

# International Intelligence

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## **India snubs U.S. mediation in Kashmir**

India has rejected unofficial moves by U.S. intelligence circles to mediate the Kashmir conflict, a mediation effort that was to include Jimmy Carter. "It is not our policy to accept mediation. We stand by our offer of bilateral discussions under the Shimla Agreement," Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid said, according to the *Times of India* of Oct. 12.

There are reports that the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), which is close to the State Department, is sponsoring a meeting in Washington to evolve a consensus among Kashmiri leaders on both Indian and Pakistani sides. Commenting on the initiative by Jimmy Carter, Khurshid said: "The problem in Kashmir is very different from the ones he has dealt with elsewhere. If it could be resolved by the world statesman we would have welcomed it."

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## **Iraq said to be losing intelligentsia**

A feature in the French newspaper *Le Figaro* of Oct. 13 details the devastating effect over five years that economic sanctions have had on the intellectual life of Iraq. Lack of basic supplies for schools, textbooks for universities, and equipment for scientific laboratories, have all contributed to a drastic lowering of academic standards in what was the most advanced educational system in the Arab world. Prof. Chafiq al Samarai, of Baghdad University, is quoted: "We are producing half-doctors, half-economists, and half-engineers."

Those who can, leave the country. Commenting on the brain drain, one doctor commented, "It's a catastrophe. One judges a country on the basis of its scientists. It will require more than 20 years to catch up in the field of medicine." Although some foreign companies are setting up shop again in Iraq, in expectation that the embargo will be lifted, this is seen to be small recompense for

the loss of scientists, doctors, and poets. One intellectual remarked: "Iraq, as a people, is finished. It is not easy to rebuild a man, after he has been destroyed, after he has lost his truth. It will be necessary to wait one generation."

Iraqis who have fled to Jordan seeking some means of living, have often been reduced to hawking personal belongings in the streets, or going into prostitution and crime. Many Iraqis who still have jobs, stay in them just long enough to save up the money required to pay an exit tax, equivalent to 15-20 monthly salaries. Visas can be purchased on the black market in Jordan and trips abroad can be organized for a price, \$8,000 for the United States, \$4,000 for eastern Europe.

The articles appear on the eve of the Oct. 15 presidential referendum, the first in Iraq in 37 years.

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## **Social democracies in tatters in Europe**

The member parties of the Socialist International in Europe are faced with the biggest crisis of the postwar period, and in the context of the ongoing global financial and banking crash and the concomitant collapse of national economic and social systems. All socialist and social democratic parties are undergoing organizational turmoil, leadership disorientation, and loss of members and votes, according to *EIR*'s analysts in Germany.

The Socialist parties of France (after the end of the Mitterrand era), of Spain and Italy (facing corruption charges against their leaders), and also of Sweden, Austria, and Germany (where the Social Democrats have reshuffled their leadership), are in a process of rapid declines in party cohesion and voter popularity. In Sweden, recent opinion polls say that the Swedish Social Democrats would get a meager 17% of the vote, if general elections were held now.

The two exceptions in this European pattern seem to be the Socialists of Portugal, which became the strongest party in the Oct.

1 elections, and the British Labour Party under their new rising star Tony Blair—who is being built up by the media as the one who epitomizes how socialist politicians should look, if they want to shape policy at the threshold of the 21st century.

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## **Brits laud Bolivia for turning back clock**

The Sept. 30 issue of the City of London's mouthpiece, the *Economist*, runs two articles promoting the "democratic" government of Bolivian President Gonzalo Sánchez de Losada (said to be "owned by British mining multinational Rio Tinto Zinc), and his "indigenous" vice president, Víctor Hugo Cárdenas. The *Economist* deems the latter to be "an Amerindian who matters," because under his direction, Bolivia "is coming to terms with its ethnic self," and becoming a multi-ethnic state. The article proudly points to Cárdenas's adoption of the British-spawned "Black Legend," which lies that the evangelization of the Americas begun with Columbus oppressed the native peoples, noting: "The vice-president is cautiously optimistic: 'Reversing 500 years of history is not easy. But we are making a start.'"

Also hailed is the government's scheme for privatization of "choice morsels" of the economy, under which half the shares of the privatized companies are to be deposited in private pension accounts, credited to state workers. The *Economist* praises this scam, because it "weakens charges of 'selling out to foreigners,' " while creating a "new private pension system" from scratch—that is, a new source for financial speculation. (The scheme, called "Capitalization," was devised by a former official in Margaret Thatcher's government in Britain.)

One "native" entrepreneur in the British imperial mold has a different, but in fact complementary, view of the success story. Bolivian Coca Producers leader Evo Morales told the correspondent of Bolivia's *Hoy* newspaper in August that, "it would take very little" for armed rebellions such as that in Chiapas, Mexico, to break out in the Chapare region of Bolivia, his stronghold.

## German educational system faces de-schooling

A 22-member expert commission operating on a 1992 mandate issued by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia has put out a 384-page report calling for deregulation of the German school system.

According to a review of the report in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* daily on Oct. 10, the commission calls for a "fundamental reorientation" of the system which is in line with the change of values that has been observed in the society overall. The report argues against reforms that leave the system as such untouched, and insists on an in-depth restructuring that pays tribute to the "new" values of pluralism, information technologies, and ecologism. The classical set of studies (language, mathematics, natural sciences, musical education, history, etc.) is to be replaced by a flexible system of courses that enable the pupil to "learn how to learn," the report recommends.

Furthermore, the schools must be deregulated and enabled to operate under far-reaching "autonomy" not only in terms of the curricula, but also in terms of administrative and fiscal matters, and the schools should also be enabled to contract for services, rather than exclusively rely on the capacities of the faculty they employ.

The prevailing system of marks for pupils' efforts is to be replaced by an overall "evaluation" of the direction in which the individual pupil is "developing," and teachers shall no longer be employed as civil servants but on a contract basis as in the private sector.

The commission included many top names of the European oligarchy, among them, Reinhard Mohn, chairman of the Bertelsmann Group (publishing); Hilmar Kopper, Deutsche Bank chairman; Per Dalin from Oslo, Norway, of the International Movement for Educational Change; and Theo Liket, a key figure behind educational reforms in the Netherlands.

The initiative should be read as a German complement to Lord William Rees-

Mogg's de-schooling campaign, and as something that goes beyond the 1960s "Willy Brandt reforms" which already killed much of the classical education system, once admired and envied around the world, that goes back to the German Classics of the late 18th century and the reforms of Wilhelm von Humboldt of the early 19th century.

## Denounce Australian 'messenger of death'

Peter Singer, the main Australian organizer behind the "Great Apes Project" of Oxford University Prof. Richard Dawkins, which seeks to establish a bill of rights for apes, is the target of an article by Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne George Pell in the *Age* on Oct. 9. Pell notes Singer's standing overseas as Australia's best-known philosopher, and the fact that he wrote the entry on ethics in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Campaigning against abortion and euthanasia, which he condemns as "the new paganism" and "the culture of death," Bishop Pell attacks Singer over an article he wrote in August in *The Spectator* called "Killing Babies Isn't Always Wrong." Singer wrote: "Perhaps, like the ancient Greeks, we should have a ceremony a month after birth, at which the infant is admitted to the community. Before that time, infants would not be recognized as having the same right to life as other people."

Bishop Pell described Singer as the "one serious candidate for the role of King Herod's propaganda chief in Australia." "It is no coincidence that Singer has been most successfully opposed in Germany, which saw the terrible Nazi programs of eugenics and euthanasia, and that he labors mightily to distinguish his doctrines, inspired by compassion, from the Nazi doctrines of racial purity, social utility," he said.

The bishop further urged "defenders of life" to campaign against Singer, who is running for a Senate seat on the Australian Green party slate.

● **NAPOLEON III**, who held the French franchise of what *EIR* described as "Lord Palmerston's multicultural zoo," is getting his reputation spruced up. *Le Figaro* on Oct. 12 quotes ex-Interior Minister Charles Pasqua: "Let us reconcile France with her history." It would be "natural" for Napoleon III's tomb to "repose on the national soil," with the other Bonapartes, and it is "paradoxical" that his tomb remains in England (to which he fled).

● **A LONDON** court let the notorious Indian drug financier, Iqbal Memon, walk out a free man in September, five months after his dramatic arrest. The Dubai-based Memon was arrested in London in April by Interpol, acting on a warrant from India, which sought his extradition, says *Asian Age*.

● **CHINA** may sue the British Broadcasting Company for making falsified documentaries with U.S. citizen Harry Wu, reported the *Liaowang* weekly of Beijing on Sept. 4. Wu, in his trial in China, admitted that film footage in his BBC documentary which supposedly portrayed the extraction of organs from executed prisoners, was in fact a routine surgical operation. But Wu blamed his BBC associates for concocting the fraud.

● **IN NEW DELHI**, diplomatic circles say there is little doubt about the presence of Pakistan Army regulars and paramilitary personnel leading the anti-government Taliban force in Afghanistan, but officially none of the western powers, deeply involved in what is seen as a second round of the Afghan war, wants to admit this. India on Oct. 12 accused Pakistan of "direct and continued interference in the internal affairs" of Afghanistan.

● **UKRAINE** suspended the death penalty as of Oct. 17 solely to fulfill membership requirements for the Council of Europe. It is the first former Soviet republic to do so.