

International Intelligence

Orthodox arc to span Balkans and Russia

The formation of an "Orthodox arc from Cyprus to Russia, passing through Albania," is the main foreign policy plank of the new Political Spring party in Greece, formed by former Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras on June 30, according to the Paris daily *Le Monde* of July 3-4. Samaras, who was fired in April 1992 by Prime Minister Constantin Mitsotakis, portrays this "arc" as necessary to combat the threat from Turkey. He says that accomplishing this aim must be linked to "reinforcing the leading role of the Greek Orthodox Church."

Samaras identifies his "supreme priorities" as the Cyprus question, the Macedonian question, and the protection of the Greek minority in Albania, which has just been subjected to mass expulsions. To achieve such ends, he wants Greece to strengthen ties with Serbia, Iran, Syria, and the Kurds.

Samaras portrays his Political Spring as the third party in Greece, to break the "bipolarization" of politics defined by Mitsotakis's New Democracy and Andreas Papandreou's PASOK. He says his party appeals not only to the 10 million Greeks who live inside Greece, but to Greeks worldwide, who number some 20 million.

Le Monde also reviewed the results of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's June 30-July 1 visit to Greece, quoting his statement that Russia and Greece will cooperate more closely in the Balkans in the future, especially as the two countries are "united by the Christian Orthodox religion."

Vatican critical of U.S. policy in Somalia

The Vatican daily *Osservatore Romano* commented on the "vile assassination" of three Italian soldiers in Somalia, in an article on July 4, suggesting that the bloodshed was due in part to the actions of the multinational U.N. forces themselves. "Directives on actions to be taken by the Blue Helmets do not seem to come from the U.N., but from the

American command," the paper wrote. "Interferences therefore take place, that prejudice military action."

In a related development, African analyst Rodolfo Casadei wrote in the Catholic monthly *30 Days* that Somalia's General Aideed "has everything to gain from the bombings that feed the anti-western feeling in the population." Casadei wrote that seemingly, the strategy of the multinational forces is not to capture Aideed. "If the general were to be captured, it would be easier to negotiate a non-violent disarmament of his faction, with softer Habr-gedir leaders, and other would-be Aideeds would get an unmistakable signal."

Attack on Iraq 'violates international law'

The U.S. missile attack on Baghdad is a gross violation of international law, Prof. Ulrich Fastenrath of the University of Cologne wrote in the daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on June 29. He makes the following points:

1) The attack was blatant aggression against another state; it could perhaps have been justified by the U.N. under Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, but Clinton did not even ask the United Nations. Even with U.N. approval, it would still be aggression and a violation of international law; in any case, it violates Article 2 of the U.N. Charter, which bans the use of force against the sovereign territory of another state.

2) If Clinton said he had to act because of an assassination plot against George Bush by Iraq, it has to be clearly stated that Bush at that time was a private citizen, and there is no such clause in international law that would permit any state to attack another state because one of its private citizens was attacked.

3) The right to use military force against another state is fairly restricted: The International Court at The Hague ruled in the case of U.S. actions against Nicaragua several years ago that not even the slightest border incident would justify such actions. What happened in this case is even less than that.

Croatia tells the U.N. to go home

The Croatian Defense and National Security Council voted on June 25 to reject a request by United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to extend for three months the mandate of the so-called U.N. peacekeeping forces, Unprofor. The mandate expired on June 30.

According to the report of the meeting given by Radio Croatia: "Taking into consideration the overall situation concerning the international position of Croatia . . . and considering the resolutions of the Croatian parliament and the justified negative mood among the Croatian people concerning the Unprofor role so far—due to the untenable fragmentation and the total block of communication inside the Croatian territory and the impossibility of Croatian refugees returning to their homes—the Council concluded that Croatia cannot accept the extension of the Unprofor mandate with the same powers."

U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance had forced Croatia to sign an agreement with the occupying Serbian forces that guaranteed the Serbian conquest of those territories.

The Defense and National Security Council proposed that the mandate could be extended for one month as a "trial period" during which U.N. promises must be implemented and the Serbs withdrawn. At the end of the trial period, Croatia will deal only with the U.N.—and not with Unprofor—and only if the Serbs have respected the promise to withdraw. Otherwise the U.N. will be officially told to get out and stay out.

Journal sees 'horrible' threat to all of Europe

The threat exists of a "destabilization of the entire continent" of Europe, as a result of western failure to intervene in former Yugoslavia, according to the influential Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* in a front-page commentary on June 30:

"What was allowed to happen in the Balkans can and will be seen as an example.

Briefly

And there are signs that this could have horrible dimensions in East Europe. This is not only because the insanity in Belgrade is not yet exhausted, as long as the Muslims of the Sandjak, the Kosova Albanians, and the Hungarians of Vojvodina undermine the Serbian concept of a unitary ethnic state. Nor for the reason that a renewed Serbian-Croatian fight for the delimitation of territories is coming. Much more: It can be forecast with certainty, that the fact that the most brutal violence has been carried out with impunity, or worse, has even been rewarded, will not fail to have its effect on those obsessed with nationalism in other places. By which logic, what has played itself out in Bosnia, could give any government the idea of expelling any minority that is considered a thorn in the flesh. The opposite is, however, just as true. Radicals in the ranks of minorities are henceforth exposed to the temptation to refer to the example of Serbian Krajina in Croatia, and to call for their own republic within the area of settlement of their own ethnic group."

The paper concludes that the situation holds within it the potential for "destabilizing the entire continent."

Red-brown alliance being forged in France

A "red-brown" alliance of pro-fascists and communists is being fashioned in France, in cooperation with counterparts in Russia, in order to create a Eurasian-wide "national bolshevik" movement, which portrays itself as a "third way" between communism and capitalism, the French daily *Le Monde* reported on June 26.

First, there is the case of Edward Limonov, a Russian writer who has lived in exile in France since 1974, and who is today the representative in France of Russian national-chauvinist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Last summer, Limonov said in an interview: "If we can speak of a 'flirtation' between nationalists and communists in France, in Russia this is already an alliance inscribed in political reality and daily life. . . . We are living in an epoch of radical changes of alli-

ances, with new barricades being constructed everywhere, and we will defend them, these barricades, with new brothers-in-arms."

Second, there is the case of the March 1992 meeting in Moscow that brought together Russian communist Yegor Ligachov, French New Right guru Alain de Benoist, and others, under the auspices of Russian National Salvation Front influential Aleksander Dugyn. Dugyn has praised de Benoist for "reviving the theses enunciated in the 1920s by German geopoliticians, who were often Russophiles," among them the "national bolsheviks" of the Weimar period. In response, de Benoist called for the creation of a "Eurasian alliance" and "Eurasian unification." He praised the alliance in Russia between monarchists and communists, and said the global inspiration for a "third way" alternative to communism and capitalism, would come not from the West but from the East.

Nigeria denounces Britain and U.S.

The Nigerian military government charged on June 24 that there was a plot by Britain and the United States against Nigeria, and pledged "necessary action" against any country that sought to intervene in Nigeria's internal affairs.

Following attacks on Nigeria from Washington and London about the annulment of the June 12 elections in the country, a harshly worded official statement referred to Britain and the United States as "the enemy," and proclaimed: "The federal military government has noticed the dangerous trend which certain foreign countries have embarked upon in their response to the current crisis of the transition program. Specifically, the government has unearthed a plot by the governments of the United States and Britain, not only to mobilize their European allies against Nigeria but also to incite peace-loving Nigerians against themselves and their government, or to incite sections of the armed forces against the government."

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** will visit the three Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia on Sept. 4-10, on his first trip to countries of the former Soviet Union. The Baltic nations are coming under increasing political, economic, and military pressure from Russia.

● **THE VATICAN'S** envoy presented his credentials to the Bosnian government on July 2, becoming one of the few ambassadors to be named to the country since its independence. Bosnia President Alija Izetbegovic welcomed Papal Nuncio Francesco Montarisi as proof of Bosnia's legitimacy as a sovereign state. "Any seizure of territory by force is an illegal one," declared Montarisi.

● **A MYSTERIOUS BLAST** destroyed the Florida home of King Hussein of Jordan at the end of June. The incident may have been caused by a bomb, but FBI investigations are not conclusive. The house was a favorite holiday resort of the Jordanian monarch during his visits to the United States. He was scheduled to use it soon.

● **A DEMONSTRATION** of more than 20,000 Catholics marched in León, Mexico on June 27 to protest the murder of Cardinal Jesús Posadas Ocampo, which the Mexican government claims was the result of drug lords mistaking him for a rival. The marchers were led by the bishop of Guanajuato, Rafael García González, who demanded a real investigation into the killing.

● **INDONESIANS** demonstrated outside the British Embassy in Jakarta on July 4, denouncing British policy toward Bosnia and urging an end to the embargo on arms sales to Bosnian Muslims. "The British are responsible for the killing of Bosnian Muslims," read one banner. The demonstrators, numbering about 100, accused Britain of doing little to stop "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavian republic.