

International Intelligence

Prince Charles visits Venezuelan Indians

Prince Charles Feb. 24 completed a three-day visit to Venezuela, exploring the rain forest of the Amazon, and discussing with Indian chiefs "how best to protect the environment," the *Times* of London reported.

Charles met with "Venezuelan environmentalists" on Thursday, Feb. 23 in Amazonian State, receiving a rousing welcome, which was attributed by the state government to "the environmental and ecological cause which he defends around the world."

The *Times* noted that Charles first catalyzed ecological projects in Venezuela approximately 10 years ago, in collaboration with Carlos Andrés Pérez, during his first term as President.

According to the newspaper's account, Charles's visit "coincided with the first joint political action by 20 Amazon rain forest tribes. More than 500 Indians gathered in the Brazilian jungle town of Altamira to protest against planned hydroelectric dams that would flood their land."

British press also featured the visit to the Brazilian Amazon of the British rock star Sting, who is offering to fund an Indian reserve "as big as Ireland" for the tribes.

Book blames WHO for AIDS holocaust

Peter Gauweiler, state secretary of the Bavarian Interior Ministry, has just published a book accusing the World Health Organization of being responsible for the AIDS holocaust in Africa.

Gauweiler, who saw to it that, unlike much of the rest of the world, his state in West Germany instituted traditional public health measures to contain AIDS' spread, was recently stripped of his responsibility for Bavaria's AIDS policy.

In his book, *What To Do against the Spread of AIDS?* he cites two international conferences, the first in 1985, which revealed the enormity of the AIDS virus res-

ervoir in Africa, and several early studies reporting on the shocking rate of AIDS infection on that continent.

He comments, "This development has not led to an international epidemic alarm plan, which would have mobilized all available forces with the aim of reducing the misery of the ill, protecting the uninfected portions of Africa, and preventing the virus from spreading to other countries. The reality is that there was silence among the accomplices: The WHO told the public in 1985 that, to their knowledge, there were only 10 people sick with AIDS in Africa—at the very time that others were reporting infection throughout whole areas. . . ."

"The AIDS catastrophe in Africa is a condemnation of everybody who bore political, social, and medical responsibilities at the WHO. Today's prognosis of depopulation of whole regions of Africa could have been prevented, if the responsible persons at WHO had launched *in time* an international aid program worthy of the name. For this, one would have needed only a small part of the money and human energy that was wasted in the same period on U.N., UNESCO, and WHO discussions of all kinds of 'general political questions.' "

Gorbachov discovers sabotage of perestroika

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov has admitted that *perestroika* is a failure to date, but has also discovered that widespread "sabotage" is the cause.

In a Kiev speech Feb. 23, Gorbachov used the technique of quoting from "letters" he has received to tell leading Ukrainian party and government functionaries that a "paradox" now exists in the Soviet Union. There are actually "more food and other goods" being produced, but distribution "bottlenecks are more acute," and so, people think they "are worse off."

From his "letters," he said, "it's clear to see" that the workforce considers "hunger for goods, chronic long queues, and speculation in goods' scarcities, as sabotage of

perestroika."

One "letter" from a "Comrade Dimitriev" in the Dnieper town of Kakhovka, Ukraine, read, "It seems to me that in the Ukraine, sabotage is in full swing. Macaroni, confectionary products, candy, baked goods, matches, detergent, and soap have disappeared. The quality of baked bread is disgusting. And for all this, the stones are being thrown at *perestroika*." Gorbachov quickly interjected: "Such letters don't come only from the Ukraine."

Gorbachov stressed several major economic policy initiatives as a corrective. First, he blamed goods' scarcity on wages rising faster than labor productivity, thereby signaling wage controls in the future. He also signaled renewed economic centralization, citing as a problem the formula of "self-financing of enterprises," whereby many enterprises, now engaged in a rat race to turn a profit, have junked old production lines which produce cheap, subsidized products, for higher-priced, "new" products.

Thatcher rocked by electoral setback

The Thatcher government of Great Britain has been "severely jolted" by the bad showing of the Conservative Party in a by-election in Richmond, south of London. The Conservatives won, but by only 2,634 votes. The last time there was an election in Richmond, the margin was 19,576.

The headlines in the British Establishment press were telling: the *Times*, "Richmond Jolt Raises Fears among Tories"; the *Financial Times*, "Tory Stump at By-Election Shows Rise in Discontent."

The latter stated that the government "narrowly escaped a spectacular defeat" which almost ensued from a last-minute surge for the candidate of the opposition Social Democratic Party of David Owen. The winning Conservative candidate, William Hague, "acknowledged that there was a protest vote against the government, and dissatisfaction with rising inflation and high mortgage rates."

Briefly

Certain Tory policies are "apparently unpopular," such as plans to privatize the water industry and reform of the National Health Service, according to the *Financial Times*.

Owen, a member of the Trilateral Commission and said to be the "politician" closest to Prince Charles, was reported to be "elated" by the election result.

Five Soviet officers elevated to four stars

Five important Soviet military officers were elevated from the rank of General Colonel (U.S. equivalent of major general, with three stars) to General of the Army or its equivalent (four stars) on Feb. 15, the Soviet military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* reported.

The new Generals of the Army are: M.A. Moiseyev, the new Chief of the General Staff; V.N. Lobov, the First Deputy Chief of the General Staff; and V.M. Shuralev, Commander of the Belorussian Military District.

V.M. Mikhalkin, in charge of Rocket and Artillery Forces of the Ground Forces, was promoted from General Colonel to Marshal of Artillery, and General Colonel of Aviation A.N. Volkov, chief of Soviet Civil Aviation, became Marshal of Aviation.

Wide-ranging changes in the leadership of the general staff have also occurred, as well as the installation of a new command for the Warsaw Pact. New General of the Army Lobov has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Warsaw Pact, replacing the aged General Anatoly Gribkov, who had held that post since 1976. Lobov was a First Deputy Chief of the General Staff, and, with his new posting, remains one of the General Staff's three First Deputy Chiefs.

Another First Deputy Chief of the General Staff (since 1979), General of the Army Valentin Varennikov, has been named the new commander in chief of the Soviet Ground Forces.

EIR, in the second edition of its 1987 *Global Showdown* special report, had

stressed the role of Varennikov as a protégé of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, and one of the leading directors of the Soviet program to develop radio frequency and other "post-nuclear" weapons.

Varennikov, as head of the General Staff's Operations Main Directorate, worked out plans for a reorganization and modernization of Russia's Ground Forces. These plans included the establishment of a corps/brigade structure. Now, as commander in chief of the Ground Forces, Varennikov will oversee the implementation of what the general staff under his direction had planned.

Joint Mexico-U.S. raid on migrants

The Assistant Attorney General of Mexico, Javier Coello Trejo, who organized the January military raid on the home of oil workers leader Joaquín Hernández Galicia, organized a joint raid of 470 Mexican police and U.S. Border Patrol officers, to assault 500 Mexicans trying to illegally cross the border to the United States Feb. 26.

Using attack dogs, helicopters, and armored vehicles with heavy fire power, 220 Mexican police and 250 U.S. Border Patrol agents descended on the workers, on the pretext of "arresting Central American drug traffickers." In the event, only 3 of the 500 turned out to be Central Americans.

As immediately pointed out in the press, the action violated the Mexican Constitution. It also is a 180 degree turn in Mexican foreign policy, even though it was apparently done without consultation with the foreign minister. Even the Attorney General's office later denied it had authorized the action.

It is believed that such joint actions were among the demands made by the United States on Mexico in order for Mexico to have its anti-drug program "certified" by the U.S. Congress, and so, qualified for aid. Washington is known to have been behind the Feb. 24 dismissal of top police officer Miguel Nazar Haro, as well as the attack on the oil workers union leadership.

● **COLOMBIA'S** anti-narcotics force numbers 3,000 agents. It has suffered a loss of 1,464 agents killed since 1985.

● **DENG XIAOPING** was responsible for hastening the pace towards a Sino-Soviet summit, not Mikhail Gorbachov, China watcher Jonathan Mirsky wrote in London's *Observer* Feb. 27. The "reforms" have brought spiraling inflation and other economic disasters, Mirsky wrote, quoting a source: "That is why Gorbachov is coming so soon: to protect the reforms."

● **BRITISH** social worker Judith Dawson is planning a conference of child-care agencies to discuss child sex-abuse linked to Satan worship. British press cited her on one case in which children "revealed things that happened that were beyond our normal experience. . . . They were probably involved in ritual abuse." Although the culprits were convicted, Satanism was not brought up in court; police feared it would undermine their case if they raised "oddball allegations."

● **TURKEY** wants to keep the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), comprising Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, at the economic level, and not extend it into a military alliance, President Kenan Evren assured Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during talks in New Delhi Feb. 24-25.

● A "MILITARY Eureka" proposal has been submitted by the French government to its European allies. Eureka is the name for the umbrella program whereby European governments jointly foster high-technology R&D. It was originally proposed by President François Mitterrand as an alternative to U.S.-European talks on joint development of the Strategic Defense Initiative.