

International Intelligence

No UN Consensus for Sanctions Against Syria

The effort to use the UN-commissioned report by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, which alleged Syrian involvement in the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, as a basis for imposing sanctions on Syria, does not have a consensus in the UN Security Council. Russia, China, Algeria, Brazil, and the Philippines reportedly raised objections to formulations in a resolution that was attempting to lay the basis for sanctions. Four unnamed nations objected to proposals for travel restrictions and asset freezing. Algeria said this would not hold up in any court of law.

Clearly targeting Syria, the confirmed neo-con, and unconfirmed U.S. Ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, said "It is now 'true confessions' time for the government of Syria. He explained away the holdup at the Security Council, speaking of the draft proposing sanctions, saying "it was like a rocket gaining speed after takeoff, which had then run into "a period of aerodynamic turbulence."

Syrian President Assad, in a letter to the United States, French, and British governments, said he was "ready to follow up action to bring to trial any Syrian who could be proved by concrete evidence to have connection with this crime," referring to the murder of Hariri.

Bush's Father Tries To Bail Out his Son

In a discussion with *EIR*, Syrian Senior Strategic Analyst Dr. Imad Fawzi Shueibi said that he has noticed moves by Bush's father, George H.W. Bush, and the Republican "old guard," to engage their old friends, the Saudis and Egyptians, in getting the Arab and Muslim nations to help with an "exit strategy" to pull Bush Jr.'s Presidency (minus Vice President Cheney) out the Iraq quagmire.

He sees the visit by Arab League Secre-

tary General Amre Moussa to Iraq, which was prompted by the Saudis in a sudden and quick shift, as a step in that direction. The move could involve the use of Arab and Islamic military forces to replace the U.S. British forces in Iraqi cities and towns, regrouping them in bases outside the Iraqi population centers. The Sunnis had rejected such a proposal before, because they regarded it as a protection and legitimization of the U.S.-British invading troops. Therefore, Moussa's mission is focused on getting the Sunnis and the insurgents to realize that they have won the round, but it is time now to start a political dialogue. Moussa's initiative for holding a "national reconciliation" conference, which is supported by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Arab League, got support from Iraq's supreme Shi'a spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani and the Kurds.

Dr. Shueibi finds it extremely ironic that American leaders such as Gen. William Odom and members in Congress are calling for what LaRouche had demanded almost two years ago.

British To Launch Neo-Con Henry Jackson Society

The British branch of the Henry Jackson Society is to be launched at the Houses of Parliament on Nov. 22. Named for former U.S. neo-con Senator "Scoop" Jackson, the "Statement of Principles" of the group endorses "modern liberal democracies" as the example for the entire world, and supports a "forward strategy" to assist those countries that are not yet liberal and democratic enough to become so. This would involve the full spectrum of our 'carrot' capacities, be they diplomatic, economic, cultural or political, but also, when necessary, those 'sticks' of the military domain."

The Jackson Society "International Patrons" are the usual crew: William Kristol, Richard Perle, James Woolsey, Robert Kagan, Bruce P. Jackson of the Project for Transitional Democracies, Gen. Jack Sheehan, Vytautas Landsbergis, and Joshua Muravchik.

Anti-Gun Plebiscite Loses in Brazil

The plebiscite to ban gun sales in Brazil went down to a stinging defeat on Oct. 23: 64% voted no. The ban failed in all 26 states and the federal district of Brasilia. When the campaign started, supporters of the ban had expected to win up to 80% of the vote, but the opposition turned this around by simply asking the question: "Do you feel safe, and do you think the government can protect you," suggesting a "no" vote would be vote against the Lula government.

The defeat is good news. Lyndon LaRouche had warned in early October that "those who are proposing to take guns away from the population in Brazil, are going to bring on a civil war. You have entire areas of Brazil, including the *favelas* in the big cities, which are *terra incognita*, armed camps. If they continue to disarm the poor, they will unleash asymmetric civil war," and this will play right into the scenario of permanent warfare being promoted across South America by Dick Cheney, the Moonies, Banco Santander, Prince Philip's WWF, and so forth, LaRouche stated.

Nigeria Accepts Bankers' Arithmetic

In a foreign debt deal brokered Oct. 20 by the Paris Club, Nigeria's nominal debt of \$30 billion to the Paris Club nations will be written down to \$12.4 billion. Nigeria will pay more than \$6 billion of arrears from oil revenues "in the next week or two"; the Paris Club will write off \$16 billion in tranches between now and April 2006 (depending on good behavior); and Nigeria will then pay \$6 billion to buy back the last \$8 billion of debt at a 25% discount. It will still owe \$6 billion in private, commercial debt, and relatively small amounts to the IMF and World Bank.

Part of the deal: IMF "intensified surveillance" continues, and Nigeria signs a Policy Support Instrument—the equivalent

THE VIETNAMESE Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry, and the French Embassy met in October 8-9 to discuss Vietnam's plans for a new commercial nuclear power plant, according to *Vietnam News*. A pre-feasibility project for the reactor has been completed.

NIGERIA'S Nuclear Regulatory Agency announced that it could take 10 years or more to actualize the "dream of having a nuclear energy plant." The agency conducted a training workshop in Abuja Oct. 18 on the safety and regulatory requirements for the use and control of radioactive sources.

POLISH PRESIDENT-ELECT Kaczynski, sources reported to *EIR*, in a recent Presidential candidate debate on Polish TV, made a reference to the dissertation which he had written about labor law, in which he had referred to the excellent insurance system which was developed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the social laws developed under Bismarck.

BRITISH NEO-CONS have pushed David Cameron towards leadership of the Tory Party, out of fear that Kenneth Clark would take over the party, wrote commentator Neil Clark in *The Guardian* Oct 24. Neo-con Cameron is being re-tooled as a "Tory moderate."

TONY BLAIR'S formulations on Iran are exactly those of the American Enterprise Institute. Blair, who was interviewed on Sky News Oct. 24, by former Bill Clinton aide Jamie Rubin, used neo-con formulations, saying that life could become "a lot more difficult" for Iran, if it continued to "really defy" the international community. While Blair claimed that he really does not mean military action, he did say "You don't ever take any option off the table." This was exactly the formulation used by the AEI's "Young Neo-con" Mike Rubin at a recent conference in Jerusalem.

of a structural adjustment program that Nigeria supposedly chooses to impose on itself. Earlier this year, according to Reuters May 18, the ostensibly "home-grown" Policy Support Instrument was at that time "still being formulated by IMF officials."

The bankers' arithmetic involved was identified in an opinion column by "Chinweizu" in *Vanguard* (Lagos daily) Aug. 14, which states, "Some press reports say that Nigeria borrowed \$17 billion; has already paid back \$22 billion, and is said to still owe \$36 billion. . . . Should Nigeria not simply repudiate this alleged debt of \$36 billion. . . ?" (The Center for Global Development in Washington, deeply involved in formulating the deal, says only that interest and late fees account for 80% of the \$30 billion debt.)

Chinweizu recalls, "Back in the late 1970s, against the wisdom of public opinion, the then military head of state, Gen. [Olusegun] Obasanjo, was conned by foreign lenders into taking a \$1 billion jumbo loan that Nigeria, with its then buoyant oil revenues, did not need. The excuse was that Nigeria was 'under-borrowed.' They claimed that Nigeria needed the jumbo loan to build investor confidence." (Other hits followed. The debt was \$17 billion by 1983.)

Obasanjo, now President, has been celebrating the debt reduction deal as an immense victory. Whether the Nigerian House of Representatives and Senate will agree, remains to be seen. They had vigorously argued for 100% cancellation.

German Grand Coalition Talks Are Paralyzed

There are several indications that the German Grand Coalition, to succeed the Gerhard Schröder government, might not come into existence. First, Edmund Stoiber, designated Minister of Economics, has leaked to the media that he might still decide to stay Governor of Bavaria and not join the cabinet. Then, outgoing Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who is on the inter-party talks team, said Oct. 24, in a speech before

the American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, that he was just coming from "unharmonic" talks, where the music was "heavy metal rather than Bach," because of the "many considerable differences in views that still exist" between the Social Democratic Party, and the allied Christian Democratic and Christian Social Union parties. Schröder said that more effort had to be invested, to have the coalition ready by late November.

Designated Chancellor Angela Merkel, of the CDU, said after the same talks to which Schröder had referred, that the coalition was still not secured, that "it might also fail," and that an enormous effort still had to be invested to make the Grand Coalition happen and make her Chancellor on Nov. 22.

Differences over how to cut the budget, have stalemated the negotiations. The joint budget and finance working group, made up of Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück (SPD), and the CDU Governor of the State of Hesse, Roland Koch, both believe that Germany should be in line with the EU's Maastricht criteria again by the end of 2007, which implies budget cuts in the range of 35 billion euros in 2006 and 2007, or 15% of the federal budget, which would eliminate the possibility of creating new jobs in depression-wracked Germany.

Polish Presidential Election Won by Kaczynski

The second round of the Polish Presidential election was won with an overwhelming majority by national conservative candidate Lech Kaczynski, of the PiS (Party of Law and Justice). He received more than 55% of the electoral vote against his rival from the conservative liberal Party (PO), Donald Tusk. As observers in Poland noted, the vote was a clear rejection of neoliberal economic policies; it was a vote in defense of the social sovereign nation-state; it was skeptical about EU policies for Europe, and thus will have an impact on the future debate within the EU.