

International Intelligence

Japan declares 'TB emergency'

Japan's rate of infection with tuberculosis is one of the highest of all industrialized countries, and is increasing, according to *China Daily* on July 27. "If we fail to change our thinking that tuberculosis is a disease of the past and tackle it as a big problem threatening people's health, there will be a tremendous bill to pay some time in the future," Japanese Health Minister Sohei Miyashita stated. "We, the Health and Welfare ministries, declare a tuberculosis emergency."

Masamitsu Umeki, a Health Ministry official, said that tuberculosis is still the number one infectious disease in Japan. The per-capita infection rate in 1997 was 33.9 per 100,000, up from 33.7 in 1996, the first increase since 1954. In comparison, the infection ratio per 100,000 is 7.9 in the United States, 10.7 in Britain, and 16.0 in Germany.

The number of patients newly diagnosed with tuberculosis rose to 42,715 in 1997, up 243 from the year before. In 1997, a total of 2,742 people died of TB in Japan, slightly fewer than the 2,858 deaths in 1996.

TB was Japan's principal cause of death in the years before and after World War II. Deaths peaked at 560,000 in 1951, and have gradually fallen, until recently, when an increase in the number of elderly patients and cases of mass infections at some hospitals and schools sent the number of deaths rising again.

Brits see no difference between man and ape

Prince Philip's minions are going bananas, with a renewed propaganda offensive to obliterate the distinction between apes and humans. For Lyndon LaRouche's ascerbic comments on the matter, see the *Feature* in this issue.

The London *Times* on July 27 sums up the relevant British mood: "Blame Darwin, but this has been the chimp's century."

The June 17 edition of *Nature* magazine

devotes its cover-story to new research by a team of primatologists, supposedly substantiating the existence of "ape cultures." Several of the researchers had been involved in the "Great Ape Project" of Richard Dawkins. (See Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., "The Case of the Inedible Professor," and Mark J. Burdman, "Prof. Richard Dawkins: the Darwinian Great Ape of British Academe," *EIR*, July 25, 1997.)

The introduction to the *Nature* package is entitled, "Cultural Primatology Comes of Age," written by Frans B.M. de Waal, from the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center and Department of Psychology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. He writes: "The chimpanzee keeps inching closer to humanity." The very notion of "culture" must now no longer be viewed as uniquely human. "Biologically speaking, humans have never been alone—now the same can be said of culture."

The London *Daily Telegraph* on July 26 editorialized that, "one by one, the barriers that separate people from animals seem to be coming down. . . . We may not be alone in having a sense of self-awareness. . . . If apes are able to talk, even to imagine the future, can we be sure that they do not have self-awareness?"

Stepashin seeks to revive ABM initiative

The Gore-Stepashin Commission announced on July 20 that the United States and Russia would launch formal talks in Moscow in August, on START III and the ABM Treaty.

At a joint press conference with Vice President Al Gore in the Old Executive Office Building, Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin said, "As to the ABM Treaty, I do believe that we should once again return to President Yeltsin's current initiative about a global security system based on the ABM, and carefully study it; and I understood this from our contacts with Vice President Gore and President Clinton, that here there is understanding, that at least this issue can be moved forward so that the

United States and Russia can more actively work on ABM defense together."

The Yeltsin proposal, which called for a global security system, came after a more specific proposal put forward by the Russian side in 1993 for collaborative development of an ABM system, the so-called "Trust" proposal. Following Stepashin's meeting with President Clinton, Gore issued a press release on the commission meeting, that stated: "In addition, we both understand that there are ballistic missile threats we both face that do not come from each other, but from other nations. That is why it is important—in parallel with achieving our arms control objectives—to discuss implications for the ABM Treaty should the United States decide to deploy a National Missile Defense.

Cambodia's Hun Sen hailed for human rights record

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has long been viciously attacked by the Western media and politicians, is suddenly receiving more fair treatment. (For an *EIR* interview with the Cambodian leader, see our issue of Feb. 12, 1999.)

Lakhan Mehrotra, Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General in Cambodia, praised Hun Sen for making the right connection between the rule of law and respect for human rights as being essential for development, the *Phnom Penh Post* reported on June 25.

In an interview with the *Post*, Mehrotra elaborated: "From 1989 to 1991, Hun Sen emerged as a staunch champion of human rights. He pleaded for references to genocide and crimes against humanity [against the Khmer Rouge]." Mehrotra refused to be baited about the deaths that followed the falsely labeled "coup" of July 1997, saying that Hun Sen is working directly with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to bring about a trial of the Khmer Rouge.

Then, in the *Asia Wall Street Journal* on July 6, Barry Wain wrote a long and surprisingly honest profile of Hun Sen, after spending four hours with the Prime Minister at his residence. The report covers the extraordi-

THE ISRAELI internal security service, the Shin Beth, has tightened security around Israel Prime Minister Ehud Barak, in response to a possible threat from Jewish extremist groups. The Israel daily *Ma'ariv* quoted a senior military source saying that the Shin Beth was beginning to monitor several right-wing activists who could pose a threat to Barak.

CHINESE President Jiang Zemin will meet President Clinton in Auckland, New Zealand, when they both attend the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum scheduled for Sept. 12-13. The meeting was announced by Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in Singapore, after he met U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

THE ASEAN nations of Southeast Asia reaffirmed their "one-China" policy at a July 23 ministerial meeting in Singapore. A Singapore spokesman said, with reference to China-Taiwan relations, that the final communiqué would emphasize "that tensions can mess up the economic recovery and in this connection the ASEAN countries will say that they stand behind the one-China policy, or words to that effect."

THE EUROPEAN Parliament officially inaugurated its new building in Strasbourg on July 20, which the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* compared to the Tower of Babel. "Seen from the outside . . . it reminds one of Breugel the Elder's Tower of Babel. Seen from the inside, too." The huge facility, with 1,133 rooms, is constructed as a labyrinth of endless corridors, with no signs and abundant glass barriers.

IRAN is offering military assistance to Cambodia, including training and possibly air defense and naval equipment, the *Phnom Penh Post* reported on June 25. Cambodia has no air defense, and it has minimal capacity to guard its coastal borders against smuggling or protect offshore oil facilities.

nary dedication of Hun Sen to education and development for his country, and his non-doctrinaire form of "communism" during the 1980s, when Cambodia was battling the remnants of the Khmer Rouge, while suffering total isolation and a cutoff of assistance from the United States and the West, generally.

The article ridicules the charge in U.S. House Resolution 309, accusing Hun Sen of complicity in Khmer Rouge atrocities during their 1975-79 reign, and for "crimes against humanity" in the years of his rule. The article quotes a Western ambassador who said: "Hun Sen talked to me once for an hour about water pumps. He's fixated on irrigation."

London Economist: 'Unban the Taliban'

In an editorial on July 24, the *London Economist* published an editorial endorsement of the Taliban crazies as the government of Afghanistan. The article, titled "Unban the Taliban," says that since the group has been acting as a government, actually "something like a stable government," and since that is what Afghanistan needs, why not just recognize it?

The British weekly notes that Russia, India, and Iran are totally opposed to the group, and adds that Washington has also taken steps against the Taliban. "The United States regards them with horror," it writes. "They give sanctuary to militants—one would say terrorists—including Osama bin Laden, who is accused by America of masterminding the blowing-up of its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last year."

The *Economist* argues that it would be better to give diplomatic recognition to the Taliban, and enter into a dialogue with it, to solve problems—drugs, human rights, and terrorism—which the West is concerned about.

The editorial is all the more significant, when taken in the context of recent developments: As reported by the Iranian wire service IRNA, a meeting took place in July in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, of the eight countries

involved in the informal Afghanistan peace process, which agreed that there could be no military solution to the Afghan war. (The eight include Afghanistan's neighbors, plus the United States and Russia.) However, immediately after the meeting, fighting broke out again. This has been consistently the pattern, in that the Taliban do not want a negotiated solution, which would necessarily include a coalition of all political forces in the country, identified with the warring factions.

London is intent on preventing any agreement from coming into being among this grouping, which significantly does *not* include Great Britain.

Relations between Iran, Azerbaijan deteriorate

Iranian-Azerbaijan relations are deteriorating, amid other Western-run efforts to destabilize Iran. The basis of the deterioration is NATO-steered, revived Azeri irredentist efforts to reincorporate Iranian Azerbaijan into a "Greater Azerbaijan." (Azerbaijan was divided between Russia and Iran during the Napoleonic wars.)

Indicative of the provocations afoot, former Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey, who is the leader of the Azeri irredentist movement, told the Azeri press that the student protests in Iran are "a struggle against the Iranian regime," which show that the regime will soon fall. Consequently, he said, "Azerbaijanis living in Iran will start a national liberation movement."

Boyukbey Rasuloglu, chairman of the Baku-based Committee to Protect the Rights of Azeris Around the World, told the Azeri press that Iranian Azeris must constitute an "independent third force," since the possibility of Iran's breakup is "real."

Meanwhile, Aslan Khalidi, chairman of the National Liberation Movement of Southern Azerbaijan (i.e., part of Iran), has claimed that Iranian intelligence is increasing its efforts to subvert Azerbaijan. Khalidi points to Azeri dissident Mahir Javadov's recent move to Tehran from Vienna, to establish a forward-based Iranian capability for destabilizing Azerbaijan.