

International Intelligence

Grachov accused of supplying Chechen arms

If you want to know who gave all those arms to the Chechens in the first place, ask the same Defense Minister Pavel Grachov who has now ordered the intervention in Chechnya, this was the message delivered by former Commonwealth of Independent States military head Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, on Russia's popular "Itogi" television show on Jan. 10. In a dramatic gesture, Shaposhnikov pulled out a numbered directive to the head of the North Caucasus Military District, written and signed by Grachov himself, ordering that 50% of the arms located in Chechnya at the time of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, be given to the Chechens.

Shaposhnikov later was interviewed by France's *Le Figaro* newspaper. Now the head of the official Russian arms-export concern, he heatedly denied that he himself had authorized such arms transfers. "I don't know Grachov's motives, but the fact is, I was completely against this." Asked by *Le Figaro* whether a successful conquest of the Chechen capital of Grozny would turn the tide in favor of President Boris Yeltsin, Grachov, and the rest of the liberal "reform" clique, Shaposhnikov responded: "Look at Napoleon. He took Moscow, but then lost the war."

South Africa seeks arms markets in Asia

South African Defense Minister Joe Modise arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Jan. 11 for a four-day visit, after concluding a similar four-day visit to Singapore.

Singapore is expected to help market South African-built weapons. On the list are sophisticated mine-clearing equipment and medium and light armaments. Plans are also afoot for joint land exercises and officer exchange programs. Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said after a visit to South Africa in December that Singapore was considering an offer for military training and test facilities there, as well as possible defense

technology cooperation.

Malaysia has said South Africa's Reutech, which markets equipment from the Armaments Corp. of South Africa, is short listed to supply a backup mobile radar system for Kuala Lumpur's international airport. Armscorp loaned the system now in place after a fire last August knocked out the existing system. Malaysia is also interested in Armscorp's Rooivalk combat helicopter.

Malaysia was among a handful of countries that sent high-ranking army officers to South Africa in November to watch a live-firing display of the country's top-of-the-line weapons.

Since Malaysia normalized relations with South Africa after the election of Nelson Mandela, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz have visited there. South African Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel came to Malaysia in October 1994, and Deputy President F.W. de Klerk made a private visit in December.

Europeans weigh end to sanctions on Iraq

France is stepping up plans to reopen trade with Iraq, since its recent decision to open up a French diplomatic representation in Baghdad within the Romanian diplomatic mission. The Association of Franco-Iraqi Economic Cooperation is setting up a joint three-day conference in Baghdad to promote trade, at the end of February. This conference will gather Iraqi and French government officials as well as state and private industries.

A delegation of Iraqi administration and military people is expected in Bonn at the end of January, to present a firsthand report on the enormous suffering caused by the embargo. Germany took over the chair of the special U.N. sanctions commission on Jan. 1.

The French economic daily *La Tribune* reported on Jan. 9 that the Israelis encouraged French openings toward Iraq. Israeli motives for this positive initiative partake of the same geopolitical "logic" which led Israel to boost Desert Storm against Iraq to

start with: "Israeli leaders keep repeating this in the last months: Contacts must be reopened to Iraq in order to counter the weight of Iran whose nuclear program is considered dangerous by Jerusalem," *La Tribune* stated. On Jan. 9, the Israeli daily paper *Haaretz* wrote that Iraq may be ready to recognize Israel, and has asked for Morocco's mediation between the two countries.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright continues to lobby against lifting sanctions.

Likud: Rabin plotted with PLO in 1992

Yitzhak Shamir, the former prime minister for the Likud Party which lost the 1992 election in Israel, charged that recently published allegations about the actions of Israeli Labor Party official Ephraim Sneh during the Middle East peace talks in Madrid before the elections "border on treason." Supposedly Sneh, acting at Yitzhak Rabin's behest, had urged the Palestine Liberation Organization to ensure no headway was made in the talks; Sneh is now health minister in the Rabin government.

Current Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu has requested an "inquiry commission" into the matter. Yet Shamir himself had confessed that he had no desire for the Madrid peace talks to bear any fruit.

The allegations appear in the recently published memoirs of PLO peace negotiator Abu Mazen. Both Labor and PLO officials have denied the charges, and author Abu Mazen told reporters that the narrative was inserted in the book without his knowledge, by an aide.

Did professionals kill Detlev Rohwedder?

Professionals rather than the Red Army Faction terrorists killed Detlev Rohwedder in April 1991, Franz Wauschkuhn, the former press spokesman of the Berlin Treuhand agency, wrote in a Jan. 9 *Berliner Morgenpost* review of the Rohwedder era at the

agency. The Treuhand, charged with overseeing the transformation of the former communist East German state sector, officially concluded its job on Dec. 31, 1994.

"The Red Army Faction, were they the circle of assassins? Statements, speculations this night (Easter Monday, 1991) were too premature. Was it the Stasi? I remained silent. One thing was clear: It was a calculated, highly professional murder. Most of my colleagues at the [Treuhand] with whom I talked about it later on, found the RAF version not very plausible," Wauschkuhn recalls. Rohwedder opposed the free-market looting of the East; his death hurt Germany's chances for opposing the "shock therapy" solutions which have undermined the recovery of the former socialist sector.

Pro-government Tamil leader shot in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's peace process suffered another setback with the assassination of a pro-government Tamil politician on New Year's Eve. Murdered was Karavai Kandasamy, 56, the vice president of the leftist Democratic People's Liberation Front, at his home just outside the capital. The assailants escaped after exploding a grenade.

It is believed that the rival separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Tamil Tigers) were involved in the killing, although no one claimed responsibility.

Kandasamy's slaying came amid intelligence reports that the Tamil Tigers had sent a six-member suicide squad to Colombo to assassinate President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Deputy Defense Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, and several others.

More potshots at the House of Windsor

"Britain's Monarchy 'Doomed'" is the banner headline in the Jan. 9 London *Guardian*, continuing its propaganda offensive about Britain's evolution in the direction of some form of "republic."

The article is based on the findings of a

"comprehensive opinion poll." According to the poll, "The majority of the queen's subjects believe that the royal family is doomed and will disappear in the coming century. Most young people between the ages of 15 and 25 believe they will see the end of the monarchy in their own lifetimes."

Particularly unpopular is Prince Philip. Only 8% say that the Duke of Edinburgh is "doing a good job." The *Guardian* speaks for the British establishment group which, as Lyndon LaRouche stressed, has "strategic, historical motives" for dumping the royal family. LaRouche, writing in the Oct. 28, 1994 issue of *EIR* on "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor," proved that Prince Philip is not only the titular head of the criminal conspiracy to use "environmentalism" as the cover for perpetrating willful genocide, but has played that role fully consciously.

First U.K. troop curtailment in N. Ireland

The chief of police for the Northern Ireland Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) Sir Hugh Annesley announced on Jan. 12 that British troops would no longer accompany regular police force officers "during daylight hours." This is the first reduction of the blanket security presence in the province since the IRA and Loyalist cease-fires last fall. The British troops were sent into Northern Ireland in 1969 as an "alternative" to the largely Protestant police force. Sinn Fein leaders cautiously welcomed the curtailment as "a small but important step on the road to total demilitarization." Loyalist leaders affiliated with the Democratic Unionist Party denounced the move as a "crazy concession to the IRA."

Britain's Major government has ruled out a total withdrawal of its 18,000 troops "until the current truce turns into a permanent peaceful settlement," Reuters reported. The British government has so far refused to admit Sinn Fein representatives into all-party negotiations until the arms of the IRA are decommissioned—a unilateral demand that cannot be met.

Briefly

● **BEIJING** has sentenced Tong Yi, the translator for China's most famous dissident Wei Jingshen and a liaison between activists and reporters, to two and a half years of hard labor, without a trial on Dec. 22, according to the New York-based group Human Rights in China.

● **COAL MINERS** numbering more than 100,000, went on strike in northern Kazakhstan in mid-January and vowed to stay out until the government meets their demands. The government, which is implementing free-market policies, owes the workers \$50 million in back pay. According to the regional miners' union leader, pit workers were being forced to sell off possessions to buy bread.

● **THE ALGERIAN** opposition meeting in Rome was greeted by the U.S. State Department on Jan. 13 as "a process that could lead to a non-violent solution to the Algerian crisis." *EIR* covered it last week as the basis for a potential rapid solution to the Algerian civil war.

● **MONZER AL-KASSAR** went on trial in Spain on Jan. 9 for several charges of drug and arms running, passport fraud, bribery, and money-laundering. The Syrian-born international arms and drug dealer is a key collaborator of the George Bush-Oliver North secret government network.

● **BOUTROS-GHALI**, the U.N. secretary general, in his January 1995 "Blueprint for Peace" admitted that the U.N. was not in a position to field troops with a mandate to use military force, because it suffered from lack of resources.

● **THE ARAB SUMMIT** in Egypt in early January between Saudi King Fahd, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was a first step toward reestablishing some sort of Arab unity or coordination in the Middle East peace process, say Mideast sources. The meeting is considered one of the most important developments in the last four years.