

International Intelligence

Saudi prince wounded as power struggle rages

The Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar, was seriously wounded and is now in a military hospital in Washington, D.C., following an assassination attempt in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in February, the Italian daily *La Repubblica* reported on March 3, citing *Yediot Aharanot*, Israel's largest-circulation daily.

Bandar was reportedly shot by a member of the Saudi security services, apparently as an outgrowth of a power struggle within the Saudi kingdom between two brothers of King Fahd, Prince Abdullah and Defense Minister Prince Sultan, Bandar's father. One of Abdullah's men reportedly shot at him. Bandar had been summoned to Saudi Arabia to be told to distance himself from President Bush and to stop holding meetings with the leaders of the Zionist lobby in the United States.

Germany, Japan set up policy coordination

Regular German-Japanese coordination on international policy matters was established during German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's trip to Japan in February, the *New York Times* reported March 1, citing diplomatic sources in both countries. The foreign ministers of the two countries will begin holding formal consultations every six months, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will exchange state visits this year.

Germany accepted a proposal to mediate between Russia and Japan on the Kurile islands, a conflict which Japanese sources say they expect to be resolved "fairly soon," with Russian President Boris Yeltsin expected to bring a new proposal with him when he visits Japan in September.

Genscher pressed Japan to follow Germany's example, and "play a political role not only in East Asia, but in the whole world." He pressed Tokyo to seek observer status in the Conference on Security and Co-

operation in Europe (CSCE). Said one unnamed German diplomat: "We are both countries that maintained a low profile in the world for some years and that are now facing new responsibilities. We are no longer interested in being economic giants and political midgets."

Italy's Andreotti calls for new evangelization

Italy will die as a nation unless a new Christian evangelization is launched, said Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, in an interview with the daily *La Repubblica* of Feb. 22-23. He denounced the "de-Christianization" of the country, sometimes carried out through "clandestine and underground warfare," typified by the recent circulation of a document on "bio-ethics, euthanasia, and artificial insemination."

"We want to appear modern, and we end up by playing dissonant music," he said. "We are not yet like Pompei, but Europe risks, in a few years, becoming [a subject for] archeology."

Andreotti's recommended solution is to build up the institution of the family, and to make sure that his party, the Christian Democracy, makes a truly Christian contribution.

"The devil exists," said the prime minister. "I don't know if it's red or black, or if it has a tail or not, but the principle of evil in our human history has been the attempt to take away from Christians their dignity, by all means."

Serbian militias on the rampage in Sarajevo

Serbian militias carried out a virtual insurrection in the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on March 2, manning barricades all around the capital city of Sarajevo, and closing Sarajevo off from the outside world for several hours. The action was carried out after the Bosnian authorities announced the results of a referendum showing that the majority of the population favors independence

from "Yugoslavia."

Amid forecasts of imminent bloody conflict involving the Serb, Croat, and Muslim populations in Bosnia, the leader of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia, Radovan Karadzic, poured forth dire threats at a press conference in Sarajevo on March 2. He warned that the results of the referendum should be negated "before it is too late. Too many errors have been committed. It will be impossible to avoid inter-ethnic and inter-communal war. Any recognition of Bosnia would light the fire in this republic and throughout the Balkans. . . . Northern Ireland could be like a holiday camp compared to Bosnia."

NATO chief meets with Russian patriarch

A most unusual meeting took place in Moscow on Feb. 24, between NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner and the official head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Aleksii II.

According to the Russian news agency Interfax, one of the chief topics discussed at the meeting was Islamic fundamentalism. Woerner "said the spread of Islamic fundamentalism and its increasingly strong influence on the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union do not meet the interests of the North Atlantic bloc," the agency reported.

In response, "Patriarch Aleksii observed that mutual understanding and dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Muslim world were a major stabilizing factor for both the Middle East and the Community of Independent States. He said the Muslim leaders of the former U.S.S.R., with whom he maintained friendly relations, shared his view that preventing religious or ethnic strife needed concerted efforts.

"Mr. Woerner said that his meeting with the Russian Patriarch should facilitate the forthcoming Moscow talks on disarmament and the establishment of a new system of security throughout the Euro-Atlantic region."

During his Moscow visit, Woerner also

met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, CIS Chief of Military Staff Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, as well as Russian Parliament Speaker Gennady Burbulis.

Kazakhstan threatened with guerrilla warfare

Uighur nationalists exiled from the Xinjiang region in China have vowed to start a guerrilla war from their base in Alma Ata, the capital of the republic of Kazakhstan, the *Times* of London reported on March 3. A spokesman for the Front for Liberation of Uighurstan said from Alma Ata, "We will start a guerrilla war and seek international recognition for our cause."

In February, at least six people were killed in bombings in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang. The Uighurs in Kazakhstan have denied all responsibility for the bombs, calling them a "Chinese provocation," and said they had yet to obtain any weapons.

There are about 6 million Uighurs in Xinjiang and 250,000 in Kazakhstan, many refugees from Xinjiang since the 1950s. The Uighurs have a similar language and culture to the Uzbeks in Central Asia. An editor of an Uighur newspaper stated: "We estimate there are 1 million Uighurs in the former Soviet Union. We now hope we can have our own state and join our relatives in our motherland."

Catholics, Orthodox seek to head off rift

A high-level meeting of Roman Catholic and Orthodox representatives in Geneva starting on March 2 is seeking a way to prevent an explosive confrontation between them.

The dispute concerns the issue of the Eastern Rite Catholics, or Uniates, who recognize the authority of the pope, while using Orthodox ritual. The Greek Orthodox Church has accused Pope John Paul II of using the Uniates to expand his authority in

former Yugoslavia, Romania, and Ukraine. On Feb. 4, the Greek Church officially asked the Greek government to break relations with the Vatican.

Russian Orthodox "foreign minister" Kyril, who is the personal representative of Russian Patriarch Aleksii, headed the Russian delegation to the Geneva meeting. The Catholic delegation was headed by Australian Edward Cardinal Cassidy, head of the Congregation for the Unity of the Christians, and by Archbishop Pierre Duprey, who had recently concluded talks in Cairo with the leaders of the Coptic Church.

If the Geneva talks do not succeed, an Istanbul meeting of the Orthodox churches on March 15 is expected to be the beginning of an open confrontation. The Orthodox confrontationist faction is led by Greek Patriarch Seraphim.

Ukraine's opposition charts new policy

After a stormy three-day meeting, Ukraine's Rukh movement, the main parliamentary opposition to the government of President Leonid Kravchuk, ended with a decision to play a more positive role as a constructive nationalist opposition, rather than opposing Kravchuk across the board.

The Congress adopted a resolution whereby Rukh will decide on a case-by-case basis whether to support or oppose policies of the Kravchuk regime. The Congress also rejected a resolution which would have called for Ukraine to leave the Community of Independent States. Instead, the resolution states that Ukraine will remain in the CIS as long as it does not infringe in any way on the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine. This position corresponds precisely to formulations by President Kravchuk.

A new Rukh leadership was elected, in which the anti-Bolshevik former political prisoners, who were never tainted with Communist Party membership, became the new leaders of Rukh. Rukh is now headed by a troika consisting of its former chairman, Ivan Drach, and its two leading nationalist figures, Vyacheslav Chornovil and Mikhailo Horyn, who hold the real power.

● **ISRAELI** arms dealer Ya'akov Nimrodi has bought out the late Robert Maxwell's 87% share of Israel's second-largest daily, *Ma'ariv*, for \$14.5 million. Nimrodi, the controller of the Israeli Land Development Company, was Israeli military attaché in Iran during the 1970s and played a leading role in the arms-for-hostages deals of Lt. Col. Oliver North.

● **ARGENTINA'S** imprisoned nationalist leader Col. Mohamed Alf Seineldín has received a death threat, according to the weekly *El Informador Público* of Feb. 28. Seineldín was reportedly warned, through an anonymous phone call to his prison, not to appear at a scheduled court hearing, where he was to have been a witness in a fraud case, because there would be an attempt on his life.

● **RADIO MOSCOW** reported on March 2 that CIS Armed Forces Chief of the General Staff General Samsonov had arrived in Pyongyang, North Korea after a six-day visit to China. He said the purpose of his visit was to sign an agreement on military cooperation, and that "the nuclear issue was touched upon" in the discussions.

● **THE LIBYAN JUDGE** trying the suspects accused of the Lockerbie bombing has resigned, citing "insults to the Libyan judiciary . . . political pressures from inside and outside . . . and attempts to force me to violate the laws," according to the Libyan news agency JANA.

● **FORMER U.N.** Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, who retired from that post at the end of last year, has been named co-chairman of the Inter-American Dialogue, and will be working on a new project on "redefining sovereignty," the *New York Times* reported March 1. A native of Peru, he will be co-chairing the group with Sol M. Linowitz, former chairman of Xerox Corp.