

International Intelligence

Japan's Miyazawa nixes widening military role

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Jan. 29 ordered his cabinet to stop all talk of widening the military's role in the world by amending Japan's 1947 Constitution, which bans the use of force in foreign affairs. Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, Miyazawa's biggest rival, had called for the amendment so that Japan's army could be used in supranational U.N. operations.

"The Constitution is based on the concepts of pacifism and respect for basic human rights," Miyazawa said in a document read to the ministers. "These concepts must be upheld . . . the cabinet has no plans to table political discussions on amending the constitution."

Watanabe and other "hawks" from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party recently formed a parliamentary panel to look into constitutional revisions.

Poland institutes rule by decree

The Polish government on Jan. 19 approved the final version of a law empowering it to issue decrees in matters pertaining to management over the economy and state assets, government reform, public services, and the adaptation of Polish legislation to European Community standards. The government will draft a list of decrees and a schedule for implementing them.

The following topics cannot be subjects of any such decrees: constitutional amendments; presidential, parliamentary, or local government elections; the state budget; and civil and political liberties.

The law contains numerous safeguards: A decree will become effective after being signed by the President; a complaint about it can be made to the Constitutional Tribunal; some decrees will be issued in consultation with representatives of society, such as trade unions; the government will be answerable to the Sejm (parliament) for any violation of

the law caused by a decree.

The measures were announced amid growing popular discontent over the economic crisis, and the fact that most of the old pre-1990 functionaries are still in power positions in the state, including on the staff of President Lech Walesa. Several thousand people rallied in Warsaw on Jan. 29, calling for the resignation of Walesa. Interconnections between the old communist nomenklatura and pro-International Monetary Fund structures in Poland are held responsible by many for the population's increasing misery.

Germany's 'Dr. Death' is jailed on cyanide charge

Henning Atrott, president of the German Society for a Humane Death (DGHS)—the German version of Michigan's Dr. Jack Kevorkian—was arrested on Jan. 25 in a hotel in Hamburg, while selling cyanide pills to a prospective victim. German law forbids sale or distribution of cyanide. Although it has long been known that the DGHS has been selling cyanide, Atrott has always denied it.

It may very well be, however, that there will be no prosecution against Atrott for murder, since a medical certificate says that the intended victim, a psychiatric patient, was of sound mind, and that it was therefore an act of his own free will to commit suicide. In that case, Atrott would only be guilty of selling cyanide to him; helping a person to commit suicide is not forbidden by German law.

Atrott will stay in jail until his trial. The charges are, so far, trade with cyanide and tax evasion.

The Club of Life has distributed a press release calling upon the justice system to finally prosecute Atrott for his real crimes, and to ban the DGHS.

According to Atrott's own statement at the 10th anniversary celebration of the DGHS, the organization is responsible for the deaths of about 5,000 people, whom it "helped" to commit suicide.

Brazil's Cardoso wants partnership with Britain

Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso proposed a "political partnership" with Great Britain, during a visit to Perfidious Albion, the newspaper *Gazeta Mercantil* reported on Jan. 29. "We aren't asking anything from Great Britain; we want to be political partners and from that point, broaden our commercial relations," he said.

Cardoso, a former executive committee member of the Inter-American Dialogue, met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Office's Secretary for Europe and Latin America Tristan Garel-Jones, and others, during his Jan. 25-28 visit.

The British offered to begin by maintaining a constant exchange of information with Brazil on the world political situation at the highest level. "Douglas was *absolutely* delighted with his meeting yesterday" with Cardoso, Garel-Jones told the press. "He showed him how we could really be part of the same world. The minister is another example—and an excellent one—of the new Latin America." They think alike on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the need for a negotiated solution for Angola, he specified.

Russian warning: Cossacks in Sarajevo?

As reports mount that some kind of western military move into ex-Yugoslavia is being readied, an article by Russian "ex-officer" Sergei Sidorov, reprinted in the French daily *Libération* on Jan. 19 from the Russian military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda*, warns sharply against such an eventuality.

The article is entitled, "Does the West Want to See Cossacks in Sarajevo?" Speaking of the Serbs, who are members of the Orthodox faith, he writes that the Cossacks "promise their co-religionists determined assistance if, in Yugoslavia, there is foreign aggression."

Sidorov claims to have been in Belgrade

Briefly

on the Orthodox Christmas Eve, where he met the representative of the "renascent Cossack community of Kuban," reserve Col. Valery Goncharenko. Goncharenko, who served for more than 30 years in the Red Army, said: "We have enough volunteers to bring here an Army Corps that will be composed of men having experience in modern warfare."

Sidorov reports that there are already Russian volunteers fighting on the side of the Bosnian Serbs, under the slogan, "For the Slavs, for Orthodoxy, for Russia."

Sidorov adds: "A dialectical link is apparent between the developments of the Yugoslav crisis and the internal political situation in Russia. The prolongation of the anti-Serb positions of the West, to the point of armed intervention, can lead to a complete turnaround of the foreign policy of Russia, which would not be without implications for the internal problems. . . . To speak frankly, the West reminds me of a drunken railway conductor who, seeing that he is heading toward catastrophe, steps on the accelerator and the brake at the same time." The West must end its "demonization" of the Serbs, or it might again see the Russians participating in a war on the side of the Serbs, as has happened before in this century, he warns.

Peruvians vote, in defiance of terrorists

Peruvians turned out in record numbers on Jan. 29 to vote in municipal elections all around the country, despite armed strikes and threats by the terrorist Shining Path to kill anyone who ventured out to vote. Bus and taxi drivers had been threatened, but citizens piled into trucks or whatever transport they could find in order to get to the polls.

There were some incidents of terrorism and bombings, but a large military deployment kept things relatively calm. President Alberto Fujimori told the press, "The world can see that here in Peru there is a true electoral and democratic climate, evidenced by the massive turnout at the polls." He under-

scored that there were only 11 jurisdictions in which elections did not take place, and that this "had nothing to do with terrorism."

By and large, citizens rejected the traditional parties and voted for independent candidates. Fujimori's own party did not do well. Out of 30 important mayoral posts, independents won 15, and the rest were divided up among various parties. The APRA party of former President Alan Garcia was smashed, winning only two important cities, one of which, Trujillo, is its traditional base of support. It lost control of virtually all the municipalities in the north, which has historically been pro-APRA.

Yeltsin appeals for bloc with India, China

Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the Indian Parliament on Jan. 29 that peaceful relations among the three largest nations (India, China, and Russia) could be a stabilizing factor, "not only in Asia but in the world." Yeltsin praised India's attempts in the last three years to improve ties with China, which he said matched Moscow's moves in the same direction.

Yeltsin told a news conference that he wanted to "strike a balance between East and West. It is my hope that you support this. We have neither a pro-western nor a pro-eastern foreign policy." The alignment of Russia, China, and India could be a "major force" to balance U.S. and European interests, Yeltsin said. "In Asia, we do not consider anyone as a potential adversary."

"In the military sphere," he said, "we have a tradition with India, and we do not intend to destroy that." He announced that Russia would go ahead with its plans to sell rocket engines and expertise to India for its space programs, over loud U.S. protests. "When two great countries, in this case India and Russia, sign an agreement, it is not businesslike or proper to breach that agreement," Yeltsin said, after meetings with Indian officials. "And no third party can interfere with its fulfillment. So we will deliver the cryogenic rocket engines as agreed."

● **GEORGIAN** President Eduard Shevardnadze's special envoy appealed to the U.N. for deployment of troops to help settle the regional conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. On Jan. 29, the envoy said, "There is imminent danger that this conflict may spill over the boundaries of Georgia and implicate other states in the region."

● **IRAQ** is reviewing international relief operations on its territory. According to U.N. sources, Baghdad is preparing its response on renewing a memorandum of understanding which expires at the end of March. One U.N. official called it "a very delicate matter."

● **FRANCE** has unofficially asked Italy for bases for military intervention into the Balkans, according to Italian newspapers. Some in the Italian government oppose this, on the grounds that France, first, has to say clearly which side is the victim, and second has to accept the Italian right to sovereign co-decision on whatever mission is launched.

● **AN ISRAELI** High Court ruled that the expulsion of over 400 Palestinians was within the law, based on the British emergency regulations in Palestine before Israel's creation in 1948. The move paves the way for more expulsions in the future. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the decision gave him a "warm feeling."

● **THE NON-ALIGNED** Movement is attempting to pull together a Third World front for the world conference on human rights in Geneva in June. At a U.N. workshop on human rights in Jakarta, Asian and Mideast officials insisted that the right to economic development was the most important human rights issue.

● **ISRAELI** parliamentarian Yael Dayan, the daughter of Moshe Dayan, rejected "paranoia" over her meeting with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called her trip "a disgrace to the Labor Party."