

International Intelligence

Japan's premier visits Southeast Asia

Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama visited the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore, the Japanese Embassy in Hanoi said in a statement on Aug. 16. Murayama, the first Japanese prime minister to visit Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, started his week-long tour in Manila on Aug. 23 before coming to Hanoi on Aug. 25-26.

Japan wants to expand investment opportunities and promote intra-regional trade in Southeast Asia, the statement said. Murayama's visit to the region "will not be limited to reaffirming the close governmental relationships in economic cooperation and other areas," it said. It was also expected to promote economic, cultural, and non-governmental exchanges.

"This year marks the start of a new era in Southeast Asia," said the embassy, noting that Tokyo supports the integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with communist Vietnam and other Indochinese nations. Murayama's visit "is an opportunity to strengthen policy dialogue, both to identify new guideposts for relations with Southeast Asia, and to be more aware of their expectations of Japan."

Balaguer scores British geopolitics 'off record'

Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer, in his seventh swearing-in on Aug. 16, reaffirmed his commitment to building infrastructure projects, even though his term will only last two years this time, due to U.S. pressure on him to hold new elections in 1996. The President then warned Dominicans "off the record" about "foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the Dominican Republic," an obvious reference to high-handed U.S. attempts to impose Inter-American Dialogue member José Francisco Peña Gómez as President.

Balaguer also presented proof for his oft-repeated charge that there is a plan to

merge the Dominican Republic with Haiti, from which it gained independence during the last century: "During the contract that was recently signed to refinance the public debt with private companies, mostly American, the following clause was inserted, and I quote: 'This contract will be fulfilled in the same terms, even in the case that the Dominican Republic enters into economic integration agreements with other countries, or in the case that the Dominican Republic fuses with another country in the Western Hemisphere.' This contract was ratified by the National Congress, and I am very surprised that neither the deputies nor the senators paid attention to this clause."

Moreover, he said, in 1984 Great Britain shut down its embassy in Santo Domingo, and to obtain a visa, Dominicans "had to travel to Port-au-Prince or some other foreign country. Strangely, the British action was followed by Canada," said Balaguer. "For me, this calls for profound reflection, as it should for all Dominicans, because Great Britain is a country inhabited by pragmatic people, a country that prides itself in saying that there are only two races in the world: the British race, and the human race."

Beijing journal: China should beef up Navy

The Chinese government magazine *Viewpoint* has published a belligerent call for the People's Republic of China to strengthen its Navy and take control of the contested South China Sea. Under the headline "The Aircraft Carrier Dream of the Chinese People," the article complains that various islands in the Spratly chain, which are claimed as Chinese territory, are being occupied by troops from Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia. "From 1985, the annual rate of extraction [of crude oil] of these countries is between 30 and 50 million tons, almost approaching one-third of China's annual rate of extraction."

It also complains of Japanese plans to protect its shipping lanes through the South China Sea, where 80% of Japanese oil im-

ports must traverse. The article concludes: "It must be known that without an aircraft carrier battle group, there is no way China's Navy can effectively protect the Spratly national marine territory, so richly endowed with mineral resources."

Karadzic threatens pope's Sarajevo visit

Bosnian Serb dictator Radovan Karadzic leveled thinly veiled threats against Pope John Paul II who will visit the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo on Sept. 8. Within 24 hours of Karadzic's threats, the Vatican said that it is pressing ahead with plans for the papal visit. The Vatican said the pope would leave Rome's military Ciampino airport at 8 a.m. on Sept. 8. He will hold talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at the presidency building in downtown Sarajevo at 10:30, before celebrating mass at the city's skating stadium, which was built for the 1984 winter Olympics. After having lunch with Roman Catholic bishops, John Paul II hopes to hold talks with other religious leaders before returning to Rome.

Karadzic said late on Aug. 18 that Bosnian Army troops could try to attack the pontiff's aircraft and pin blame on Serbian forces. "The Muslims can shoot him down and abuse the Serbs," Karadzic told a news conference in Pale. Karadzic continued, "We did not give our own consent [for the visit] because of security reasons. I would not recommend it without full guarantees by all sides."

Rwanda Catholic Church decimated by killings

Estimates are that the war in Rwanda has eliminated one out of every four Catholic priests in that country, where over 75% of the people are Catholic, according to the Catholic magazine *30 Days*. Of 392 local priests missing, only 99 have been certified as dead. It is not known how many religious were killed, but they were believed to have been killed "en masse." "There have been

political and tribal clashes in the past but there have never been such systematic attacks on the church," said Fr. Andrea Havugimana, a Hutu. Most church clergy were Tutsi, but the hierarchy was Hutu. The Hutu archbishop of Kigali and two other bishops with him were killed by the Rwanda Patriotic Front. "That there was a plan was evident from the beginning," said Father Havugimana. The church found itself "considered enemies on both sides," he said.

Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, after visiting Rwanda in late June, reported to *30 Days*, "The church has been decimated, completely dismantled, its surviving members scattered. It is in a state of shock after experiencing the worst of horrors. It is not just the massacre of the three bishops, or even of about 100 priests and numerous male and female religious. Think, too, of the vast number of other innocent victims who probably number about half a million." The cardinal continued: "The church has a huge role to play, especially in terms of reconciliation. It will have to inject a strong dose of mutual forgiveness in this country."

Irish President calls for help for Third World

Irish President Mary Robinson paid a visit on Aug. 21 to Grosse Ile, Quebec, the former quarantine station where thousands of Irish immigrants died of cholera and dysentery during the 1847 "summer of sorrow." This small island was also the site of a top-secret military laboratory for the development of biological warfare in World War II. Robinson urged Canadians to honor the memory of the victims by reaching out to people suffering today in Third World nations, reported the Toronto *Globe and Mail*.

In addition, Finbar O'Kane, a spokesman for an Irish-based group called Concern International, who came to Quebec to mark the Irish President's visit, said that famine in the 20th century, as in the 19th, is the result of political acts, not natural disasters. "The causes of the Irish famine in 1845 and the famine among Rwandan refugees in

1994 are exactly the same," he said.

President Robinson's trip coincides with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip's tour of Canada and the run-up to the Sept. 12 Quebec provincial election, where the question of "independence" is the number-one issue.

Rival rightists form alliance in Germany

The one-time rival extreme right parties of Franz Schoenhuber and Gerhard Frey, respectively the Republikaner (REP) and the German People's Union (DVU), have formed an electoral alliance which they hope will put them over the 5% threshold for parliamentary representation. Both parties, which have figured in the "fascist/anti-fascist" destabilization of Germany, especially since reunification, proclaimed their intention to form an "anti-leftist alliance."

The new development fits nicely with the formation of phony "anti-fascist alliances" among Germany's extreme left, and is aimed at escalating staged conflicts between the left and the right to create a controlled environment for political debates during the campaign for national parliament elections in Germany which began at the end of August and ends Oct. 16.

An immediate objective of this dirty scenario, which includes heavy assistance from the mass media, is the replacement of incumbent Christian Democratic Chancellor Helmut Kohl with a government coalition that is brought to power by an orchestrated "majority vote against the conservatives."

The most likely suspects in the operations to oust Kohl are in London, which conveniently used German neo-fascist violence against foreigners as an excuse to denounce the Christian Democrats as proponents of a "Fourth Reich." These elements are intent on keeping Germany under "political occupation," and want a combination of Greens and Social Democrats to form a minority government. In this scenario, the "post-communist" PDS (the name adopted by the former East German communist party) would play a pivotal role from the outside.

Briefly

● **MANFRED WOERNER**, the late NATO secretary general, had expressed his deep frustration over the Serbian aggression against Bosnia in off-the-record remarks last year, Georgie Anne Geyer revealed in her column on Aug. 21. "I had the British defense minister sitting exactly there, where you are sitting, and I was trying to convince him that the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims should be lifted. . . . I am the head of the most powerful military organization in world history—and I can do nothing."

● **YASSER ARAFAT** told Argentine television interviewer Bernardo Neustadt on Aug. 16 that the terrorist bombing of the AMIA building in Buenos Aires, which housed a Jewish social welfare agency, was directed at sabotaging the Middle East peace process.

● **RUSSIA'S** deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council, Valerian Viktorov, told an Aug. 18 press conference that members of the Community of Independent States are "fed up with their sovereignty" and that Russia is "the locomotive capable of pulling them out of crisis."

● **THE EVANGELICAL** churches of Germany and the Netherlands have presented a joint initiative to the World Council of Churches meeting in Geneva, calling on item to denounce the open support of the Serbian Orthodox clergy for the belligerency of Radovan Karadzic and the Bosnian Serbs.

● **COLOMBIA'S** former President Julio César Turbay Ayala and numerous other prominent Colombians have sent President Ernesto Samper Pizano an open letter urging him not to sign the Cairo population conference's final document: "The vision of man implicit in the document, elaborated against the poorest countries by some of the wealthiest, will doubtless lead to moral ruin and consequently the material ruin of civilization and the disappearance of a truly human culture."