

International Intelligence

German CDU preparing for Grand Coalition?

Bavaria's state elections on Sept. 13 gave a boost to the hopes of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of re-electing Helmut Kohl as Germany's Chancellor on Sept. 27. The CDU's Bavarian partner, the Christian Social Union, consolidated its vote at 52.8%, while the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) dropped below the 30% level. Nonetheless, the CDU nationally is making behind-the-scenes preparations for a Grand Coalition government with the SPD, because the CDU's present coalition partner, the Free Democrats (FDP), may not win enough votes on Sept. 27 to enter the Bundestag (parliament).

Neither the CDU nor the SPD can expect to win by enough to form a stable single-party government, and leading CDU figures, such as Wolfgang Schäuble, Volker Rühe, and Kurt Biedenkopf, as well as the SPD's Oskar Lafontaine, have expressed openness to the idea of a CDU-SPD coalition government.

Brazil's Sarney charges: Bush destroyed Russia

Former Brazilian President José Sarney accused George Bush of causing the destruction of post-communist Russia. In an interview with the Sept. 4 *Folha de São Paulo*, entitled "The Wall Is Falling Down on Us," the former President (1986-90) explained:

"Today, linking events, I find a connection with the U.S. attitude toward Russia at the end of the Cold War. They did not know how to administer victory, as happens under the genius of statesmen. It is the case of the War of 1914 and the peace imposed at Versailles, which generated the Third Reich, bringing the world to the brink of suicide. In the Second World War, with victory in our sights, Churchill and Roosevelt prepared the postwar world: Bretton Woods, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the reconstruction of Germany, a modern Japan, a Europe restored.

"The victory of the Cold War found Bush leading the victors. And what did he

do? He treated Russia as a danger, and did not reconstruct it for democracy. Russia became transformed into chaos, dominated by the mafia and an economy based on predator capitalism. Every adventurer in the world landed there, and set the trap of the speculative financial market, the which is globalization's great blackmail. . . . Combining the shards of history, with the speed at which events occur in this era of global communication, a tragedy is possible, for Russia itself, or for the world itself.

"Today, we all speak of the collapse of virtual economy in the face of the real economy," Sarney continued. "In 1956, 74% of international trade was in real goods; in 1976, 35%; 7% in '82. Today, 2% of what the U.S. trades with the world are physical goods, and 98%, paper.

"A great statesman is needed to build a world of peace and more justice, from the rubble of communism. Russia has history, greater than Yeltsin and Bush. It is always politics which governs economy. The problem with the stock markets is that of world speculative capitalism. It is a structural problem. This is a conjuncture of thunder. What is essential is the eye of the hurricane.

"The financial crisis is the projection of the great political failure of the West. The Berlin Wall is falling down upon us," he concluded.

Netanyahu rubberstamps murder of Hamas leaders

Taking advantage of the assault against U.S. President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has again plunged the Mideast into a crisis, through the murder of two leaders of the London-steered Hamas military wing. According to reports, Hamas military commander Iwad Awadallah escaped from a Palestinian prison on Sept. 11, and fled to the hideout of his terrorist brother Adel. Both were promptly killed by pursuing Shin Bet operatives. Decrying "conspiracy theories," *Maariv*, a mouthpiece for Israeli military intelligence, insisted "there was no prior agreement between the Israeli GSS [Shin Bet] and [PLO intelligence chief] Jibril Rajoub's Preventive Security Apparatus to intentionally permit Iwad Awadallah to

escape from a Palestinian prison, so that he would lead to his brother and enable Israel to capture both of them in one action." True or not, no one will believe it: The Palestine Liberation Organization is also now set up for Hamas terrorist attack.

Israeli soldiers clashed with angry Palestinians, as U.S. envoy Dennis Ross held talks with Yasser Arafat on a U.S. plan for the Israelis to pull troops back from another 13% of the West Bank in exchange for Palestinian action on security. In Tel Aviv, 50,000 Israelis gathered in the square where Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated and demanded that Netanyahu resign to save the peace process. The rally, which adopted the slogan "Netanyahu Go Home," was organized by the opposition Meretz party and the Peace Now organization, to mark the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 13, 1993 signing of the Oslo interim peace accords at the White House.

Argentines decry Soros, Benneton land grabbing

Arch-speculator George Soros and the Italian Benneton textile family are buying up Argentine land in order to launder their money, charged Humberto Volando, former head of the Argentine Agricultural Federation (FAA). In an interview with the Sept. 10 *Tiempos del Mundo*, Volando pointed to their purchase of large tracts of choice agricultural land in Argentina, adding that they bring their "dirty money, money from the drug trade. Buying land is one way of laundering drug money. They buy property. . . . This isn't money they've earned by the sweat of their brow, as we say here." George Soros, for example, "a big international speculator," has over a million hectares in Argentina. "He doesn't break the law, but he violates justice, which is worse." Benneton has another million hectares in the Patagonia region.

The new "agricultural oligarchy" is really "the financial oligarchy," Volando warned. "They come from other countries, some well known companies, some not. . . . [T]hey use their money to buy up land, running poor people off it, some of whom have owned it for centuries . . . this is laundered drug money."