

International Intelligence

Parisians demonstrate against deschooling bill

Six hundred thousand people demonstrated in defense of public education in Paris on Jan. 16. Coming from all regions of France, the demonstrators included teachers, students, parents, and trade unionists, many of them Catholics.

The French government catalyzed this protest by introducing a bill aimed at changing the Falloux Law, dating from 1850, which defines the responsibility of the national government in financing and controlling schools. The new law was to decentralize the financing of the school system, allowing regional and local authorities to finance private schools in a new way. More than a fight between parochial and secular schools, many people feared the onset of competition between private schools and public schools, driving ultimately to a decentralization and privatization of the school system.

Despite the fact that the left-wing parties and a few Freemasons are trying to use this popular mobilization for their own purposes, this large, peaceful demonstration reflected a deeper anxiety about the visible dismantling of the French state apparatus, in the name of economic liberalism.

Kozyrev tells Estonia, Latvia: We're staying

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev declared that Russian troops will not leave the Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia. Kozyrev was addressing a conference on Russian policy toward the Community of Independent States and the Baltics on Jan. 19.

"We should not withdraw from these regions, which have been in the sphere of Russian interests for centuries, and we should not fear these words," he said. Kozyrev called the "protection" of the "Russian-speaking population" in the former Soviet Union "one of Moscow's main strategic interests."

The news agencies Tass and Interfax stressed that Kozyrev had specifically included Estonia and Latvia in his definition of regions from which Russia will not withdraw. Kozyrev added that "though military domination is not in Moscow's interests, it would be dangerous to create a vacuum because it might be filled by unfriendly forces." His speech came only three days after the Russian Army's "shoot to kill" order was given to Russian forces in Estonia and Latvia, if attacked or "provoked" by officials or forces of the Estonian or Latvian governments.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, asked to comment on Kozyrev's threats on Jan. 19, said he was "a bit worried," but said he wanted to see the full text of the Russian foreign minister's remarks before commenting further. Kinkel said that no such views had been voiced by Kozyrev when he met him shortly after the Russian elections, so that the report about Kozyrev's latest remarks did not seem to reflect what the Russians have told them their policy on the Baltic issue is. Kinkel invited the foreign ministers of the three Baltic states to Bonn.

Britain backed Azeris in war with Armenia

The British government knew of and gave "tacit support" to an Azerbaijani operation to recruit British mercenaries for its war against Armenia, reported the London *Independent* on Jan. 24, citing Lord Erskine of Rerrick, who was involved in the project. The Foreign Office admitted that it knew of the project, even as it also admitted that there is officially a British arms embargo against both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Lord Erskine, who is a consultant to senior Azerbaijani ministers, confirmed that negotiations were in an advanced stage between Azerbaijan and a group of British and Turkish businessmen, in a company called Summit (Consortium) Ltd., to arrange the deal. A Turkish businessman, Mustafa Mutlu, and an unidentified British businessman, both based in Turkish-occupied Northern Cyprus, were the pointmen for the deal. The

Independent reported that Azerbaijan was prepared to pay up to £150 million annually, drawn from its oil revenues, for arms and mercenaries. Privately chartered Russian aircraft had been put on standby to begin flying in arms and men.

Sources identify Lord Erskine as an operative of British intelligence. He was named last year by Michael Mates, then Northern Ireland minister responsible for security affairs, as a "member of the security services." The British government denied this, but has now admitted that he had been providing information to the Foreign Office, which he had told last year of the plans to supply Azerbaijan with men and weapons, during a meeting with a senior ministry official.

Civil Rights Movement chooses slate in Germany

The Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity, a political party in Germany founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, held its national convention on Jan. 23, and elected a slate of candidates for the June 12 elections for the European Parliament.

Mrs. LaRouche gave the keynote speech, underlining that the ruling politicians have failed to find a way out of the economic and political crises, and that the task of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity is to step forward into that policy vacuum and provide leadership. She described particularly the crisis in Italy, where the traditional parties have fallen apart and new parties have been created, but there remains a programmatic and political vacuum.

The politicians missed the great historic opportunity of 1989, when communism fell, she said, and so we are now faced with potentially the worst catastrophe in modern history. The situation in Russia is a threat to world peace, and the western financial system is in a systemic crisis, which could lead to a collapse like that of the Middle Ages.

The slate of candidates elected includes Helga Zepp-LaRouche; Anno Hellenbroich; Helmut Eichinger, farmer; Werner Similowski, miner; Monica Ripamonti, pianist;

Dr. Helmut Böttiger, publisher; Katharina Surek, nurse; Heiko Ziemann, electrician; Elke Fimmen; Stefan Blassauer, farmer; and Karl Kasimir, insurance agent.

The convention was addressed by Jacques Cheminade of the Schiller Institute in France, who recalled the great French-German humanist heritage, from "Colbert, Carnot, Leibniz to LaRouche," and called on everybody to join that "family." A representative from Bosnia appealed to the participants to continue the fight to save Bosnia, and blamed European politicians for having betrayed the culture and dignity of their countries. Vladimir Matveev of the Russian Democratic Movement also addressed the meeting.

Is Britain's Hurd blackmailing Turkey?

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd may be blackmailing Turkey to drop its support for Bosnia, according to reports from Europe.

A well-informed defense source in London said that "Turkey will be put into a corner" by parallel diplomatic moves coming from both the West and the East. "The Turks are very nervous about the situation in Bosnia, with winter conditions causing more deaths, and the Serbian spring offensive, which will come. It is time to call in our debts with the Turks. They have been given a lot of money by Europe. We should be telling them, 'Bring your friends, the Bosnians, into line, and make sure they agree to a diplomatic settlement, or you're going to lose aid from the West.'" He said such diplomatic and economic threats could readily be complemented by pressure on Turkey from the Russians.

As he was speaking on Jan. 20, Hurd was in Turkey for talks including the German and Turkish foreign ministers. Hurd said, according to BBC, that "the Bosnian Muslims [sic] had to decide what was in their best interest"—continued fighting or a diplomatic settlement. The onus, in other words, is entirely on the multi-confessional government in Sarajevo, which Hurd calls

"the Muslims." Hurd was also reported to have said, according to unnamed British sources cited by BBC, that Britain had "not decided yet" whether to withdraw its troops from Bosnia.

Linked to all this, is a report in certain British newspapers, that the Turks are demanding assurances from Britain that Britain is not planning to help create an independent Kurdish state.

Pope to parents: Turn off the television

Pope John Paul II attacked television and challenged parents to "simply turn the set off," in a message for the church's 38th World Day of Communication on Jan. 24. He said that television for the most part had negative effects, and spread "degrading values and models of behavior by broadcasting pornography and graphic depictions of brutal violence." It offered "distorted, manipulative accounts of news events," used advertising to exploit base instincts, and glorified false visions of life.

He said that even when individual programs were not morally objectionable, the medium still had a negative effect by isolating family members "in their own private worlds." "Forming children's viewing habits will sometimes mean simply turning off the television set: because there are better things to do, because consideration for other family members requires it, or because indiscriminate television viewing can be harmful," he said. "Parents who make regular, prolonged use of television as a kind of electronic baby-sitter surrender their role as the primary educators of their children." Video-dependency is depriving families of conversation, shared activities including prayer, and leaves little time for other sources of news, entertainment, education, and culture, he said.

Parents should not take the assault from television sitting down, but join together to demand higher standards. "To guarantee that the television industry will safeguard the rights of the family, parents should express their legitimate concerns to media managers and producers," he said.

Briefly

● **CROATIAN** intellectuals, members of the Catholic clergy, and refugees in Zagreb have founded the Assembly of Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in opposition to the proposed three-way ethnic carve-up of the republic. A spokesman said that Mate Boban, the acting president of the self-styled "Croat Republic," did not represent the political will of his ethnic kin in central Bosnia.

● **WILLY BRANDT** suspected that there was another top communist spy in his entourage, besides Günther Guillaume, Brandt's widow, Brigitte Seebacher-Brandt, revealed in an interview with the German daily *Bildzeitung* on Jan. 24. In related news, Gerhard Fleischle, an editor of Deutschlandfunk radio in Cologne, was arrested on Jan. 20 and charged with having been a spy for East Germany's foreign intelligence service.

● **TURKISH PRESIDENT** Suleyman Demirel called for the end of U.N. sanctions against Iraq, in an interview with Reuters on Jan. 18. "The people on the street in Iraq suffered too much from the sanctions. Turkey also suffered a lot from the sanctions, millions of dollars," he said. "The territorial integrity of Iraq is very important. If it is broken down there will be great problems in this part of the world."

● **NORTH SOMALIA** rebel leader Mohamed Ibrahim Egal has called on the West to recognize the break-away state of Somaliland and give it aid. "The West must recognize our state as sovereign. The decision to end our union with Somalia is final," he told reporters. Somaliland, which used to be a British colony, declared its independence from Somalia in May 1991.

● **PAKISTAN** sealed its main Khyber Pass border post with Afghanistan on Jan. 24, preventing a U.N. relief convoy and refugees from crossing the frontier. The move follows a new round of fighting in Afghanistan which began on New Year's Day.