

# International Intelligence

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## **More Britons tar the House of Windsor**

"Britain increasingly resembles a car with a new engine but an ancient and rusting body. As with the car, the problem can only get worse." This is how the London *Independent*, in its lead editorial on Oct. 8, described the corrosive effect on Great Britain of the British monarchy. As *EIR* reported last week, the latest sex scandals concerning Princess Diana have triggered an outpouring of anti-Windsor commentaries in the press.

The *Independent* charged that the recent Labour and Liberal Democratic Party annual conferences, with all their debates on issues, have been totally superseded by "the most important development of recent years," which is "all about the House of Windsor." The newest scandals have only underscored "the endemic character of its present crisis," and will "further weaken its standing in the country." The mood among Britons now is, in the vast majority, that Prince Charles should never be allowed to become British monarch, which raises questions about the fate of the royal house in the post-Elizabeth II era.

"The monarchy no longer enjoys unconditional support and esteem," the *Independent* commented. "Its long-term future is impossible to predict with certainty." This reflects certain "changing cultural mores" in the United Kingdom, but the "royal trauma" goes far beyond this. It is a "crisis of national identity," of the very notion of "Britishness," which the monarchy has always heretofore embodied. Britain is faced with the crisis of the "outdated and ossified nature of the national institutions" that purport to represent the country.

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## **Beijing's maneuvers cause alarm in Taiwan**

The People's Republic of China completed its largest-ever war exercises in the South China Sea and simultaneously in the Taklimakan Desert at the beginning of October.

The show of force of the rapidly growing Chinese Navy included 50 large warships and a full deployment of fighter and bomber planes, with 10,000 officers and men. The exercise was led by He Pengfei, the son of Marshal He Long.

People's Liberation Army ground and air forces participated in the Xinjiang exercises, the first of their kind. Lanzhou Military Region Commander Liu Jingsong told reporters that the PLA was participating in "air-land exercises in this ancient desert, simply because the Gobi-type desert terrain, which was quite beyond reach of any armies and was avoided in past wars, has become an arena for contention in high-tech warfare today and in the future." Xinjiang borders the increasingly unstable Central Asian Republics, and is the home of a large number of the Muslim nationalities.

Taiwan stepped up its state of alert in response to Beijing's maneuvers in the Taiwan Straits, Air Force Commander in Chief Tang Fei said on Oct. 6. Beijing's "Shen Sheng 94" exercise off the coast of Fujian Province follows its large-scale "East Sea Four" maneuvers in September, held in the Taiwan Straits between Taiwan and the Mainland.

"Besides military implications, there are obvious political implications to holding so many exercises in a year," Tang said.

The previous week, Taiwan held its biggest military exercise in a decade, where it showcased its locally designed Indigenous Defense Fighter aircraft. Taipei has agreed to buy 160 M-60A3 tanks and 150 F-16 fighters from the United States and 60 Mirage fighters from France, in an attempt to counter the Mainland's military strength.

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## **Who is lying about Colombia's drug mafia?**

Juan Gossain, the news director of the Colombian radio chain RCN, issued a challenge on Oct. 6 to Colombian President Samper Pizano, demanding that he sue former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) chief in Bogotá Joseph Toft, to find out "who is lying."

The week before, Toft gave an interview to Colombian reporters, in which he charged Samper Pizano, and his predecessor César Gaviria (now secretary general of the Organization of American States), with being stooges of the drug cartels and described Colombia as a "narco-democracy," infiltrated from top to bottom by the drug mafia. (See the *Andean Report* in last week's *EIR* for the full story.)

Gossain says he is sick of all Colombians being tainted by the "narco" brush and, as the representative of the Colombian nation, Samper has a responsibility to defend his country's honor. "Enough of lukewarm communiqués!" writes Gossain to Samper. "We ask, in the name of the decent people of Colombia, that you bring suit, to know if Mr. Toft is telling the truth, in which case those guilty of corruption must resign. If Mr. Toft is lying, the courts should put him behind bars. But no more lukewarm communiqués, no more silence. . . . If you have nothing to fear, Mr. President, then act!"

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## **Azerbaijan declares state of emergency**

Azerbaijan's President Geidar Aliyev imposed a state of emergency on Oct. 3 and sent tanks into the streets of his capital, after special Interior Ministry police, known as the OPON, seized the general prosecutor to demand the release of jailed colleagues.

Aliyev said the seizure of General Prosecutor Ali Umarov, who was freed after being held overnight by a 100-man unit of OPON forces, amounted to a "coup d'état." The OPON troops withdrew to their base in a suburb of the capital, Baku, and exchanged fire briefly with government forces, Reuters reported.

Russian news agencies linked the incident at the prosecutor's office to a row between Interior Minister Ramilk Usubov and his sacked deputy, Rovshan Javadov.

Aliyev urged the OPON troops to surrender their arms. But Javadov defied the order as he spoke from inside his headquar-

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ters: "The President is surrounded by corrupt people who've pushed our country to the brink of civil war. We want the convening of an extraordinary session of parliament," Javadov told Reuters.

He said he had objected to the arrests of three OPON members on suspicion of involvement in the killings the week before of deputy parliamentary chairman Afiyaddin Jalilov and Aliyev's security chief, Shamsi Ragimov.

Javadov called for the resignation of the general prosecutor and interior minister, demands rejected by Aliyev. He did not make clear what he intended to do next.

At least 15 T-72 tanks were parked in the backyard of Javadov's headquarters. Several hundred OPON troops remained holed up inside. About 20 busloads of government troops watched the base from just up the road, but did not interfere.

"Aliyev is mad. He's Russia's man," said a young OPON soldier quoted by Reuters. "There'll be civil war if he doesn't meet our demands."

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### Mexico City archdiocese defends Samuel Ruiz

A communiqué issued by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Mexico City, published in the daily *Excelsior* on Oct. 10, defends Samuel Ruiz, the bishop of San Cristóbal de las Casas, saying that he has been accused of being the ideologue and leader of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN).

The statement singles out for attack the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) and Lyndon LaRouche. It lies that the MSIA, which it describes as a group of "integrist," was behind death threats directed at the Jesuit Order and was responsible for recent raids on a center for spiritual exercises in Guerrero. "Apparently, fascism and integristism are again in vogue not only in Europe but also here in America," the statement adds. It lies that the movement founded by Lyndon LaRouche, "which has extended into Latin America, has established links with right-wing military sectors

with fascist tendencies, guided by Tradition, Family, and Property."

While claiming that the entirety of the church is under attack, the archdiocese statement reflects hysteria from radical Theology of Liberation circles over the MSIA's effective exposure of Samuel Ruiz's role in subverting Mexico.

The same issue of *Excelsior* also reports that Cardinal Pio Laghi, the Vatican's prefect for the Congregation of Catholic Education, sent a letter last May to the provincial of the Jesuit Order in Mexico, José Morales, announcing that an "apostolic visitor" will be assigned to inspect the operations of 16 Mexican institutes and religious seminaries run by advocates of Theology of Liberation. The purpose of the visitor's trip will be to determine whether the doctrine taught at these centers is in accordance with the evangelical guidelines dictated by Rome.

According to *Excelsior*, the Vatican has decided that the bishop of Zacatecas and president of the Commission on Doctrine, Javier Lozano Barragan, will be the Holy See's official visitor. Lozano Barragan is known as a hardliner against the EZLN and the Theology of Liberation.

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### German parliamentarian: Lift embargo against Iraq

Hans Stercken of the Christian Democratic Union, head of the German parliament's foreign policy committee and an ally of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, played down the threat of a new war against Iraq and called on the United States to end the sanctions, in an interview with a German radio station on Oct. 10.

"I do not see a new Gulf war looming," he said. "I have the impression that Iraq wants to demonstrate its strength to the world to force an end to the sanctions.

"What has happened in Iraq [due to the embargo] is terrible. . . . My French friends, the Turks, the king of Jordan, and many others I have spoken with cannot see any political sense in the sanctions any more. They all assume that the reasons are more commercial than political."

● **PANAMA'S** Legislative Assembly voted on Oct. 6 by a wide margin to constitutionally prohibit the nation from having an Armed Forces, permanently. "The law allows for the training of police forces to defend Panama in case of foreign aggression," says Reuters (with a straight face). Panama is now the second country in Ibero-America, after Costa Rica, to eliminate its own defense capability.

● **SIR EDWARD HEATH**, former prime minister of Great Britain, called for direct American and British talks with Iraq's Saddam Hussein. The London *Guardian* of Oct. 10 quoted Heath: "If you send an ex-President over to North Korea to sort that one out, and send the ex-President to Haiti to try to sort that one out, why can't the Americans and British arrange to have face-to-face talks?"

● **MIKHAIL GORBACHOV** has launched an attack against Russian President Boris Yeltsin, accusing him of acting like a dictator. In an interview with the weekly newspaper *Moscow News*, Gorbachov said that the Yeltsin era is beginning to resemble the Soviet Union's "stagnation" period in the final years of Communist boss Leonid Brezhnev.

● **AGENDA-PERU**, a Lima group, has been invited to Canada by the Canadian Governability Institute and the North-South Center to speak on its methods of promoting "participation" by all social sectors in solving the country's problems. The methods involve sensitivity groups and brainwashing sessions, which focus on ethnic and cultural "diversity," a justification for separatism.

● **JACQUES DELORS**, the outgoing president of the European Commission, may run for President of France in the next election on the Socialist ticket. In an interview with the daily *Libération* on Oct. 12, he said that he would make an announcement on Jan. 6. Delors is the author of a "White Book" on European infrastructure development.