

# International Intelligence

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## *Japan welcomes China's economic development*

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said that China's economic development contributes to Asian and global stability, in remarks on Aug. 28, one week before his departure on a four-day state visit to China. "I firmly believe that the development of China's economy will contribute to further stability in China, Asia, and the world as a whole. We will continue to attach importance to our economic relations with China and extend economic cooperation," he said.

Referring to a flap that erupted in August over remarks by a Japanese official concerning possible conflicts in the Taiwan Strait, Hashimoto said that, on issues related to Taiwan, "We sincerely hope that the parties concerned on both sides of the Taiwan Strait will reach peaceful solutions through dialogue." As to Japan's relationship to such issues, he said, "It is crystal clear that Japan will never become a military superpower. It is indispensable for us to have more dialogue to defuse the Chinese concerns. . . . In light of the importance of future Japan-China relations, the present situation is not good enough. Therefore, we must expand opportunities for dialogue."

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## *China strengthens ties to ASEAN nations*

China's Prime Minister Li Peng's visit to Malaysia on Aug. 21-24 is viewed as of "extraordinary significance," the Hongkong daily *Wen Wei Po* reported in a commentary on Aug. 21. "China has called for the establishment of a new international political and economic order, an important point of which is to support and promote the world's development toward a multipolar direction, and to regard ASEAN as an important 'pole,'" the commentary stated.

If Cambodia joins the Association of Southeast Asian Nations this year, a 10-member "Greater ASEAN" structure will take shape and constantly improve itself, and

a common market consisting of all ASEAN countries will also take shape," the commentary stated. Chinese-ASEAN cooperation "is of the utmost importance to safeguarding peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and to the development and construction of the two 'poles' themselves."

At the "ASEAN Informal Summit" in December 1997, of heads of state of the ASEAN nations, plus China, Japan, and South Korea, ASEAN and China are expected to sign a document on "Chinese-ASEAN Relations," to "build a new pattern of political and economic cooperation between the 'Greater ASEAN' and China. Asked about this document, Malaysian Ambassador to China Mat Ami said that if it is signed, it would be the "first political document expounding the bilateral relations between ASEAN and a non-ASEAN country. . . . Premier Li Peng's . . . current diplomatic offensive into Southeast Asia should be regarded as an important step on the part of China to promote a new multipolar international political and economic order and as an important act in a series of diplomatic plays by China in the second half of 1997."

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## *Germany, Iran prepare to normalize relations*

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamal Kharrazi issued a statement Aug. 25, responding to press accounts, that German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel had invited him to enter negotiations, which had been in limbo, since the "Mykonos" trial in Germany against alleged Iranian state-backed terrorists earlier this year. Kinkel denied that he had received any such invitation, but stated his willingness to accept, if one were extended. Kharrazi told reporters that if Kinkel or the European Union should invite him to the negotiating table, he would welcome it, according to the Teheran news service IRNA.

In an interview with *Iran News* Aug. 26, Kharrazi also said that "the Islamic Republic is ready to cooperate with other countries for combatting terrorism," and that "Iran will cooperate with other countries to counter terrorism no matter in what form this menace

is." In his first press interview since his confirmation, Kharrazi said Iran's foreign policy was based on "independence, equality, non-interference into internal affairs of other nations, and mutual respect." "The new government in Iran is ready to talk with other countries in order to remove any misunderstanding, to build mutual confidence, to eliminate tension, and to promote peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole," Kharrazi said.

In an interview in the Aug. 27 *Neue Ruhr Zeitung*, Kinkel welcomed the fact that Teheran had "extended its hand," and said he thought a meeting could take place at during this month's meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York.

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## *Kenya's Moi attacks IMF secret agenda*

Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi denounced the International Monetary Fund on Aug. 27, on the eve of talks with an IMF team on a blocked aid package. The IMF blocked the aid, under the claim that Kenya lacks "good governance." It made the decision the same week that Rwandan strongman Paul Kagame flew to Nairobi, to threaten Moi for his protection of Rwandan Hutu refugees.

"I have held talks with both the IMF and the World Bank in Mombasa, and this will continue in Nairobi," Moi told a crowd in Mombasa. He said both institutions had a "hidden agenda" to target Kenya, and had pushed the country to the wall, even after it had implemented their demands in the past in return for aid. "Why don't they do the same to South Africa, which has not even freed its foreign exchange controls?" he asked. "Is it because of the white people there?"

Meanwhile, in tandem with increasing IMF pressures to topple Moi, the British-run Kenyan opposition proclaimed the formation of a "provisional constituent assembly" on Aug. 28, at a three-day meeting in Nairobi of 300 members of several opposition parties. The meeting was called to force President Moi to enact externally demanded re-

**KENNETH KAUNDA**, former President of Zambia, was shot on Aug. 30, in what he called an assassination attempt ordered by high-ranking Zambian officials. Kaunda was struck on the forehead by a bullet, as police fired on his car, after they moved in to break up a rally of the National Opposition Alliance in the town of Kabwe north of Lusaka.

**INDONESIA** has declined President Nelson Mandela's offer for South Africa to serve as the venue for the continuing All Inclusive East Timorese Dialogue. Antara, the Indonesia news agency, reported on Aug. 28. Indonesia Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters, "Our wish is that Austria would become the permanent venue of the AETD."

**ISRAEL** is actively considering joining the British Commonwealth, following the "unofficial approach" in July by Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku, to the Israeli ambassador in London, Moshe Raviv. Raviv told the *Jewish Chronicle*: "Although there has been no formal approach from the Commonwealth, some people in the organization have suggested that Israel join. . . . I cannot see any drawbacks and view it as a favorable possibility."

**IRAN** accepts the Dayton plan for peace in the Balkans, despite its discrepancies and shortcomings. Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research Abbas Maleki said at a round-table conference on changes in the Balkans and the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Teheran in late August. He said that the accord had ended bloodshed, and the people and politicians in the Balkans considered its existence better than nothing.

**NORTH KOREA** has "no prospect" of becoming food self-sufficient in the near future. Catherine Bertini, head of the UN World Food Program, told reporters in Canberra on Aug. 27. "They are not currently in a position to feed themselves. This food aid will be necessary for some time."

forms, before the upcoming parliamentary elections. The government has already announced that it will enact no such reforms until after the election.

The meeting also proclaimed that if the government does not comply with its demands, it will declare its "provisional constituent assembly" to be the ruling assembly of the country. It also called for "mass actions" to pressure the government.

Responding to these threats, Moi told a Nairobi rally, "There are some people who want chaos. We do not speak to people whose mandate comes from the streets. Those who can negotiate about the constitution are parliamentarians, against parliamentarians."

## **Expert says Algerian junta runs terrorism**

Maghreb expert Bruno Etienne told the Aug. 30 daily *Le Figaro* that, as far as he was concerned, "three out of four assassinations," in the Algerian civil war, "come from the ruling power. To be more precise, the latest assassinations stem from the fact that the military junta, contrary to any other faction, refuses to negotiate with the Islamic Salvation Front." The FIS, as the Front is known, had won the first round of elections in 1992, when the military cancelled the elections, and seized power. Since then, the junta has run a counter-insurgency civil war against the Islamists, under the cover of combatting the terrorist Armed Islamic Groups (GIA)—which is heavily infiltrated by the junta.

Etienne explained to *Le Figaro* how Algerian military security infiltrated underground forces of GIA. According to him, people in government prisons are killed to prevent them from speaking. "The fact that most of the young people in these commandos are killed in prison after making their confessions, doesn't fool anybody. According to the official version, they are killed by their brothers. But do you see a lot of prisons in Algeria where the Islamists are going around with Kalashnikovs? When we speak about fundamentalist crimes, don't forget to

add 'alleged,' which the French TV forgets to do too often."

Etienne blasted the Algerian Army's gang-countergang operation, particularly the "official commandos, [known as] the Ninjas. . . . They surround an area, they blow up the houses and kill everybody." He also explained how the Army recruited 200,000 militia members and deploys 180,000 soldiers. With this large number of men under arms, Etienne said, it is not credible that they "are not able to crush some 'residual' underground forces. Something is not real, here."

Asked by *Le Figaro* why he speaks so much about the junta in Algiers, and not about the Islamists, Etienne replied: "The whole Algerian people, and not only the Islamists, is against this military-industrial bloc. . . . Everybody has had enough of this mafiosi power. Only the French continue to praise the role of the Algerian military junta in acting as a 'secular rampart.' The Americans chose the Islamists a long time ago."

## **Former Mobutu ministers create Congo resistance**

Two former ministers in the Zairean government of Mobutu Sese Seko have announced the creation of the Rally of Congolese Patriots (RPC) as a "movement of political resistance" to the dictatorship of Laurent Kabila in what now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the former Zaire. Kamanda wa Kamanda, the former vice prime minister and foreign minister in the last Mobutu government, and Kin-Kiey Mulumba, the former information minister and director of *Le Soft* newspaper, on Aug. 27 announced the creation of the Rally of Congolese Patriots, according to the Brussels daily, *Le Soir*. It was presented as a "movement of political resistance" to the new regime in Kinshasa.

According to Kamanda, the objective of the new movement is "to bring an end by all political means to the regime of occupation" of President Kabila and "to bring together the isolated actions of resistance." He stressed that the new power in Kinshasa "is in essence not domestic, and that the country has been placed brutally under a regime of occupation."