

International Intelligence

Chirac: Yugoslav war is the shame of Europe

Europe's failure to stop the bloodshed in former Yugoslavia is "shameful," declared Jacques Chirac, leader of France's neo-Gaullist RPR party and a former prime minister, in a commentary published in the daily *Le Figaro* on Dec. 3.

Chirac charged that while European leaders are meeting in the city of Maastricht, the Netherlands, "just two hours away by plane from that city of scholarly European reflection, the civil war in Yugoslavia . . . will enter its sixth month!" The head of the RPR denounced the "deafening silence of a Europe more impotent than ever," while "whole cities like Vukovar [are] totally destroyed, jewels of culture and European civilization such as Dubrovnik, torn apart by bombs and shells; thousands of dead, wounded and hundreds of thousands of refugees lacking everything."

Calling the European policy of allowing the Serbs to impose themselves by force "shameful," he underlined that the conflict could rapidly "take over the rest of the former Yugoslavia"; the "Yugoslavian war is the laboratory of what might happen tomorrow in Russia itself, or else between Russia and the other republics of the former Soviet federation."

Chirac denounced the "indifference of our people toward this war" and called on all Frenchmen to "mobilize themselves, to express their indignation, to form committees to demand the final end of this terrible war."

France wants closer integration into NATO

Speaking to French and foreign military officers at the Cours Supérieur Interarmes (CSI), French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe indicated that France will move toward closer integration in NATO, the daily *Le Monde* reported Dec. 5. Joxe said that if France doesn't "watch out, pretty soon I will be the

last defense minister in all of Europe not to participate in NATO meetings." He said that while the French forces would remain ultimately under national control, France would like to participate more actively in strategic planning.

According to *Le Monde's* military specialist, Jacques Isnard, the Defense Ministry thinks that France should increase its participation in NATO's Defense Planning Committee and the highest military institution of NATO, the Military Planning Committee.

Joxe's statements suggest that a deal was struck at the recent NATO meeting in Rome, involving France's reintegration into the strategic planning structures of the alliance, in exchange for the creation of an Anglo-American-dominated European defense. According to Isnard, "last Nov. 8, in Rome, NATO admitted for the very first time ever that the creation of integrated and multinational European structures could play a role as important for the defense of the continent as that of the integrated NATO command."

Joxe said that "the France-NATO agreements will have to be revised to take into account the profound geostrategic mutations which have occurred in Europe on the one hand, and the affirmation by NATO of a European defense identity, on the other hand."

Vendetta against Peru's Alan García continues

The Fujimori government in Peru has appealed a decision by that country's Supreme Court not to pursue charges of illegal monetary gain against former Peruvian President Alan García. The appeal is widely viewed as the continuation of a political witchhunt against García, who, last October, was stripped of his life-long parliamentary immunity after being accused of embezzling over \$400,000 in state funds. At the same time, the Fujimori government has used executive privilege to appoint a new Supreme Court president more amenable to its vendetta.

On Dec. 3, Magistrate Roger Salas, who

had been appointed to review the case, declared that no evidence of wrongdoing had been submitted, and that all of García's personal funds had been fully accounted for. Judge Salas, a former professor of García's, has since come under attack by anti-García forces in Congress for "partiality."

Simultaneous with the government's appeal of the Supreme Court finding, a new "Organic Law of the Judicial Power" was implemented, enabling the one-time designation of Dr. Luis Rendón Portugal as president of the Supreme Court. Portugal is known to have an axe to grind against García, since it was under his presidential mandate that Portugal was prosecuted for protecting and defending drug traffickers. García's supporters in Congress are demanding that the new law be overturned, and García himself denounced the promulgation of the government's latest decree as "a grotesque maneuver."

ADL stringer in Brazil attacks LaRouche

One J.O. de Meira Penna, described as "an ambassador, professor, and writer," penned an article in the Brazilian *Jornal da Tarde* of Nov. 28, which is a tirade against the influence of Lyndon LaRouche in the Brazilian Armed Forces. Meira Penna is associated with the Washington, D.C.-based magazine *New Counterpoint*, run by Herbert Romerstein, a longtime anti-LaRouche operative close to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

In his article, Meira states that since the Brazilian Armed Forces no longer have their traditional enemies to worry about—communism and the Argentines—they have had to dream up new ones. He ridicules their concerns over the internationalization of the Amazon, accusing the Armed Forces of clinging to "an obsolete absolute sovereignty." He particularly targets several of the military's scientific and technological projects, which he says are the "nostalgic fruit of the 1970s dreams of a Greater Brazil."

What most irritates Meira Penna is the

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fact that many Brazilian military nationalists listen to and read what LaRouche has to say. LaRouche, he says, is a "good-for-nothing ideologue, backed by funds of unknown origin, an ex-communist, and now to the right of the Ku Klux Klan." Unfortunately, Meira Penna adds, "he is attracting some among the [military] hard-line troglodytes." And "some of these retired gorillas are projecting the paranoia of a heroic people" against their perceived enemy: the United States.

St. Petersburg mayor warns of coup potential

Anatoly Sobchak, the mayor of St. Petersburg, Russia, warned of the possibility of a military coup, in an interview with the Paris daily *Le Figaro* published on Dec. 4. "For me a military coup cannot be ruled out," he said. "And this time, if it happens, it will receive the support of the people. . . . A military dictatorship whose declared goal is simply to restore order has a chance of success."

Sobchak said that chaos "will create the need [for the military] to put things in order."

Although Sobchak denied that there was a nuclear threat from Ukraine, he added, "But when I observed the evolution of events in Croatia, I immediately thought of what would have happened if Croatia had nuclear weapons. What is happening between the Croats and the Serbs should be enough to make us reflect over Russo-Ukrainian relations."

Peru's Catholic Church: 'halfway to the catacombs'

"We are halfway to the Church of the catacombs," was the way one Catholic missionary in Peru described to the *New York Times* the conditions now being enforced on the Catholic Church by the rapid spread of the influence of the terrorist Shining Path. Foreigners account for two-thirds of the 6,200 priests and nuns in the country, and thus make good targets for Shining Path's anti-

foreigner propaganda. Four nuns and priests have been killed since May.

Chimbote Bishop Luis Bambaren Gastelumendi revealed on Dec. 7 that his isolation from public activities "was due to the 'diabolical blackmail' of Shining Path activists, who had forced him to retire from that city or see the assassination of priests begin again," reported the Lima daily *Expreso* Dec. 8. Monsignor Bambaren had virtually disappeared from public view for several months, following the murder of several priests in his city by the narco-terrorists.

"Shining Path is infiltrating everything—parish organizations, confirmation classes, the Faith and Happiness schools," said a New York-born missionary, who said that under no condition could his name be published, since "Shining Path is in New York," and word would get back, and, "if they decide to have a people's trial, that's the end."

To minimize the risks, church groups are increasingly run by semi-secret councils, and priests and nuns have started living erratic daily schedules. "If strange people show up at Mass, I always develop stomach cramps and leave immediately," the New York missionary told the *Times*. "The people are suffering, they are hungry. The people feel the government has abandoned them. The people are saying, 'What is the alternative?'"

Landsbergis warns of threat to world peace

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, in an interview with the Warsaw newspaper *Rzeczpospolita* published on Nov. 21, stressed that the greatest threat to peace in Europe "is undoubtedly posed by the economic and social crisis sweeping the U.S.S.R. and, above all, Russia."

If it is not brought under control, warned Landsbergis, "things will become really grave . . . but I am an optimist: Yeltsin is following the path of reform." He said that a strong Russia will not necessarily be a threat to the smaller states in eastern Europe, however.

● **THE UNITED NATIONS** Secretariat ruled on Dec. 10 that Iraq was responsible for the Iran-Iraq war, not Iran. This formal decision will lead to Iraq being charged with billions of dollars in reparations payments to Iran. Two weeks before, the U.S. had announced that it would be paying Iran \$270 million for supplies contracted by the Shah which it had failed to deliver to Khomeini.

● **CHINESE** Prime Minister Li Peng made the first public criticism of events in the former U.S.S.R. by a top Beijing leader on Dec. 11. "Those changes have not served the interest of achieving world peace and stability," he said. "On the contrary, we are now seeing great chaos and the situation is unpredictable."

● **A PAPAL VISIT** to Moscow is not possible at this time because of the Russian Orthodox Church's opposition, the Catholic apostolic administrator to Moscow, Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, told a news conference Dec. 9. There has been a dramatic change in the attitude of the Russian Orthodox Church recently, apparently due to the Vatican's appeals in favor of Croatia and Slovenia.

● **EUROPEAN ROYALS** are financing the Brazilian monarchists, according to the Spanish magazine *Veja*. The royal households of Spain, Belgium, and Holland are financing the monarchists' campaign for the 1993 plebiscite in which the Brazilians will choose their government system. The recipient of European money is Dom Bertrand de Orleans e Braganca, who is linked to the crypto-Catholic group Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP).

● **BURMA'S** Rangoon University was closed by combat troops and riot police on Dec. 11, and several students were arrested, following demonstrations in support of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is believed to be under house arrest.