwide, and producing ethanol from sugar residue is fine. But, he said, what is a "tragedy," is "the idea of converting food into fuel."

If one ton of corn can only produce 109 gallons of ethanol, on average, 320 million tons of corn would be required to produce 35 billion gallons of ethanol, he wrote, adding that the entire U.S. corn harvest was 280 million tons in 2005.

Add in the fuel and electricity needed to produce all that ethanol; consider that other "rich" countries are planning to use wheat, sunflower seeds, soy, and other foods for fuel production, "and you will see that people among the hungry masses of the Earth will no longer eat corn. Or something worse: lend funding to poor countries to produce ethanol based on corn or any other food, and not a single tree will be left to defend humanity from climate change."

Tamil Tiger Air Force Bombs Sri Lanka Air Base

Despite a news blackout by Colombo, ground reports indicate that the Tiger Air Force's attack on the Sri Lankan Air Force

(SLAF) base at Katunayake, outside Colombo, in the early hours of March 26 under the cover of night, had a debilitating effect. The operation did not cause any civilian casualties, but did severely damage, if not destroy, at least half of the aircraft holdings of the SLAF, according to Tamil Net March 27.

The attack could be a one-time incident, but when an insurgent or terrorist organization acquires an independent air strike capability, the task of countering it becomes much more difficult. As it is, Colombo's ability to make intelligence penetration inside the Tamil Tigers is virtually nonexistent.

Since the Sri Lankan government has been bolstered by providing a virtual naval base to the United States, and access to another port to the Chinese, it has become ruthless in dealing with the Tamils. In recent months, since the ceasefire talks collapsed, Colombo has unleashed its army on the areas where the Tamils are in majority, and where Tamil Tigers are ensconced. The result has been slaughtering of Tamils, whom Colombo always identifies as "Tamil Tigers."

Oligarchy Projects Vision Of World 50 Years Hence

The British Fabian Society's *The Economist* ran a fantasy projection March 17 of the world in 50 years, exposing the oligarchy's intention to destroy the United States and the rest of the world. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the European Union, founded in 1957, *The Economist* envisioned "how it might be in 50 years" as follows:

"The EU is celebrating its 100th birthday with a quiet satisfaction. Predictions when it turned 50 that it was doomed to irrelevance in a world dominated by America, China, and India proved wide of the mark. A turning point was the bursting of America's housing bubble and the collapse of the dollar early in the presidency of Barack Obama in 2010."

After praising the "reforms" in Germany and France under Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy, the article praises the leadership

of Prime Minister David Miliband, the Gore ally who is currently British PM Tony Blair's Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. The only dark spot in the five decade stretch was Russian President Vladimir Putin's threat to invade Ukraine, but, luckily, "the EU pushed the Obama administration to threaten massive nuclear retaliation," and not only was Putin stopped, but the czar was restored and Russia now "has an impeccable democratic government."

Thus fantasize the fascist utopians.

German Managers Demand Climate Swindle, Bubble

A new grouping of leading German corporate managers has issued a three-page report promoting the man-caused global warming hoax. The paper has been presented to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the March 23 *Spiegel* online reports. It calls for a drastic reduction of CO₂ emissions; the introduction of energy efficiency techniques; and for a so-called powerful technology offensive. Quite openly, the declaration says the managers want "to use their international business relations," to push forward international climate agreements. The grouping calls itself "2 Degrees German Managers for Climate Protection," referring to the 2 degrees Centigrade, that they want to prevent global temperature from increasing.

The initiative came from Michael Otto, a long-time member of the malthusian WWF's executive advisory board, who also heads his own Michael Otto Environmental Foundation. He made a special point about new "short-term business opportunities, if regulatory investment blocks for climate protection" are eliminated: in other words, another mega-speculative bubble.

Participating in this "2 degrees" action are the top managers from Deutsche BP, Asset Management Worldwide ALLIANZ, EnBW, Vattenfall, Deutsche Bahn, and Deutsche Telekom, and Hubert Burda, president of the German newspaper publishers association. The German aerospace industry and the auto producers are not involved.

Briefly

MANY RUSSIANS see President Vladimir Putin in the tradition of FDR. In a special March 25 commentary on the occasion of the Russian President's seventh anniversary in office, the state radio, RUVR, noted the considerable progress made in Russia in economic, social, and strategic terms, during those seven years. And many draw comparisons between Putin and Franklin D. Roosevelt, because both took office when their nations were in a precarious condition, and turned things around.

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Mahmoud Abbas called on Isreal to embrace a "Sea of Peace" from Western Africa to Southeast Asia, as leaders of the 22-member states of the Arab League arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia March 27, to begin its annual summit.

FRENCH PROSECUTORS have indicted 42 individuals, including former Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and the son of former President François Mitterrand, for illegal arms trafficking and other charges, Reuters reported March 28. Culminating a seven-year investigation, prosecutors said that arms traders Pierre Falcone and Russian-Israeli billionaire Arcadi Gaydamak had bought their way into setting up a network of political contacts to favor their activities in Angola from 1993 to 2000, selling heavy weaponry to the Angolan government for a total of nearly \$791 million.

THE PERMANENT PEOPLE'S Tribunal in the Hague has found Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and President George Bush guilty of crimes against humanity for the death squad killings in the Philippines, according to a March 26 release from the tribunal. Although the tribunal has no official authority, its moral and political impact will be felt.