

International Intelligence

Summit of Turkic nations is a failure

The first ever heads of state summit of Turkey with the Turkic-speaking states of Central Asia and Azerbaijan, which took place Oct. 30-31 in Ankara, broke up in disarray. The meeting included Presidents Abulfaz Elchibey of Azerbaijan, Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan, Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, and President Turgut Özal and Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel of Turkey.

Saying that he "opposes groupings based on ethnic and religious foundations," Kazakhstan's Nazarbayev, with the partial support of Turkmenistan's Niyazov, vetoed a proposed final communiqué which they said "might take them back to the Soviet model." The proposed lifting of customs barriers, establishment of a regional bank, as well as an agreement to transport Central Asian and Azeri oil and natural gas via Turkey, were stricken from the communiqué, which had been drafted prior to the conference by Özal. Only a vague statement of intentions was left in the document.

Commenting on the failure, one Turkish official told the newspaper *Cumhuriyet* that "Turkism, Islamism in particular, is no longer enough to obtain results in Central Asia without giving the Central Asian republics something tangible."

Partisan leader demands probe of Mattei's death

Italian industrialist Enrico Mattei's plane was blown up by a bomb, charged Raffaele Morini, chairman of the Catholic partisan organization in Pavia, Italy, in an interview with the newspaper *Il Giorno* on Nov. 9.

Mattei, a challenger to the "Seven Sisters" oil cartel, was the founder and president of the Italian oil company ENI. He incurred the wrath of the oil multinationals by offering 50-50 deals to the oil-producing

countries, training technicians from Third World countries so that they could develop their own national resources, and selling advanced technology to the Third World, including complete industrial plants. He also launched a policy of industrializing Italy's backward South, the Mezzogiorno. Mattei died in a suspicious airplane crash in 1962.

Morini, who succeeded Mattei as head of the Catholic partisan organization, revealed that he has a piece of wood belonging to Mattei's plane, which demonstrates that the plane did not crash on the ground, as the official investigation stated, but exploded in the air. Morini has filed a legal brief to the courts calling for reopening the case. He plans to deliver an address on this topic to a conference of the Schiller Institute in Milan on Nov. 27. The conference will be on the theme "Enrico Mattei and the Solution to Today's Economic Depression."

Il Giorno, the daily founded by Mattei and currently run as a joint venture between Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi and Christian Democratic leader Vittorio Sbardella, has focused attention on the figure and policy of Enrico Mattei in a way that has upset Italy's oligarchy.

Germany to pay millions to victims of Nazis

The German government has agreed to pay millions of dollars to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who previously received minimal reparations or none at all, the World Jewish Congress (WJC) reported on Nov. 6. The agreement could mean hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation for Jews in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, who were barred because of Communist rule from receiving West German reparations in the 1950s and 1960s.

The accord was signed in Bonn by the German Finance Ministry, the World Jewish Congress, and the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, WJC executive director Elan Steinberg said.

Steinberg said the agreement was the

result of 16 months of negotiations and fulfilled a condition included in the treaty that united East and West Germany in 1990. Steinberg said the agreement could cover an estimated 50,000 people, mostly from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The identification of the Jews eligible for the funding, and the conduit of the funds, will apparently be the responsibility of the two Jewish agencies.

Wolffsohn assails Holocaust fundraising

"The only thing building Jewish identity today is the holocaust," wrote Michael Wolffsohn in the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on Sept. 25. The Israeli-born Wolffsohn is a German historian who has repeatedly charged U.S. Jewish groups around Edgar Bronfman's World Jewish Congress with turning the Nazi Holocaust into a profitable political blackmail industry against the united Germany.

The reasons for this development, Wolffsohn wrote, lie in the composition of the Jewish diaspora in the United States, but also more broadly in the "fundamental dilemma of the Jewish community on a world scale."

"Like most Christians, most Jews today are secularized," he wrote. "Religion, therefore, determines neither their being nor their conscience. . . . Only a Conservative or Orthodox minority knows and practices Jewishness as a religion. Besides religion, the second traditional pillar of the Jews was their history. Through an auto-amputation, today's Jewish community has allowed the roughly 4,000 years of Jewish history to shrink down to the 12 years of the Nazi era and Holocaust.

"Deprived of religion and history, Jewish identity today can only be built by the Holocaust. For that purpose, the Jewish world needs the Holocaust as a builder of Jewish identity. To achieve that, it also needs Germany: no longer the real Germany of today (which is committed to democracy and human rights), but the murderous image

of the National Socialist Germany, or that which is almost-National-Socialist-again.

"That is why in the United States and other diaspora communities, Holocaust memorials are sprouting up like mushrooms. Under no circumstances does the Jewish community need the image of the real Germany of today; it needs the distorted image of the neo-Nazi Germany. It is in this context that one has to locate the disproportionate attention to xenophobia in Germany. Twenty percent for Le Pen in France or for his co-thinkers in Belgium is less stirring than 5% or 10% for right-wing extremists in Germany."

Drug cartel dominates Colombia's airfields

A secret 10-day survey of airplane takeoffs at legal airports across Colombia has revealed that at least half of the airplanes either have registrations that were linked to drug trafficking in the past, are fictitious, provisional, or have been canceled and are therefore flying illegally. The study was conducted by Colombia's anti-narcotics police. Nobody knows how many of the legal registrations are involved in drug trafficking as well, said the intelligence officer interviewed by *El Espectador* newspaper. The airports surveyed were in Bogotá, Villavicencio, Pereira and Cali.

"This is an alarming phenomenon," said anti-narcotics police official Col. Alfonso Arellano, "which until a few months ago was limited to illegal airstrips but which now has apparently been transferred to various major and alternate legal airports."

Gulf council calls for end to sanctions on Iraq

Persian Gulf Arab business leaders called on the United Nations on Nov. 12 to lift sanctions imposed on Iraq. The Council of General Union of Arab Chambers of Trade, Industry, and Agriculture, at its annual

meeting in Amman, Jordan, called for the U.N. to lift what it called the "siege" against Iraq. Representatives of Saudi Arabia left before the resolution was passed.

"The council unanimously agreed to call on the international community and its institutions and states to lift the injustices over the Arab people generally, including lifting the economic siege to reduce the suffering of the Iraqi people," the resolution said. "The atmosphere is now better, and we hope it will be more relaxed in the future," Hassan Zain al-Abidin, head of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce, told Reuters. The resolution also called for stepping up efforts to free Kuwaitis whom the Emirate says have been held by Iraq since the Gulf war.

Macedonian clashes raise fear of Balkan-wide war

In the Macedonian capital city of Skopje on Nov. 6, four people were killed and dozens injured in savage confrontations between armed police and several thousand ethnic Albanians. Macedonia is now under tight police control.

The London *Independent* reported on Nov. 9 that the confrontations "raised the specter of civil war engulfing" Macedonia, and "heightened fears that an explosion of ethnic unrest could provide a pretext for armed intervention by any of Macedonia's neighbors: Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, and Greece. . . . Macedonia's messy implosion could even set off a generalized Balkans war in which all Macedonia's neighbors, dissatisfied by their respective gains, start fighting each other. Two previous Balkan wars—in 1912 and 1913—followed the failure to agree on 'who gets what' in Macedonia."

Serbian party leader Vojislav Seselj, meanwhile, has demanded the partition of Macedonia among Serbia, Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria. The militias of Seselj's Radical Party have been responsible for some of the worst slaughters against Croats and Bosnians; he often says in public what Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic is thinking.

Briefly

● **THE ORGANIZATION** of American States has called on members of the U.N. to "renew their support" for the embargo imposed on Haiti, and to freeze Haitian assets abroad.

● **IRAN** asked India on Nov. 10 to help ease tensions in the Persian Gulf. "Domineering forces, with their extensive and massive military presence, are undermining tranquility, peace, and stability in this vital region by sowing division and animosity among regional countries," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told Indian officials during a visit to New Delhi.

● **ARGENTINA'S** Adm. Jorge Ferrer confirmed in an interview published in *El Cronista* on Nov. 12 that Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay have decided to create a new system for monitoring the South Atlantic Maritime Area. They will invite South Africa and several European countries to participate in what is described as an "intercontinental mechanism designed for ecological defense, application of maritime laws, and keeping peace and stability."

● **HEZBOLLAH** guerrillas have been sent to Bosnia, reports Reuters. Citing unidentified Muslim sources, the British news agency claims that 50 Lebanese fighters were sent Bosnia to "to train and organize Bosnian fighters."

● **CHINESE** Vice Premier Zhu Rongji threatened to rip up the agreement with Great Britain over Hong Kong, during an official visit to London on Nov. 16. Britain is supposed to transfer the colony to Communist rule in 1997, but Zhu contends that new British demands for "more democracy" violate previous agreements.

● **LIBYA** completed the appointment of a new cabinet on Nov. 18, designed in part to signal accommodation with the West. Foreign Minister Ibrahim Beshari, who had been intelligence chief when Pan Am 103 was downed over Scotland, was sacked.