

# International Intelligence

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## ***Communists win big victory in Lithuania***

Algirdas Brazauskas, Lithuania's "reform" communist leader, won a landside victory in the Feb. 13 election for President in the Baltic nation. Brazauskas, head of the Democratic Labor Party, received 60% of the vote, against 38% for his main opponent, former Ambassador to Washington Lozaris. Reports from the capital city of Vilnius are that the margin of victory exceeded even the expectations of Brazauskas's own advisers. The Democratic Labor Party has an absolute majority in the Lithuanian parliament.

These results show the depths of dissatisfaction in the Lithuanian population with the economic policies of the former Landsbergis regime, which, by its adherence to International Monetary Fund austerity prescriptions, brought economic devastation to Lithuania. A German television show documented that the population of Vilnius has been living without heating oil this winter.

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## ***'Clean Hands' probe targets Italian elites***

At the beginning of February, the rumor was circulating in Milan that the court there was going to indict every political party in Italy, under the Italian equivalent of the U.S. racketeering laws. That would amount to a virtual shutdown of Parliament, a coup d'état.

Observers believe that we are very close to that point, thanks to the anti-corruption investigation called "Clean Hands," which has sent to prison more than 100 local politicians and businessmen, and opened investigations of more than 20 members of Parliament.

Until recently, the Milanese investigations had concentrated on a single target: the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), whose Secretary General, Bettino Craxi, has so far received five subpoenas. Craxi's Socialists are accused of taking bribes from businessmen and companies which were, in turn, favored in state-financed public works.

It is ironic that the machine which is now watering Craxi and the PSI is connected to the very American forces that had helped Craxi become Italy's single most influential politician.

Craxi has fought back against what he calls "an international conspiracy," and Socialist-linked media have exposed what they call "a CIA plot." He told journalists on Feb. 11, "Maybe my old American friends are doing the job against me."

On Feb. 10, the Milan investigation escalated, hitting very close to the leadership of the Republican Party and the Christian Democracy. Everybody is now expecting that a subpoena will be issued for former Christian Democratic Party Secretary General Arnaldo Forlani, and other top party officials have already been subpoenaed.

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## ***China releases two student leaders***

The People's Republic of China announced on Feb. 17 that it was releasing two prominent student leaders, and claimed that all the students sentenced for the Democracy Movement's 1989 protests had now been freed. The two being released are Wang Dan, 25, number one on the list of 21 "most wanted," and Guo Haifeng, 27, who was a graduate student at the time of the 1989 movement.

Wang Dan told reporters, "You can say I will never change my political stance. I have never before now, I will not in the future."

While the U.S. State Department, Asia Watch, and various overseas Chinese organizations welcomed the release of the dissidents, the International Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars (IFCSS) underlined that nobody should be confused by this superficial effort from the Beijing regime to improve its human right record.

Beijing's claim that all have now been released conflicts with the continued imprisonment of student leader Liu Gang, and other cases of students who are being confined without benefit of a trial. An unknown number of dissident intellectuals and others re-

main imprisoned.

There are two immediate issues related to this release. One is the question of China's desire for Most Favored Nation trade status from the United States. Bill Clinton had vowed during the presidential election campaign to make MFN dependent on improvements in China's human rights record.

The other issue is that the United States may grant Chinese nationals who entered the United States before April 11, 1990 permanent residency by the end of next July, under the condition that the President is unable to report to the Congress that human rights has been significantly improved by that time. The IFCSS has been the major lobbyist on behalf of such a plan to protect exiled members of the Democracy Movement.

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## ***Venezuelan church blasts condom handout***

The Permanent Commission of the Venezuelan Bishops' Conference has issued a statement harshly attacking the government's campaign to distribute free condoms to all. Organized by the Family Planning Association, the program was launched on Feb. 15; 500 volunteers fanned out to subway stations and busy streets and distributed 200,000 condoms.

Program director Alfredo Díaz Bruzual justified the plan as a means of "creating consciousness about AIDS and other venereal diseases." Every adult receives a condom inside a box of matches inscribed with the slogan, "Don't Play with Fire," and a brochure on the use of condoms.

Msgr. Mario Moronta, secretary of the bishops' conference and auxiliary bishop of Caracas, stated that "this type of campaign is not a solution to the AIDS problem, nor will it prevent unplanned pregnancies. At bottom, this is an invitation to moral relativism and promiscuity." Father Aldo Fonti, director of the bishops' Social Pastoral Commission, wrote to the media that "the problem isn't condoms, but creating a humanized society to educate integral men and women."

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## **Ayatollah Montazeri arrested in Iran**

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri was arrested in Iran recently after denouncing Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the current Iranian spiritual leader, according to a report by the exiled former President of Iran, Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr. Bani-Sadr told the press that the arrest followed an armed attack on Montazeri's home which left three of his aides dead. Montazeri was chosen by Ayatollah Khomeini to be his successor, but upon the latter's death he was pushed aside for the current Ayatollah Khamenei.

Montazeri's arrest follows unconfirmed reports published in the *Times* of London on Feb. 15 that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was the target of an assassination attempt in Teheran on Feb. 10. The underground opposition group Babak Khorramdin is said to have attempted a rocket and machine gun attack on Rafsanjani's motorcade. The attackers were stopped after a 20-minute gun battle.

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## **Milosevic blames Germany for Balkan war**

Germany is to blame for the war in the Balkans, charged Serbian communist dictator Slobodan Milosevic in an interview with the Russian daily *Pravda* published Feb. 20. He also attacked the "present Russian government" for betraying the Serbs by joining the international embargo against Serbia.

As *EIR* has reported, one of the chief geopolitical purposes of the Balkan war has been for the Anglo-Americans to block any independent moves by Germany—a policy which Milosevic has been all too happy to assist.

Milosevic alleged that immediately after reunification, Germany launched a policy of reconquering all the territories it had occupied militarily during the last world war, but lost with its defeat. The reunited Germany, he raved, is taking revenge for this defeat

now, "punishing" the victorious powers of 1945.

A "German-Catholic alliance" is to blame, Milosevic charged, for the fact that an international propaganda campaign against Serbia has been launched, and that the Croats could "invade" territories (their own territories) that were under the protection of the United Nations.

Even many in Russia, he said, are influenced by the anti-Serbian propaganda, which is why the government of President Boris Yeltsin has joined in an act of "shame," the sanctions against Serbia.

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## **Rallies demand that Europe act in Bosnia**

"Europe is dying in Sarajevo," was the main slogan in pro-Bosnian rallies in several German cities on Feb. 20, calling for an end to the U.N. arms embargo against Bosnia.

The rallies were initiated by a cross-party coalition that is calling for tighter western measures against Serbia, ranging from intensification of the arms and economic embargo against the Serbs to a limited military intervention against the Belgrade regime and its troops outside the borders of Serbia.

More than 1,000 protesters gathered in Munich, another 800 in Stuttgart, and more than 4,000 in Berlin. Smaller rallies also took place in Düsseldorf, Bonn, Hamburg, and Bremen in connection with the hunger strikes which have been launched by Bosnian refugees in Germany, in support of the hunger strike in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

The rally in Berlin was largely backed by the Turkish community there, which recently called for the impeachment of U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. It was addressed by Stefan Schwarz, a young Christian Democrat who has taken a leading role in the German parliament in a cross-party campaign of solidarity with the Bosnians. The rally in Stuttgart was addressed by two representatives of the Schiller Institute.

● A NATO-LED mission to enforce any peace agreement in Bosnia could include Russia and other forces from outside the alliance, said NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner on Feb. 17. He said the western alliance would have to retain command of the operation, but "we would welcome the participation of other nations in such an undertaking, including . . . Russia."

● THE ORGANIZATION of African Unity, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in mid-February, agreed to create a military force that would deploy into member African states. This proposal has come before the OAU twice before in the last decade, but was rejected as a violation of national sovereignty. It is supported by the United States.

● PANAMA'S former President Manuel Solís Palma has signed an international appeal to President Clinton, demanding freedom for Lyndon LaRouche. Solís Palma served as President until just before the December 1989 U.S. invasion of his country. He is the second former President of an Ibero-American nation to sign, the first being Argentina's Arturo Frondizi.

● ALGERIAN Defense Minister Gen. Khaled Nezzar narrowly escaped assassination when a car bomb exploded as his motorcade drove by in mid-February. Clashes between government security forces and Islamic militants have led to the death of over 600 security officers in the last year.

● KUWAIT and Russia signed a defense memorandum on Feb. 16, during a visit to Kuwait of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. "The memorandum is the first step toward enhancing future relationships and I expect this will include signing a [defense] agreement during 1993," said one diplomat. Kuwait expects to buy \$15 billion in arms by the end of the century.