

International Intelligence

Japan's Hashimoto names unknowns to cabinet

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Chairman Ryutaro Hashimoto was formally elected Japan's Prime Minister Jan. 11, with 288 votes against 167 in the Lower House for Ichiro Ozawa from the opposition Shinshinto Party. "I wish to start out with a cabinet that can work to create a new Japan," Hashimoto said. He proceeded to name a cabinet composed almost completely of unknowns.

Socialist Party "shadow Finance Minister" Wataru Kubo was named finance minister and deputy prime minister, in what Tokyo sources said was basically a kamikaze mission. Kubo will be roasted by the media and the opposition as he carries out Japan's plan to use \$6.78 billion of taxpayers' money to bail out Japan's bankrupt \$140 billion *jusen* home loan firms. Japan has no choice but to do this, as long as the U.S. "tap dances" around the problem of the *global* financial reorganization, as economist Lyndon LaRouche repeated in a Jan. 10 interview.

Other key cabinet selections suggest Hashimoto has sought a strong team for an expected parliamentary clash with the opposition. As chief cabinet secretary, which post coordinates between the cabinet, bureaucrats, and the opposition, Hashimoto chose Seiroku Kajiyama. Kajiyama, 69, of the LDP old guard, is a skilled dealmaker and electoral strategist. Tokyo analysts said his long experience in LDP backrooms means he knows the thinking of former LDP Secretary General Ozawa, now the opposition leader.

The foreign minister is Yukihiko Ikeda, who will coordinate the upcoming U.S. summit with President Clinton in April and field demands from Okinawans for cuts in U.S. military bases.

Hashimoto also appointed Japan's first woman justice minister, Ritsuko Nagao, a non-politician and retired civil servant. She will handle the issue of outlawing the doomsday cult Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth Sect) using the new anti-subversion law, which Hashimoto's faction also

wants to use to go after powerful Buddhist groups in Japan who are part of Ozawa's opposition coalition.

London mouthpiece seeks gay marriage law

Starting with a front cover that has two men holding hands on top of a wedding cake, the London *Economist* of Jan. 6-12 endorses gay marriage in an editorial titled "Let Them Wed," and devotes three more pages of news coverage to the subject under the title, "Moreover: It's Normal to Be Queer." Apparently, the British are in the process of admitting that sodomy is the glue that holds up the Empire. Excerpts from the editorial in the City of London's mouthpiece include:

"In the 25 years from 1960 [sic], divorce rates soared throughout the west—more than sextupled in Britain, where divorce appears inevitable for the world's most celebrated marriage, that of Charles and Diana Windsor. Struggling to keep law apace with reality, Britain's Tory government is even now advancing another marriage reform. . . . Can gay marriage be a good idea—now?

"To understand why the answer is yes . . . in truth, the state's involvement in marriage is both inevitable and indispensable. Although many kinds of human pairings are possible, state-sanctioned marriage is, tautologically, the only one which binds couples together in the eyes of the law. By doing so it confers upon partners unique rights to make life-or-death medical decisions, rights to inheritance, rights to share pensions and medical benefits; just as important, it confers upon each the legal responsibilities of guardianship and care of the other. . . . Traditionalists are right about the importance of marriage. But they are wrong to see gay marriage as trivial or frivolous. . . .

"Homosexuals need emotional and economic stability no less than heterosexuals—and society surely benefits when they have it. . . . For society, the real choice is between homosexual marriage and homosexual

alienation. No social interest is served by choosing the latter. To this principle of social policy, add a principle of government. Barring a compelling reason, governments should not discriminate between classes of citizens. . . . Even granting that, the case of homosexuals is more complex than the case of miscegenation—especially when handing out something as important as a marriage license. Thus the question becomes: Is there a compelling reason to bar homosexuals from marriage? . . . Would gay marriage weaken the standard variety? There is little reason to think so. Indeed, the opposite seems at least as likely: permitting gay marriage could reaffirm society's hope that people of all kinds settle down into stable unions. . . . The direction of change is clear. If marriage is to fulfill its aspirations, it must be defined by the commitment of one to another for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health—not by the people it excludes."

Human rights 'mafia' ups ante against Brazil

Survival International and Oxfam have launched a renewed worldwide campaign against the Brazilian government, for allegedly backing down from the policy of designating enormous tracts of lands as "Indian reserves." What provoked the attack, was the government's decision to revoke Decree 22, issued by President Collor de Mello in 1991, which gave unchallenged powers to the state Indian Affairs agency, FUNAI, to designate Indian reserves, as its anthropologist directors saw fit. Under Decree 22, an area the size of the nation of Uruguay had been designated a "protected" area for a few thousand Yanomami Indians (condemning them to permanent cannibalism and short lifespans).

According to Brazilian press of Jan. 10, Survival International, the "indigenous rights" non-governmental organization founded by Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund, announced it will lodge protests against the Brazilian government with the

Briefly

RUSSIAN President Yeltsin, in Paris Jan. 12 for the memorial for Mitterrand, said he was in perfect health, and met with French President Chirac and German Chancellor Kohl. It was his first foreign trip after a heart attack last October.

A CATHOLIC quarterly based in Switzerland, *Philomena*, ran a story in its December 1995 issue titled, "Political Prisoners," by Dr. Gerd Weisensee, president of the Catholic Journalists Association in Switzerland, highlighting the use of "show trials and misuse of justice" in the United States, in the cases of Lyndon LaRouche and his political associates.

AUSTRALIAN Sen. Ian Macdonald, in his Jan. 10 address to the Young Liberals' national convention, encouraged his audience to "join the search of American thinkers and new wave politicians across the spectrum from Democratic Vice President Al Gore to House Republican Leader Newt Gingrich, for the right solutions for the new age."

ASSASSINATED Turkish industrialist Ozdemir Sabanci, who was shot to death on Jan. 10, had come out for a policy of reviving the great past of the Baghdad Railway, as a vital link between the Dardanelles and the Gulf of Basra.

BULGARIA'S National Assembly on Jan. 9 discussed a no confidence motion in the government of Prime Minister Zhan Videnov, which is blamed for a drastic food supply crisis. The government decreed a total ban on all exports for the time being, to guarantee a minimal supply of the population during the winter period.

BORDER conflicts between Peru and its northern and southern neighbors, are heating up rapidly, the Peruvian press reported Jan. 9. Tensions between Peru and Ecuador have escalated over Ecuador's intended purchase of Kfir planes from Israel (now temporarily postponed by the Israeli government).

Human Rights Commissions of the European and British Parliaments, and the U.N., and will campaign to force Brazil to give an accounting of how it spent the \$22 million it received from the World Bank to cover the costs of demarcating reserves. The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief issued a statement calling the decision "the greatest defeat for Indian rights in past years."

The government has not, however, revoked the overall policy of demarcating reserves, but only that decree, which had become the focus of political heat from cities, towns, states, the military, and business groups, which objected to the fact that FUNAI's decisions could not be challenged. Thus, the government simultaneously announced the final designation of the size of 16 Indian reserves, involving over 3.6 million hectares of land, which includes the Yanomami reserve. Another 10 reserves, totaling another 1.86 million hectares are to be demarcated shortly, with the proviso that objections can be filed within 60 days of their announcement.

France's Mitterrand loved Venice

"A great doge," is how French political commentator Alain Duhamel characterized the former French President François Mitterrand, who passed away Jan. 8, in the daily *Libération* Jan. 12. According to Duhamel, people have mistakenly characterized Mitterrand as a "Florentine," because of his "Machiavellian" methods. But, he "less resembles a Tuscan prince, than one of the great Venetian doges, Andrea Dandolo, for example, for whom he had a predilection." Among the great attractions for the late French President, was to go to the Venetian cemetery of San Michele, or to the Monastery of St. Catherine in the Sinai.

After several paragraphs, Duhamel concluded: "Like the great doges of Venice, he had an aristocratic and formalist conception of power; like them, his taste for power placed him at the service of his Republic. . . . Like the great doges, he had his secrets

and his dark shadows. . . . The mask of exhausted and conquering sovereign that he wore on his deathbed was truer than the personage of joyful Cupid to which one is tempted to reduce him."

Admiration for Venice is one thing Mitterrand had in common with the current prime minister of France, the highly unpopular Alain Juppé, who wrote a book extolling the Venetian style of politics. As has been the case historically, the Venetian oligarchical method crosses religious and political lines—Mitterrand was a Socialist, Juppé is nominally a right-winger.

Armed movements in Algeria are regrouping

All hell has broken loose in the ranks of the Armed Islamist Groups (GIA), the terrorist movement in Algeria which has been manipulated by the Military Security forces of the government. According to French press reports Jan. 11, the GIA issued a release Jan. 2 which appeared in its *Al Ansar*, announcing its decision to "declare war" on the Islamist Salvation Front (FIS) and its military wing, the Islamist Salvation Army (AIS). The statement further accuses the "Algerian wing" of the FIS of trying to launch a "coup d'état," thus confirming indirectly that it, the GIA, had killed two leading representatives of this FIS faction, Mohamed Said and Abderrezak Redjam, and 15 of their associates.

Meanwhile, in a communiqué issued Jan. 10, the FIS declared that the new government appointees of Algerian President Zeroual are a far cry from the radical shift he had promised upon "election."

FIS sources in Germany expressed to *EIR* their disappointment with Zeroual, who, after having promised a policy of dialogue, has remained closed to the FIS. Zeroual has not responded to the Open Letter which proposed direct talks. Instead, they say he has nominated pseudo-Islamist figures, hoping to convince the public that he has opted for dialogue.