

International Intelligence

'Democrat' Yeltsin shuts down free press

The Russian government of Boris Yeltsin on Oct. 14 ordered 15 opposition newspapers to close, sacked the editors of two others, and banned the St. Petersburg television program "600 Seconds."

Pravda, which before the August 1991 fall of communism was the organ of the Soviet Communist Party, was ordered to change its name and its editor; similar instructions were given to *Sovietskaya Rossiya*. An order issued by the Press and Information Ministry accused them of helping organize the Oct. 3-4 "uprising" which led to the storming of the parliament building. Most of the 15 newspapers closed had already been suspended under the state of emergency imposed by Yeltsin, but they have now been ordered to close permanently.

On Oct. 15, the editors of the daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* faxed a message to western newspapers in Moscow, warning that the government is moving to close it down or put it under the direct control of Yeltsin's "inner circle." The technicality being used as a pretext for the move, is that *Nezavisimaya Gazeta's* legal founder was the Moscow City Council, which has now been disbanded. The paper has been given a month to renegotiate its status.

Beijing sends troops to suppress uprisings

China's military leaders have dispatched troops to a city 2,200 miles west of Beijing, allegedly to protect ethnic Chinese under threat of attack from Muslim separatists, UPI reported, citing stories told by travellers to the region. The reports from Kashi (Kashgar), in Xinjiang province, come as China announced a crackdown on another uprising of Muslims in the capital of a neighboring province also heavily populated with Muslims.

Protesting against a Chinese book of cartoons which they said insults Islam, more

than 10,000 Muslims demonstrated in the Qinghai provincial capital of Xining. Meanwhile, reports of terrorist bombings in Xinjiang's second-largest city of Kashi, in a heavily Muslim region bordering Pakistan, have filtered out of the mountainous Himalayan region for months, but the travellers' accounts provided the first real information about the target and scope of the Army crackdown.

The witnesses said convoys of Army trucks "stretching as far as the eye could see," many carrying heavy artillery, moved into Kashi in September. Units of the People's Liberation Army were called into Kashi and the surrounding area more than two months ago to smash the separatist group known as the East Turkestan Party, the travellers said.

Anti-government uprisings have occurred with increasing frequency in recent years.

Bosnian accuses Owen of perfidy in Balkans

European Community mediator Lord David Owen created the conflict between Croatia and Bosnia, and then stepped in to try and take control of it, charged Bosnian U.N. Ambassador Mohamed Sacirbey in an address to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 13.

When the Geneva process started, said Sacirbey, there were only two forces. "There were the forces of the Serbian nationalists on one side, and those, of course, included the paramilitary units, the Chetniks, the former Yugoslav Army forces, as well as other irregulars from Bosnia and outside of Bosnia. And on the other side you had [Bosnian] government forces allied with the [Croatian] HVO forces.

"From my discussions with people who were very close to Mr. Mate Boban [leader of the Croats in Bosnia], it was quite evident to me that Lord Owen had, in fact, instigated a split between the HVO forces and the Bosnian forces by offering HVO—

Mr. Boban—significant territory way beyond Mr. Boban's own expectations under the Vance-Owen plan. In doing that, Lord Owen had, in fact, hoped to establish not a process that involved negotiations between two parties, but effectively involved negotiations between three parties.

"What was the purpose of all of this? It, in fact, legitimized the view that this was a civil war of ethnic groups. And this was a view that was strongly voiced by certain European leaderships. . . . [Lord Owen] then hoped to be the party that would bring them together and therefore control the nature of the war as well as the peace in Bosnia."

Sacirbey went on to charge that "some of the generals and other high officers who are there as part of the 'peacekeeping force' are not taking their orders from New York, but are taking their orders from their respective capitals. And these respective capitals have their own agendas in trying to destabilize the Sarajevo government."

LaRouche comments on Greek election results

The victory of socialist Andreas Papandreou in the Greek national elections of Oct. 10, means that the likelihood of Greece joining in a Balkan war is now significantly greater, said U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche on Oct. 14, in a radio interview with *EIR Talks*."

The result, he said, "increases greatly the danger that Greek forces will move against Albania, and will move into the Macedonian capital of Skopje, thus triggering or at least accelerating a generalized Balkan war which will engulf most of central Europe and other parts of the world."

Papandreou's opponent, incumbent Prime Minister Konstantin Mitsotakis, "was brought down because Mitsotakis went along with IMF [International Monetary Fund] economic and related policies," said LaRouche. "That weakened him, because these policies are savage, they're brutal, and the Greek people had enough of this kind of torment. So they voted for Papandreou,

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because they thought Papandreou would be easier on them economically.

"But Papandreou is much more of a racist fanatic, or at least his machine is; and the KKE, the Communist Party of Greece, are racist fanatics in this respect.

"So the danger that Greek forces will try to intervene, to try to run away from continuing domestic unhappiness by a diversionary military escapade abroad, a foreign military adventure, is far greater now, than would have been possible under Prime Minister Mitsotakis."

NATO and U.N. brass meet in Argentina

Top officials of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Oct. 8, at the invitation of the Argentine Foreign Affairs Council, for a seminar on the subject of "Global Security." NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner, Deputy Secretary General Amedeo De Franchis, Director of the Department of Analysis and Forces Planning Jonathan Day, and U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Mar rack Goulding were among those in attendance.

In covering the conference Oct. 12, the Argentine daily *Página 12* raised the possibility that NATO might serve as the armed branch of the United Nations. The U.N. just doesn't have the financial resources to do this effectively, the paper argued. This idea was rejected by Amedeo De Franchis, who told Argentine reporters, "I don't think NATO can become the U.N.'s armed wing globally." However, he had admitted earlier that "only NATO has the forces, communications, logistical and command capabilities, and professionalism to direct these military operations."

Speaking to reporters, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella admitted his government's interest in creating a South Atlantic defense alliance which would coordinate with NATO. This idea has been raised often by military and civilian leaders

linked to Anglo-American geopolitical interests.

Di Tella particularly indicated a desire for closer economic and military ties with "post-apartheid South Africa." He called for the South Atlantic to become a "zone of peace" based on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, while virtually admitting that a British presence in the region, including its claim on the Malvinas Islands, would be recognized.

Mexicans angry about Operation Blockade

The Mexican daily *Excelsior* on Oct. 12 editorialized that the recent visit of U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to Mexico was "of little consequence" because she refused to discuss the issue which has Mexicans very angry: the "Operation Blockade" unilaterally imposed by the United States along the border, to keep out illegal immigrants. The daily also chastised Reno on the issue of drugs, saying that she should begin by cracking down on the drug trade inside the United States. U.S.-Mexican cooperation should be carried out with full respect for national sovereignty, *Excelsior* added, noting that "it is the Americans who violate our sovereignty, using any excuse, something we have never done to them."

On the same day, the daily *El Universal* issued a violent editorial attack on Operation Blockade, saying that such actions always fail to resolve the problem they claim to deal with. "The migration problem cannot be approached as a police or military action."

The Mexican Bishops Conference also harshly attacked the U.S. moves as "unreasonable, illogical, and inhuman." These are just some of the "unacceptable" pressures being exerted on Mexico, the bishops underscored. Arnulfo Rodríguez, secretary of the Catholic Church's Pastoral Commission, charged that there is a deepening of racist and xenophobic attitudes directed toward the Hispanic population in the United States. Laws which identify immigrants as criminals "are completely out of place," he asserted.

● **YASSER ARAFAT** has invited PLO-linked unions and organizations to move to the West Bank town of Jericho after Israel starts to withdraw in December. "This will permit the unification of the inside and outside wings of the unions and organizations," said Arafat on Oct. 15 at a meeting with Revolutionary Council members of the PLO's mainstream movement Fatah. There are 14 PLO-linked unions, mostly based in Tunisia or Jordan.

● **ALBANIAN** activists, most of them from the LDK party, were arrested in Kosova in July by the Serbians and are still being held, according to the Human Rights Committee in the Kosova capital of Pristina. The committee charges that over 90 activists are in prison, and 7 Albanians have been killed by police, either in jail or in the streets.

● **ARIEL SHARON** of Israel's Likud party is calling for a "canton" plan for dealing with the West Bank. He calls for limited Palestinian control in areas where a high concentration of Palestinians live. These areas would have no territorial continuity. Sharon is also mobilizing Jewish settlers against the Rabin government's peace accord.

● **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ**, the Nobel Prize-winning pro-terrorist leader from Guatemala, said on Oct. 14 that a Menchú Fund had been created in Mexico the previous week, to aid indigenous leaders in travelling to areas where their "help" is needed. She complained that they weren't able to send anyone to investigate the alleged massacre of Yanomami Indians in Brazil.

● **EGYPTIAN** Defense Minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi warned Muslim militants that he would use the military against them if the state's security were endangered. "The armed forces are the last defense line. The armed forces, which are a cellular tissue of the Egyptian body, cannot stay idle toward the threats that may harm this tissue," he said in an interview with *al-Ahram* newspaper.