

International Intelligence

French defense minister resigns over Gulf policy

French Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement resigned on Jan. 29, protesting French involvement in the Persian Gulf war. He was replaced by Interior Minister Pierre Joxe.

The sudden resignation follows a period of intense debate within the French elites, and also a faction fight inside the ruling Socialist Party. Chevènement's faction in the party, known as Socialism and Republic, has accused President Bush of having engineered the crisis in such a way as to leave Saddam Hussein no alternative other than total capitulation or war.

In what some sources believe to be a related development, France's Grand Orient Freemasons have decided that only development of the Third World can avoid war between North and South. The Paris newspaper *Le Monde* on Jan. 30 reported that the council of the Grand Orient, the principal French masonic organization, met on Jan. 26 and released a statement saying that "a durable peace can only be founded by implementing a true program of economic and social development in the countries of the Third World. . . . Without such political will, the East-West conflict that is now fading away, will be substituted by a new global confrontation between the North and South, that will be as perilous for peace, as religious fundamentalism becomes the catalyst for discontent."

Mexico authorizes U.S. to 'pursue drug planes'

Jorge Carrillo Olea, coordinator of the Office of Anti-Drug Investigation and Combat under the Mexican Attorney General, gave authorization for U.S. AWACS radar planes, operated by joint Mexican-American crews, to fly over Mexican territory, during a visit to Washington at the end of January.

The authorization marked a 180-degree

change from decades of strict Mexican defense of its sovereignty. Only one year ago, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari had rejected such overflights on the grounds that Mexico's "airspace and territory must and will continue to be protected by our own forces."

Mexico's concession represents the "silent integration of our country before the imminent signing of the Free Trade Accord with the United States," the Mexican newspaper *El Financiero* commented on Jan. 28.

The Reagan and Bush administrations have demanded that the U.S. have the right to enter Mexican airspace at will for several years. In November 1990, Rep. Albert Bustamante (D-Tex.) told *El Financiero* that the Bush administration already "had created a new military command which was training to carry out limited incursions in Mexican territory."

The announcement caused such an uproar in Mexico that the Foreign Ministry issued a "rectification," claiming that U.S. AWACS have only been given permission to fly over Mexican territory en route to South America—if a Mexican accompanies the crew, and the U.S. promises to turn the radars off while flying over Mexico! The Attorney General's office then issued a counter-clarification, indicating that such fine points do not exist in the "indefinite and permanent" agreement, already operational, that "Orion P-3" radar planes fly over Mexico.

Worsthorne: 'Teach the Third World a lesson'

The Anglo-American "Romans" must "crush and conquer" the Iraqi "Carthage," as the first step in teaching the entire Third World a lesson "that won't be forgotten for a generation," writes Sir Peregrine Worsthorne in the Hollinger Corp.'s *Sunday Telegraph* of London on Feb. 3. The piece is one of Worsthorne's most frank descriptions to date of the true Anglo-American war aim: genocide against the Third World.

In a piece entitled, "The ugly face of Is-

lam," Worsthorne says that Islam has become a "pariah religion," whose "poisonous concoction" is "threatening seepage back into Europe through mass immigration." It is against the backdrop of this reality, and the fact that the Islamic world has unconsciously supported the "evil" Saddam Hussein, "that Americans and British should consider their peace aims, without regard to either the U.N. or the coalition, who are part of the problem rather than part of the solution."

He then demands: "Not only must Iraq be defeated, but it must be conquered as well. An ugly, evil spirit is abroad in the Third World and it cannot be condoned, only crushed, as Carthage was crushed by the Romans. . . ."

"It is time the Third World was taught a lesson that won't be forgotten for a generation. Such ruthlessness would not militate against justice in the Middle East. It would be an essential condition of justice; and, most important, an essential condition of a stable, civilized and prosperous world."

Czech warns: Soviet threat to Europe remains

Jan Urban, the man who succeeded Vaclav Havel as head of Czechoslovakia's Civic Forum, issued an urgent appeal to the West not to be so distracted by the Gulf crisis, that it fails to pay attention to the Soviet threat to Europe, which is a problem "bigger than it seems to be." In a speech in London on Jan. 29, Urban warned that the whole of Europe could be destabilized "before the end of the year."

Urban, a close friend and confidant of Havel, said he had the impression that the Americans were not sure what price they would have to pay for Soviet support for U.S. policies in the Gulf war. But, he stressed, "we in Central Europe do not want to be the price."

In Urban's view, "the Cold War is not over at all and Central and Eastern Europe is still its battlefield." He further warned that "it has to be understood that democracy in

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Eastern Europe can still lose. The region has arrived at an extremely difficult and risky period." The unpredictability of developments in the Soviet Union merely multiplied the risks inherent in the absurd isolation of Eastern European countries, with the "poor survival potential" of their economies further undermined by the oil crisis.

Beyond this, the "extremely dangerous tendency" to political and economic isolation in Eastern Europe has been complicated by the Soviet "re-occupation" of Lithuania and Latvia.

KGB moves target democratic opposition

Moscow's new decree "Against Economic Sabotage," mandating KGB inspectors to barge in on companies operating joint ventures, will be used to discredit and crush the "democratic opposition" within the U.S.S.R., the French daily *Le Figaro* writes on Jan. 28.

The paper's Moscow correspondent notes that the week before, the KGB announced the arrest of a British traveler at the Moscow airport, who was carrying documents showing a contract signed between a British firm and a joint venture in the city of Chelyabinsk. What was involved was an alleged massive rubles-for-dollars exchange outside the U.S.S.R. Among the papers taken from the traveler, were documents showing the name of Gennady Filchin, deputy prime minister of Russia and intimate of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. Since the sale of rubles abroad is forbidden, and the rate of exchange indicated in the documents is that of the black market, "the scandal is perfect," even if the amounts revealed by the KGB are ludicrously above those available to any single enterprise or group of enterprises in the U.S.S.R.

According to the reformist Soviet press, the object of this escapade is not only to discredit Yeltsin, but to prevent the arrival of consumer goods into Russia by channels that are not controlled by the Kremlin. *Le*

Figaro also says that Moscow is reverting to its more traditional posture of keeping the U.S.S.R. under control by creating a sense of a fortress under siege.

Panama's government called 'disappointing'

The *Economist* magazine, a mouthpiece of the City of London, profiles the failure of George Bush's policy in Panama, in an article in the first week of February, focusing on the "unstable" and "disappointing" U.S.-installed government of Guillermo Endara.

More than one year after the American invasion, the article reports there is a revival of nationalist "Torrijismo," with signs dedicated to "Noriega's mentor" Gen. Omar Torrijos popping up in the country, that have the words, "Omar lives on" scrawled on them.

What went wrong? "The American invasion installed the civilian government whose election had been aborted by Mr. Noriega. It has proved a bitter disappointment, not just in its economic performance. . . . The President is the biggest disappointment of all. Few take Guillermo Endara seriously. . . . He constantly refers to the thwarted goals of his revered mentor, Arnulfo Arias. Arias, who died in 1989 . . . admired the Nazis and advocated white supremacy for Panama. Many Panamanians fear that their country, under American tutelage, has drifted back into rule by a white oligarchy. That was the belief that won support for the populist soldiers who took power in 1968, and held it so long."

The *Economist* notes that matters haven't been helped by the failure of promised American economic help to materialize. "Even before the Gulf war, American aid was only trickling in. Many Panamanians now blame the gringos for everything."

Furthermore, "the government's indecisiveness has not encouraged investors. It is now frankly unstable. Torrijos is dead and General Noriega is in jail, but the political movement Torrijos founded was the biggest winner in the new elections."

● **POL POT**, "the infamous leader of the Khmer Rouge, has called on Cambodians to protect endangered species," the *Bangkok Post* reported on Jan. 31. "He means, of course, Cambodia's diminishing wildlife, though during the period of Khmer Rouge rule from 1975 to late 1978, the most endangered species here was the human species.

● **A BOMB** was dropped on Lithuania by a Soviet military plane on Jan. 28. The Soviet news agency TASS said the bomb was "lost" by a military plane doing exercise flights over Belorussia. Nobody was injured.

● **THE PARLIAMENT** of Soviet Georgia has approved a draft of all 18- to 25-year-olds to serve in a newly formed National Guard for two years. It makes no provisions for service in the Red Army.

● **EGYPTIAN** official Boutros Ghali said on Jan. 27 that Egypt does not wish to see the Iraqi Armed Forces destroyed, and will support the effort of the U.S.-led coalition "only to obtain the liberation of Kuwait."

● **THE FRENCH** government shut down three Iraqi publications in France on Jan. 26, causing outrage in the Jordanian press. In one commentary, the press adviser to the royal family of Jordan wrote, under a pseudonym, that France has lost all those values which President de Gaulle held so dear and referred to France as an "American protectorate."

● **AUSTRALIA** has been providing Israel with top-secret information on Iraqi missile attacks obtained from the Nurrungar communications station, official sources told the Australian daily *Herald Sun* of Jan. 26. The arrangement follows confidential consultations between Australian and U.S. representatives.