

International Intelligence

In Soviet republics, 'a storm is gathering'

An editorial in the *Times* of London on Nov. 2 draws attention to the crisis in the former Soviet republics, which is being blissfully ignored in the West. The article is titled "The Bear's Troubles: Eastward the Land Is Dark, and Growing Darker."

"Europe has been bogged down by Maastricht, America by its elections, and both have not looked beyond the conflict in Yugoslavia," the article says. "But further East a mighty storm is gathering."

President Boris Yeltsin is being "cornered by his enemies," who want to return Russia to "evil totalitarianism," while "failure stares his reform government in the face. Hyperinflation has impoverished the nation. The stench of fascism rises from the crowds who parade their ethnic hatreds and jeer at Russia's fledgling democracy. . . . The President's popular support is falling rapidly, as the country slides into ungovernability. . . . His room for maneuver is growing ever less, the influence of his opponents ever greater."

But side by side with these dramatic words, the editorial hints at sympathy for the International Monetary Fund and other "monetarist reforms" in Russia, so the British elites have only themselves to blame, if they are now worried about what will happen in Russia.

Will Britain make Malvinas a new state?

A leader of Argentina's Constitutional Nationalist Party, Alberto Assef, charges that a secret plan is under way, "promoted by London, to design the future of the Malvinas [Islands], the Antarctic, and the South Atlantic." According to the periodical *El Informador Público*, Assef said, "Britain has decided that the Malvinas will be the beachhead of a new independent state, which will extend 3,000 km to the south, reaching the Pole, 2,000 km to the southeast to the South Sandwich Islands."

These plans are developing at the same time that Argentina is trying to join NATO and to create a South Atlantic Treaty Organization, with several European and Southern Cone nations.

The plan described by Assef would include areas historically claimed by Argentina. However, the extension south to the Antarctic would constitute a further British claim over a portion of this much-coveted region, rich in mineral wealth and oil. Under anyone else but President Carlos Menem, this would be taken as a direct threat to Argentina's national security. But Menem is busy handing over sovereignty to the British as fast as he can.

Vatican, Israel talks move toward recognition

The possibility of formal diplomatic relations between the state of Israel and the Holy See is not dependent on final agreement on such "political issues" as the status of Jerusalem, the Vatican's top diplomat in Israel told the *Jerusalem Post* on Oct. 17. Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, the apostolic delegate to Jerusalem, gave the first ever interview by any apostolic delegate to any Israeli paper.

Montezemolo reported that the Holy See and Israeli government have been holding "confidential meetings" for more than a year, intended to possibly "normalize relations between the Holy See and Israel." He was asked about a joint letter issued in July, signed by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Michael Saba, the Grand Mufti, the Anglican archbishop, and the head of the Greek Catholic Church, which asserted that any discussions between the Holy See and Israel must "naturally touch the status of Jerusalem." Montezemolo said the letter reflected a misunderstanding.

At the end of October, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. Following the meeting, the Vatican sent special envoys to Amman to meet with the Jordanian government, and also met with a Palestine Liberation Organization delegation in Rome.

Commenting on the negotiations, Anti-Defamation League Director of Inter-Religious Affairs Rabbi David Rosen told the *Jerusalem Post* that it would be a mistake if the Israelis now demand too much from the Vatican—for example, a commitment to eradicate anti-Semitism among Catholics in eastern Europe. Instead, Israel should stick to political issues. "It is far more in our interest to strengthen the hands of the Sons of Light in the Vatican and go ahead with all issues that relate between states," he told the paper.

Inaction on Somalia, Bosnia is 'inexcusable'

The current inaction by the world community in the face of the crises in Somalia and Bosnia is inexcusable, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross said in Tunis on Nov. 3. ICRC chief Cornelio Sommaruga criticized the nations of the world for failing to intervene in Bosnia to prevent attacks on civilians and relief convoys: "In Yugoslavia, what governments should have done was to prevent attacks against the population. How can such an ethnic elimination have been perpetrated without any intervention? . . . Yes, I am criticizing."

On Somalia, he said: "The community of states should take its responsibilities and implement the embargo decreed on arms entry to Somalia. This is an appeal. Is it possible that with such a situation in Somalia, arms and ammunition can enter this country? The international community should also act urgently to get the parties around a table for reconciliation and reconstruction."

Mohamed Sahnoun, an Algerian diplomat, resigned the week before as the U.N.'s special envoy to Somalia, criticizing the do-nothing attitude of the United Nations.

Europe is moving to restrict immigration

The interior ministers of the European Community (EC) have drawn up a scheme for

Briefly

restricting immigration into Europe, under the rubric of "harmonizing policy toward asylum seekers," the British Broadcasting Corp. reported on Oct. 22. British Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke denied the existence of the plan, but senior political figures interviewed by BBC expressed belief that something along these lines is under discussion.

According to BBC's Brussels correspondent, the new guidelines would "deny refugee status for those trying to escape from civil wars," and to those coming into Europe from "another continent." Those coming to Europe claiming to be escaping political persecution would have to "seek redress in their own country first," a truly breathtaking demand.

At least four groups within the EC structure are now working on the question of asylum, refugees, and migration. Senior intelligence sources in Europe have told *EIR* that draconian legal guidelines are first needed, so that military deployments to stem the flow of refugees can then be set into motion. The British, in particular, have been pushing for harsher measures, with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd having stated repeatedly that the main threat facing Europe would be from "refugees and migrations." The British currently occupy the presidency of the EC.

Britain cancels military exercises in Hong Kong

Great Britain has called off scheduled military exercises in Hong Kong, which were to have simulated a Chinese invasion of the colony, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported on Nov. 5. The decision to call off the exercises, which would have been only classroom simulations, was to prevent any further tensions with Beijing, already exacerbated by quarrels between Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten and the Chinese government.

A British military spokesman said, "It was a decision by Her Majesty's government, and it was felt that it wasn't the best time to hold an exercise of this nature." He

said that 150 soldiers and technicians of the Fifth Airborne Brigade were to have been shipped out from Britain for the command exercise.

The plan was stopped when newspapers leaked that the exercise was to be based on a scenario involving a breakdown in Sino-British ties and an incursion by Chinese troops. Mainland Chinese patrol boats have been entering Hong Kong waters in recent months, and there has been at least one armed face-off between marine officials from both sides. Chinese officials have boarded and hijacked more than a dozen ships leaving Hong Kong waters recently, confiscating goods they claimed were contraband.

Turkish Islamic party wins in local elections

Necmettin Erbakan's Welfare Party took control of 5 of 20 districts contested in local elections in Turkey on Nov. 1. Four of the five victories were in the province of Istanbul. "Welfare Party Shock in Istanbul," was the headline in the widely read daily *Hurriyet*. "The question of whether Turkey is entering an 'Algerian syndrome' can come to the minds of many people," the paper reported. The party took 24.5% of more than 500,000 votes cast.

The main opposition Motherland Party won in four municipalities with 22.8% of the vote. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's True Path Party took 16.7% and won in eight districts. Its coalition partner, the Social Democrat Populist Party, took 19.2% and three districts.

The Welfare Party advocates forming an Islamic state and overturning the secular tradition of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. It has condemned Turkish involvement in the war with Iraq; Turkish intervention into northern Iraq; and the presence of U.S. troops on Turkish soil since the war. Such positions, as well as its condemnation of International Monetary Fund privatization programs, probably account for part of its popularity.

● **IRAQI OPPOSITION** parties decided at the beginning of November to form a "temporary Iraqi government," headquartered in London. While the "government" of squabbling parties is expected to rapidly fissure, its official establishment provides the context for the Anglo-Americans to recognize it as the "legitimate" government of Iraq.

● **THE VATICAN** newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* on Nov. 7 urged Bill Clinton against promoting abortion and euthanasia: "Do not ever let freedom be deformed into devastating models of behavior elevated to norms of life, nor into license to strike the weakest, from yet unborn infants to the elderly on the margins of society. . . ."

● **BRITAIN'S** Prime Minister John Major squeaked by with a 319-316 "victory" in a confidence vote in the House of Commons on Nov. 4. Parliamentarians were subjected to threats, harassment, and blackmail in order to ram the vote through, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

● **SAUDI ARABIA** has turned down a PLO request for Yasser Arafat to visit the kingdom. The PLO's Subhi Abu Karsh met with Crown Prince Abdullah, the first such meeting since the Gulf war, in which the PLO supported Iraq. "We are brothers, but the issue needs some more time before this step can be taken," the prince reportedly said.

● **RUSSIAN MILITARY** officers are out to replace the government of Boris Yeltsin, said Stanislav Terekhov, chairman of a group of military dissidents, in an interview with the German weekly *Der Spiegel* published Nov. 2. He said they also disagree with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

● **ARGENTINA'S** President Carlos Menem will visit South Africa, announced Adm. Jorge Ferrer, the head of the Argentine Navy, as part of Argentina's effort to form a South Atlantic Treaty Organization.