

International Intelligence

French institutions face 'implosion'

French institutions are threatened with "implosion," wrote editor Jean-Marie Colombiani in the French daily *Le Monde* on Nov. 15. He warned that French politics has come to resemble a "shadow theater." The country's vast problems and challenges are being ignored by the leaders of both left and right: massive corruption, growing unemployment, the splitting of the western alliance over Bosnia, the debates over the future of Europe, the civil war in Algeria.

It is understandable, he wrote, that the politicians are concerning themselves mainly with the presidential elections, but they seem to ignore the fact that if they keep up their quarreling, they risk "having no future any more."

The country is faced with an "institutional crisis," as the long regime of President François Mitterrand comes to an end, Colombiani added.

He commented that, "at first glance, the republic is functioning," with "solid institutions" at the helm. Yet "it appears distant from daily concerns, as well as detached from the urgent situations: in short, remote from the people."

Italy's Berlusconi under investigation

The Milan "Clean Hands" prosecution team notified Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on Nov. 21 that he is under investigation for allegedly bribing police officers in 1991 and 1992. The officers, from the Financial Police, had been assigned to audit accounts in two of Berlusconi's firms, Mondadori and Mediolanum insurance company, to look for evidence of tax evasion.

The Milan prosecutors had prepared the warrant long ago, but decided to await the result of local elections on Nov. 20, which saw a defeat of Berlusconi's party, "Forza Italia" ("Go Italy"). The party suffered average losses of 6% compared to its results in the previous elections, and gains were made

by the National Alliance, the leftists, and the Northern League. Observers say that the dissolution of Forza Italia is becoming more and more likely in the near future, with a rapid polarization of the Italian political scene between the National Alliance and the leftists.

What is behind the judicial assault on Berlusconi? It may be Italy's role in the Balkan crisis, according to a Vatican-connected journalistic source, who pointed out that "Clinton has saved Berlusconi twice already," and the Berlusconi government would tend to support Clinton's policy in Bosnia. Any mission into Bosnia, be it aerial or naval, must rely on Italian bases.

Berlusconi is also very sensitive to the Vatican position, given that his government depends largely on Catholic Church support. The "Polish group" inside the Curia, including the pope and his secretary, inspired recent newspaper articles critical of the way the Milan investigation is being used politically against the government. "The pope is very worried about Bosnia, and Secretary of State Sodano shares his worries." Our source continued, the presence in Rome of newly elevated Cardinal Vinco Puljic of Sarajevo "these days has enormously strengthened the pope's position."

WWF targets depressed areas of Germany

The World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) campaign to set aside nature parks in Germany is targeting regions that are losing population anyway. The environmentalist propaganda against alleged "over-industrialization" in the eastern and northern parts of Germany is aimed to preserve chronic underdevelopment in those regions, which have been hard-hit by unemployment as a result of the deindustrialization policy of the Berlin Treuhand agency.

Four out of five eastern states of Germany top the list in a new report produced by the German Statistical Office, on the regions with the least land-use for public transportation infrastructure and urban development:

Mecklenburg-Prepomerania, 5.8%; Brandenburg, 7.4%; Thuringia, 7.9%; Saxe-Anhalt, 9.1%.

Two other German regions that are prominent on the WWF map of desired nature parks—the coastal states of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony—show land-use for such purposes of 10.5% and 11.7%. Even less land is used for infrastructure and urban projects in the southern state of Bavaria (9.1%) and the eastern state of Saxony (9.9%).

Rabin upholds agreement with Syria on Golan

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in remarks in Washington on Nov. 21, denounced opposition Likud party representatives who have come to the United States to lobby against the deployment of U.S. troops to the Golan Heights. He said they were out to sabotage his peace moves with Syria. "Heed not the stupid, empty words being heard today as if out of concern for the Americans, [but] which emerge from a desire to sabotage the chance of peace," he said, according to Israel Radio.

"It's Israelis who are irresponsible in a criminal way," Rabin said at the Israeli embassy in Washington. "To come and say today that this is unacceptable if and when we reach a peace treaty with Syria is not only stupidity, it's the embodiment of hypocrisy."

Threat against MSIA activist in Mexico

Pianist Patricia Ortiz, a founding member of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA), emerged from mass at the church of Villafontana in Mexicali, Baja California on Nov. 20, to find an eviscerated black cat on the windshield of her car, according to a statement released by the MSIA in Mexico City.

The MSIA believes the dead cat signaled a death threat against its members from the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas's PRD party, and EZLN commander Samuel Ruiz, the

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bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas. Shining Path, the Peruvian terrorist counterpart of the EZLN, typically sends eviscerated animals to its potential victims.

There have been several recent death threats phoned into the MSIA during the past four months by the followers of Ruiz and the EZLN, according to the statement.

The latest incident took place after a successful series of Classical music concerts featuring the MSIA's bel canto chorus in Mexicali, Tijuana, and Obregón. Ortiz is the chorus's accompanist.

The MSIA recently conducted a 20-day tour of 13 of Mexico's most important cities, including a group of rural producers from Chiapas and leaders of the MSIA, who presented the truth about the EZLN's crimes. Marivilia Carrasco, the MSIA's national leader, detailed the links between Britain's Prince Philip, his World Wide Fund for Nature, and the EZLN. Through the WWF, the House of Windsor controls a worldwide network of nature parks and ecological reserves where the narco-terrorist organizations are trained, including Shining Path and the EZLN.

British MP blasts appeasement of Serbs

Revealing a split in the British Tory party, former Defense Secretary Sir John Nott on Nov. 27 attacked his own party and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd for appeasing the Serbs, who were assaulting the Bihac "safe area" in Bosnia. According to Reuters, Nott told the BBC that "the British, principal appeasers in this thing led by Douglas Hurd and the Foreign Office, should detach ourselves from the French and Russians and try to get back together with the Americans and come to some serious Anglo-American solution to this problem."

Only the United States, he said, "has the military strength and the moral conscience to act. This rift between the British and Americans is a catastrophe for Europe and the rest of the world."

Nott, who was defense secretary during the 1982 Malvinas War between Britain and

Argentina, warned that there could be no diplomatic solution to the Bosnian conflict. "We have given these diplomats, these committees . . . two and a half years to bring about peace, and they have failed." He argued that the American position of lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia was correct. "It is only a military balance now in that part of the world that can restore stability."

Guatemalan terrorists demand split of nation

The *Latin American Newsletter*, published in London, reported on Nov. 24 that the terrorist Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (URNG) is demanding as a condition for any final peace plan, that the national Constitution be rewritten, to turn the country into a "pluri-cultural and multilingual state." Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchú has long been a member of the steering committee of the URNG.

This is a dangerous precedent for the region: The talks are overseen by the United Nations, as a continuation of the Salvadoran "peace" accord, which Colombia is being pushed to follow. The Zapatista war with Mexico is closely related as well. The London newsletter notes that Bolivia and Ecuador may soon follow Guatemala in this "Indian" project.

The Coordinator of Mayan Peoples' Organizations of Guatemala, which works with the URNG, is demanding that all "major" Indian languages (they say there are 24 of them) be given equal standing with Spanish; that Indian rights to communal land be recognized; that Indians be registered to vote, not as Guatemalan citizens, but as Indians, so that all local authorities can be chosen by "traditional custom" and ruled by "Mayan law," rather than by national legislation.

The "indigenist" activists are now debating which groups qualify to be an "ethnic people" that needs representation. In addition to the Mayans, there are Garifunas and *ladinos*, the latter the Guatemalan name for *mestizos*—i.e., those of mixed blood. In reality, that is most of the population.

● **ISRAELI** Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin called Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty "a very important development." He said that once Iraq complies with the other international demands, he felt "there would be no inhibition on our side to talk with the Iraqis about the possibility of having normal relations."

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** will visit Sri Lanka on Jan. 20, his first visit to the country. Over half a million people are expected to be present at the open-air mass where the pope will beatify a 17th-century missionary. Catholics and bishops from southern India will also be in attendance. Up to 10,000 Tamils are also expected to come for the mass from Jaffna, where most of the country's Catholics live.

● **THE SCHILLER** Institute held a concert in Obregón, Sonora, Mexico on Nov. 19, in memory of Diana Laura de Colósio, the widow of recently assassinated Mexican presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colósio. Mrs. Colósio died of cancer. The concert featured pianist Emilio Hernández and violinist Rodolfo Galván performing such works as Schubert's Sonata in G minor, D. 408 and Brahms's Sonata #2, Op. 100.

● **JORDAN AND ISRAEL** issued a communiqué on Nov. 27, paving the way for exchanging ambassadors and opening embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv by Dec. 10. King Hussein has chosen Marwan Muasher, Jordan's former Middle East peace team spokesman, as Jordan's first envoy to Israel.

● **GERMANY'S** Tübingen University has awarded the schismatic bishop of San Cristóbal, Mexico, Samuel Ruiz, an *Honoris Causa* degree, in recognition of "his passionate defense of the rights of Indian peoples and his extraordinary contributions to the building of a prophetic local church with an Indian image," the Mexican daily *Excelsior* reported on Nov. 18.