

International Intelligence

German's death may hurt manned space flight

Reinhard Furrer died in a plane crash along with the pilot of a restored, 52-year-old ME-108, just before an air show in Berlin, on Sept. 9.

Furrer was one of the most outspoken proponents in the German aerospace community of the Oberth-Von Braun-Sänger heritage—that the aim of space flight is manned missions. His death comes at a very unfortunate moment, when the dictate of fiscal austerity and “outsourcing” in the German aerospace industry and government is threatening to drop all ambitions for manned space missions.

Furrer, who took part in the U.S. “Spacelab D-1” mission in October 1985, was head of the Berlin-based Institute of Space Research from 1987 to 1994—when he quit out of protest against pressures on him to introduce more ecologism in his institute’s work. In addition to NASA contacts, Furrer maintained contacts with the Soviet Union, and afterwards, the Russian space community, with the emphasis on the analysis of satellite photographs.

British-trained Tamil Tigers on terror spree

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), trained by British and Israeli intelligence services, are waging a terror war in the southern areas of India and in Sri Lanka.

- Two bombs went off in sequence at the Sri Lankan mission in Madras, India. Madras is the capital of Tamil Nadu, the state in southern India across the Palk Straits from the Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka, the LTTE stronghold.

- The LTTE launched a mortar attack on a naval base in northern Sri Lanka, an attack believed to presage an LTTE counter-offensive against the Sri Lankan government’s Operation Leap Forward, which had taken away sections of LTTE territory in July.

- The second week of September, the

Tigers took scores of hostages from a passenger ferry in Sri Lanka. The hostages, including infants, were taken to an LTTE guerrilla base.

- Sri Lanka police claimed on Sept. 10 that they had uncovered an LTTE plot to murder Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao as well as Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga. An arrested LTTE member said the Tamil Tigers had dispatched Singapore-trained agents to India to identify ways to kill Rao.

- According to wire reports, “reliable sources” have confirmed the Tigers have plans to bomb the Sri Lankan parliament from a private plane.

British tout Mexican terrorists' cause

London’s *Independent* promoted the terrorist insurgency in the Mexican state of Guerrero, in a Sept. 11 article written by Phil Davison from Atoyacuilco, Guerrero. Guerrero’s “peasant rebellion . . . threatens to be even more explosive” than the Zapatistas in Chiapas, Davison wrote, hailing Guerrero peasants for their “batling reputation” going back to resistance to the Spanish, Emilio Zapata, and the 1970s guerrillas of Lucio Cabanas. The Peasant Organization of the Southern Sierra (OCSS) he called “the vanguard of the new peasant revolt, remarkably similar to the semi-clandestine peasant groups that operated in Chiapas before crystallizing into the EZLN,” the Zapatista National Liberation Army which launched an armed uprising on Jan. 1, 1994 in Chiapas.

Davison went around collecting declarations of coming war from local activists. Victor Cardona, an official of the PRD party, who supports the insurgency, told him, “That the people have weapons, there is no doubt. They’ve been preparing. They always carried guns, mostly hunting rifles, for self-defense. But now they’re getting other weapons. If people keep attacking them, they’ll use them.” A “human rights” honcho in Acapulco believes “armed struggle may be inevitable. Conditions are certainly right.”

Meanwhile, in Brescia, Italy, a meeting of EZLN sympathizers was held over the Sept. 1-3 weekend, where a working body of solidarity committees was formed, as well as a network for information among the nations of Europe and Mexico. Attending were German, Austrian, Swiss, Spanish, Greek and Italian activists, among others, who debated the experience of Zapatismo on both a national and international scale. One of the topics was how to wage “low-intensity warfare,” as in Chiapas.

S. American drug mafia not a Pentagon priority?

Assistant Secretary of Defense Joseph Nye declared “democracy,” not fighting drugs, to be the number-one security concern of the United States in the Americas, at his briefing Sept. 11 announcing the release of the Pentagon’s regional security report, “U.S. Security Strategy for the Americas.” The briefing by Nye, a former Council on Foreign Relations heavyweight, was a print-out of the utopian anti-nation-state agenda for the Americas put together in the 1980s by the Bush/Inter-American Dialogue team. Nye asserted that U.S. security policy is based on the premise that market reforms and democracy have swept away “statist economic models” and insurgencies in the region.

Asked by a reporter if the drug cartels were “our number-one security threat in the hemisphere,” Nye countered that while “this is one of the great security threats . . . loss of democratic governments in the hemisphere might be the number one.” Fighting drugs and terrorism was fourth on his list of priorities, below ensuring that civilians control the military, “confidence-building,” and the Panama Canal. Likewise, Nye declared that Cuba had lessened its active support for “subversion” from 10 years ago.

Under this policy, the United States will be focusing its joint military training and exercises with Ibero-American nations on international peacekeeping (he called this “a growth area for many militaries of the region”), and training civilians to take over

defense planning. Nye declared that the Pentagon will "continue to pay close attention to unstable civil-military relations in certain countries," and claimed the so-called Williamsburg Principles—drafted by Defense Secretary William Perry for the July meeting of the Defense Ministers of the Americas—had laid the basis for "telling militaries that any interference with civilian governments would not be accepted."

Vatican says debt relief key to women's equality

During the press conference held by four members of the Holy See delegation to the U.N. Conference on Women in Beijing, Mrs. Mary Ann Glendon, the head of the delegation, was asked what kind of action women should undertake in the fight against inequality of women. Mrs. Glendon answered: "What has to be done, at least according to Catholic social teaching, is to bring the poorer countries into the circle of productivity and exchange. The Holy Father, in his letter on the Third Millennium, has asked that the more affluent countries . . . consider the forgiveness of debt in the Jubilee Year, to help in this way, by considering reduction or cancellation of debt. This is one measure and there are obviously many others. But development must be inseparable from equality." This was reported by the Vatican Information Service on Sept. 7.

A Swiftian response to Quebec sovereignty vote

Reached for comment Sept. 11 on the upcoming October referendum to declare sovereignty for Quebec, Gilles Gervais, secretary general of the Party for the Commonwealth of Canada, said the following:

"The separatist Parti Québécois government, aided and abetted by the media, has promoted, through its referendum agenda, a parochial, Quebec-centered 'morality' throughout the population.

"The 'yes' side will tell you: 'Once we have secured a majority vote for yes and we

have successfully negotiated a new entente with the rest of Canada, then we shall have the time to look into this genocide happening in Bosnia or check out this 'coming disintegration of the financial markets.'

"The 'no' side will argue that: 'All our energy is presently concentrated on stopping the separatists from breaking up Canada, or at least limiting the damage that a future separate French-speaking Quebec state would inflict on our career and family situation.'

"One is reminded of Jonathan Swift's description, in his *Gulliver's Travels*, of the insanity having gripped the Lilliputians, who were bent on going to war over an argument about which side is the proper side to break open an egg!

"In the present situation, these fellows don't even have the ingredients to come up with a decent omelet, let alone to create a sovereign, constitutional form of democratic republic."

Nigerian delegation visits South Africa

A four-day visit to South Africa by a Nigerian government delegation, led by Foreign Minister Chief Tom Akimi, appears to have been successful in countering anti-Nigeria sentiment and the call for Nigeria to be expelled from the British Commonwealth, according to the Lagos NTA Television Network, on Sept. 5. Included in Akimi's high-powered delegation that visited Pretoria the first week in September was Nigeria's ambassador to the United Nations, Professor Gambari.

South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo was quoted saying that "it was good that Nigeria sent this mission, which, he observed, has successfully explained issues that had previously been misunderstood." South African Foreign Minister Nzo "disclosed that the South African government had to rebuff external pressure to join campaigns for Nigeria's expulsion from the Commonwealth, by explaining that any case against Nigeria must be presented in Nigeria's presence and not behind her back."

● **THE ALBANIAN** paper *Zeri Shqiptar* published a three-page interview with Webster Tarpley in its Aug. 23 edition, under the title of "geostrategy." Tarpley is introduced as "American expert on political history" with *EIR*, which was founded by Lyndon LaRouche.

● **KUALA LUMPUR**, the Malaysian capital, hosted opened a week-long meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference which opened Sept. 11. The agenda was to discuss strengthening western proposals to end the war in former Yugoslavia.

● **MAX LONDOÑO**, the president of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement in Colombia, was interviewed by Radio Todelar about the movement's support for French President Chirac and his decision to renew nuclear testing. The 10-minute interview was broadcast nationwide on Sept. 9. The interviewers labeled Londono's statements "unique" and "interesting," at a time when world public opinion is "against" Chirac.

● **GREENPEACE** has totally discredited itself by the Brent Spar hoax, so that no one should trust their arguments on French nuclear testing on Mururoa, a television special produced by the German MDR station reported Sept. 11. The group has come under widespread attack in the usually pro-green German media.

● **THE LONDON TIMES** revealed actual British fears about France's policy shift by printing a cartoon Sept. 7 with the caption, "Horrific side-effects of nuclear testing." It showed a caricature profile of President Jacques Chirac, facing right, while from the same neck, and facing left, was a caricature profile of Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

● **YASSER ARAFAT**, the PLO chairman, met on Sept. 2 for 25 minutes with Pope John Paul II to discuss peace prospects in the Middle East and hopes for an end-of-the-millennium interfaith celebration in Jerusalem.