

International Intelligence

Plan for 'Humanitarian Interventions' Drafted

A think-tank called the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty is drafting a blueprint that will allow the UN to disregard national sovereignty in future "humanitarian interventions," according to the Melbourne daily, *The Age*, on Sept. 15. The commission is headed by former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, and is reportedly the brainchild of Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, the godfather of the Organization of American States dirty operations against Peru's President Alberto Fujimori. The commission will be funded by the Canadian government and leading U.S. foundations.

The Age wrote, "Canada played a leading role in . . . efforts to break down the Cold War adherence to nation-state interests and establish the prominence of international standards of human rights." The formation of the commission follows a speech last year by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in which he said that countries that abuse their citizens should no longer escape international action by hiding behind national sovereignty. The report is expected to meet resistance from UN Security Council permanent members Russia and China, which have veto power.

Ivanov, Kharazzi Raise Alarm over Afghan Terror

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told the 55th session of the UN General Assembly, on Sept. 16, that the "internal Afghan crisis, which turned Talib-ruled Afghanistan into a global seat of international terrorism, has already transcended the regional limits." He continued, "Complicity with Talib terrorists of all hues, ranging from Osama bin Laden to Uighur and Philippines separatists, gives the Afghan crisis broad international dimensions." A kind of "terroristic internationale" has emerged in Afghanistan, he said, which has "dangerous geopolitical ambitions and steadily increasing potential, including financial means to implement them."

Similarly, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazzi addressed a meeting during the UN General Assembly of Afghanistan's six neighbors (China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) plus the United States and Russia—known as the "6+2." Kharazzi said the growing number of non-Afghani nationals fighting alongside the Taliban forces can further complicate the Afghan conflict. "We believe that the international community, while trying to engage the Taliban in a way compatible with the interests of the Afghan people, should send warning signals to the belligerent parties."

Russian Leaders Expect Crisis Conjunction in 2003

On Sept. 13, leaders of the Russian Parliament and President Vladimir Putin charted measures to deal with anticipated multiple crisis-points, which will strike Russia in 2003. The crucial matters at issue, are demographics, investment, and debt. Former Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, now leader of the Fatherland-All Russia group in the State Duma, said there were "issues of extraordinary importance, strategic issues which may degenerate into a serious threat for the existence, I want to stress this, for the existence of Russia." (See also the memorandum by Duma Dep. Yuri Maslyukov, on how the bills for a decade of non-investment in industry are coming due, in *EIR*, Sept. 15.)

Boris Gryzlov, leader of the Unity group in the Duma, said that 2003 will mark a turning point in the shrinkage of the population, as well as a peak of foreign debt payments, with \$17 billion due that year. A special commission will work on the 2003 problems.

Earlier, on Sept. 2, the journal *Trud* published an interview with Prof. Dr. Vasily Zhukov, Rector of the Moscow State Social University, in which he pointed out, "It is the first time in the history of the state that the death rate is higher than the birth rate in peacetime. . . . It means that we have stopped on the road of depopulation, which in common language means the extinction of the nation."

Dr. Zhukov states that with perestroika, "Disillusionment and pessimism, engendered by the unprecedented growth of poverty, hit tens of millions of people," resulting in birth rates falling from 13.4 births per 1,000 population in 1990, to only 8.4 in 1999. Life expectancy went from its 1987 peak at 69.94 years, to 65.9 over the next seven years. Men's life expectancy fell from 65 in 1987, to 59.8 in 1996. "And the government plans to raise pensionable age to 65," Zhukov says. "Who will it pay pensions to?"

Zhukov concludes, "If we really want to restore the might of Russia, we should remember that this is possible only . . . if we invest the state's fixed capital into the family, into children, their health and education. And this should become one of the main ideas rallying all Russian citizens."

Catholics, China Meet on 'Religions and Peace'

A dialogue between China and Christianity took place in Beijing, sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Milan Catholic University, and the Italo-Chinese Friendship Society "Tian Xia Ya Jia," reported conference speaker Bruno Forte in the Sept. 16 issue of *Corriere della Sera* (emphases are Forte's). "The meeting made two issues very clear," he said. "The first issue can be summed up as *China needs Christianity*: In an era of great social and economic transformations, such as China is undergoing, China needs strong ethical references, to fill the vacuum left by ideology, and to support the commitment for the common good with respect for the dignity of all. Now, it was Christianity that offered the world the idea of the centrality of the human being and of the value of solidarity, starting from the Love revealed in the incarnation of the Son of God. . . . A dialogue between the Christian message and Chinese culture, along the lines of that begun in the 16th Century by the Jesuits, can only benefit the country.

"But if China needs Christianity, the second issue that came out, [is] that *Christianity needs China as well*: At the beginning of the Third Millennium, Christianity needs a new

BRITISH CUSTOMS officials confiscated tapes of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's Sept. 10 speech to a church in Harlem, New York. According to journalists for the state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Company, British customs aggressively searched them when they arrived in London, and then confiscated their videotapes of Mugabe's speech, without justification. They have yet to release the tapes.

CANADA hosted a conference in mid-September in Winnipeg, on war and children. UN estimates that 300,000 children are currently soldiers, sex slaves, or forced laborers in war-torn areas around the globe. Since May, 50 nations have signed a UN agreement, banning the use of soldiers under 18 years old, but conferees acknowledged that the number of children swept up into regional wars continues to grow.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Ibero-America will hold a first joint meeting in April 2001. The plan was announced after a three-day meeting of senior officials from 27 countries in Santiago, Chile, called the East Asia-Latin America Forum.

OSAMA BIN LADEN is reportedly distributing instructions to his terrorist followers on CD-ROMs, according to the Sept. 18 *USA Today*. The CDs, which detail how to assemble bombs, were seized by Jordanian authorities, from a suspected terrorist linked to Bin Laden.

THAILAND'S armed forces took part in the country's biggest drug raid on Sept. 14, staging searches in 49 villages along the Thai-Myanmar border, in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Tak, Lampang, and Mae Hong Son provinces, looking for amphetamine refineries and warehouses. In Lampang, police intercepted a truck, which was loaded with 4 million amphetamine tablets.

missionary momentum. . . . In Christian history, regeneration has always occurred in coincidence with the opening of new horizons for dialogue and the annunciation of the Gospel . . . [and] thus could it be now, towards the East, thanks to a new meeting with the great Asian cultures, beginning from India and China."

The conference, he stressed, took place "a short distance from the old Astronomic Observatory . . . which was directed 11 times by Jesuits; starting at the end of the 16th Century, thanks to the Italian Matteo Ricci, the Society of Jesus had started a fertile dialogue with the millennia-old Chinese culture. . . . Some Jesuits (among them Giulio Aleni from Brescia) wrote, in Chinese, works on Christ in which, in a conversation with the Wisemen of the Empire, they presented the Gospel as the supreme achievement of human endeavor, which is nobly represented by Chinese culture. . . . In the climate of new openings, marked by so-called 'modernization,' this singular meeting between Christianity and China seems to come alive again today."

Bolivian Coca Growers Protest Anti-Drug Bases

The São Paulo Forum's drug legalizer, Bolivian Deputy Evo Morales, led coca producers and peasants in protests along the main highway linking the capital, La Paz, to Cochabamba in late September. Some 15,000 coca producers joined in the protest, to denounce government plans to build three new military bases in the region, from which to continue the anti-drug fight. Construction on the first base is scheduled to begin in October.

President Hugo Banzer's government has been extremely effective, with U.S. backing, in eradicating coca production, through its Operation Dignity, which has destroyed 93,900 acres of coca over the last three years. But, it is stymied by lack of credit and technology—Bolivia is the poorest country in South America—in creating productive enterprises to employ former coca producers. Morales, who advocates drug legalization, argues that the protests are "on behalf of sovereignty, against the Yan-

kees who want to take control of our lands."

The government decided on Sept. 19 to deploy police and military forces to unblock the highway by force, if the protesters do not agree to negotiate peacefully. The blockades have prevented the transport of products from eastern Bolivia to the west and northwest.

Indonesia Resists UN West Timor Mission

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab gave a briefing in Washington, on Sept. 13, regarding the crisis that has erupted since the killing of 3 UN aid workers in Atambua, West Timor on Sept. 6. Alwi Shihab made clear that Indonesians are united in resisting any attempt by the UN Security Council (UNSC) to launch any mission in West Timor, which would open the way for intervention into, and separation of the Maluku, Aceh, and Irian Jaya. Alwi Shihab said that pressure within the UNSC for such a mission was led by permanent members, the United States, Britain, and Canada. He added that the other two permanent members, China and Russia, pledged they would back whatever decision Indonesia makes.

Defense Minister Mohamad Mafud, speaking at a press conference in Jakarta on Sept. 14, declared, "We suspect, and have initial evidence, that there were intelligence operations in the Atambua case aimed at faulting Indonesia." He suggested that the reason for such operations, lies in the failure of the UN Transitional Authority in East Timor to form a new government in what is expected to become independent East Timor. Moreover, Mafud said, "Recently it's emerged that people living in East Timor have already started thinking about reintegration with Indonesia, because it's impossible for them to establish a government of their own." Refusing to name a particular country, Mafud described the role of Australia, saying, "The international community, deeply involved in the independence ballot, feel embarrassed at the failure to develop East Timor. So they provoked this riot. They just throw the stones, but hide their hand, so that the world once again is blaming Indonesia."