

International Intelligence

China, Russia propose end to space weapons

Speaking on Feb. 10 at the multi-national UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Chinese representative Hu Xiaodi proposed that negotiations take place to conclude a global treaty to ban the testing, deployment, and use of weapons in space, according to a report from Reuters. Russia's representative Vasily Sidorov backed the proposal.

Hu said that "China has always opposed arms races of any kind, including an arms race in outer space." Referring to the recent ballistic missile defense tests in the United States, and the push to deploy a National Missile Defense system, which would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, Sidorov said that "events in recent times" should incite the conference to act.

The Geneva body, which is an ongoing forum for discussion and negotiations, has been deadlocked, unable to agree on any issue of substance since the end of the nuclear test ban discussions four years ago. There is little agreement among the five official nuclear powers—the United States, Britain, France, China, and Russia—and the developing countries, led by India and Pakistan, the first two to officially join the nuclear weapons club.

Cook was warned, Kosovo war would be a disaster

"Kosovo was a disaster, just as [British Foreign Secretary Robin] Cook was warned," wrote Boris Johnson, in a commentary in the London *Daily Telegraph* on Feb. 10, on the first anniversary of the negotiations in Rambouillet, France, whose collapse was the excuse for NATO to go to war. Johnson, the editor of the British conservative weekly *The Spectator*, was echoing a number of articles, including a lengthy piece just published by the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Johnson documents the disasters of the NATO war against Serbia last spring. Johnson's article is extremely harsh about the key role of Prime Minister Tony Blair (Labour) in setting off the war, although the British

contribution to the actual fighting was minimal (4% of the military effort came from Britain; 90% from the United States).

"There are those, like Robin Cook and Tony Blair, and Bill Clinton and [U.S. Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright, who believe this war represented a beautiful innovation in foreign policy. . . . It was the first assertion of the New World Order, in which liberal values could be imposed in spite of such figments as international law or national sovereignty; like the EU's ostracism of Austria." Yet this so-called humanitarian war was a humanitarian disaster, Johnson writes.

Now, there is a new Ulster in Kosovo, he says, which is impossible to police, and where, in some cities, more ethnic killings are going on now than before the bombings. "How did this disaster occur? Through straightforward diplomatic error by Cook and Albright. When British diplomats in Belgrade saw the text of the Rambouillet agreement, with its proviso that NATO troops should be allowed throughout Serbia, they were amazed. They knew that [Serbian dictator Slobodan] Milosevic could not accept it." These same diplomats protested against the air strikes, saying they would only strengthen Milosevic.

Certainly, President Milosevic was brutal, Johnson writes. But now, after all the bombing, he is still there; conditions in Kosovo are dreadful, and NATO soliders are in the crossfire, between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. "If Western politicians try to extract any kind of credit for this outcome, they should be pelted with copies of the Rambouillet accord," Johnson concludes.

British admit: SAS trained Khmer Rouge

In the effort to declare Britain "blameless" in the Western backing for the murderous Khmer Rouge, whose government devastated Cambodia during the 1970s, Britain's Ambassador to Thailand from 1986-89, Derek Tonkin, admitted that, during the 1980s, the elite "SAS training team consisted *only* of seven non-commissioned

Falklands [i.e., Malvinas War] veterans and a captain." According to the *Phnom Penh Post* in late January, Tonkin claimed that the training of a sabotage battalion was limited to the non-Khmer Rouge factions in the coalition that waged civil war against the government, which had ousted the Khmer Rouge from power. He also admitted that the SAS and anti-government groups were collaborating at least through 1991.

He described the long-time UN policy of recognizing the Khmer Rouge as "the lesser of two evils," and that it raised the question of which is worse—"breach of sovereignty or breach of human rights?" The British solution to this dilemma was to breach both.

Tonkin added that then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited a refugee camp on the Thai border in August 1988—camps notorious as conduits for arms and supplies to the Khmer Rouge. Tonkin claimed (in classic British geopolitical style) that the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council were also involved in the Cambodian situation, and that "only Britain had historically a truly independent position. The contribution of Mrs. Thatcher to the resolution of the Cambodian problem is not widely known."

Vatican, Palestinians sign historic accord

The Vatican and the Palestinian Authority signed an accord on Feb. 15 in Vatican City to formalize the Roman Catholic Church's activities in areas of Palestinian self-rule. The agreement provides a legal framework for providing services and security to Catholic churches. A similar agreement was signed by Israel and the Vatican in 1997, and, at the time, it was interpreted by the Palestinians as *de facto* recognition of Israel's rule over Arab East Jerusalem, where the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the historic burial site of Jesus, is located.

After the meeting between Pope John Paul II and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, Vatican spokesman Joaquín Navarro Valls said that "the President of the Palestinian Authority raised the latest developments in the peace process, and discussed

with the Pope his preoccupation with the current situation.” The agreement also described “unilateral decisions” on Jerusalem as “morally and legally unacceptable.”

The Israeli government called papal envoy Msgr. Pietro Sambi to the Foreign Ministry on Feb. 16, according to Reuters, to discuss what Israel is calling the “interference in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.”

Italy's CDU chief urges New Bretton Woods

Responding to a question from *EIR*, Rocco Buttiglione, the general secretary of Italy's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), emphasized the need for a New Bretton Woods conference to reorganize the bankrupt global financial system. Buttiglione was speaking at a press conference in Milan to announce the party's slate for the April 16 regional elections.

Buttiglione opened the press conference with an attack on the “Clean Hands” phony anti-corruption campaign which destroyed Italy's political parties, and which is now trained against Germany's CDU. He closed his remarks by attacking preparations to renew bombing against Iraq: “The Italian Parliament should act now, because in one month bombs will fall again on Iraq, unless we do something about it, by offering Iraq an anchor with UN Resolution 1284, in exchange for lifting the embargo.”

EIR raised two questions: the first on the role of Karlheinz Schreiber, a fugitive from German justice in Canada, in the financial scandals against Germany's CDU and former CDU Chancellor Helmut Kohl; the second on the two motions for a New Bretton Woods conference, which have been presented in the Italian Senate and the Milan City Council.

Buttiglione, who had just returned from Germany, replied: “On Helmut Kohl, who is a personal friend of mine, I led a campaign in his defense, because it is clear to me that this scandal is about what role Europe should play in the world economy. The reason investments do not come into Europe, despite the U.S. [trade] deficit, is that Europe has no

economic policy. There are political reasons behind the attack on Kohl: Since he did not rape his niece or kill the Jews, his crime was a so-called white-collar one, and that should just be punished with a fine; certainly not in this way.

“As for the second question on the New Bretton Woods,” Buttiglione continued, “it is unfortunately not yet a major political debate, but it is becoming one. I had the privilege of discussing this issue with [Italian central bank head] Antonio Fazio, [Bundesbank head Hans] Tietmeyer and [Confindustria director] Paolo Savona, and they also expressed the urgency of creating new mechanisms to again connect the financial system to the real economy, from which it has become decoupled. A debate on this has started. Technical means are being prepared, including a tax to avoid speculative swings. It is an important battle, and it will also soon become an important theme in these elections.”

India in security talks with China and Japan

India has extended its security-related dialogues to include China and Japan, as a significant addition to the established high-profile contacts with the United States and France, according to *The Hindu* of Feb. 18. India's very first meeting with China on security matters and on issues arising from India's nuclear tests, is set to take place in Beijing on March 7. Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Ryozo Kato completed a visit to India in mid-February, and held talks with senior officials, including Foreign Secretary Lalit Manshing.

Both these meetings are follow-ups to the visits of Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh to China and Japan in the second half of 1999. Both Japan and China had taken hard lines relative to India's nuclear tests in May 1998. Japan had suspended major official contacts after the tests, as well as suspending the Official Development Assistance and joining other Western governments to block loans to India by the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank. Now, Kato said, bilateral relations should not be held hostage to one issue.

IN BEIRUT, some 3,000 students attempted to storm the U.S. embassy on Feb. 17, after rumors swept through the city that U.S. Ambassador David Satterfield had been sympathetic to Israeli strikes against Lebanese power plants the previous week. However, a spokesman for Satterfield said the ambassador had delivered a note from Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss, deploring the escalation of violence, including the Israeli air raids.

TRANSPARENCY International, the “anti-corruption” mafia, advocates “preventive detention,” in order to get individuals to give the names of higher-ups who are supposedly engaged in corruption. TI leader Michael Wihen, in a Feb. 8 interview with German TV, referred to this as the “Di Pietro method” (after Italy's “Clean Hands” prosecutor), and said that it should be used against the German Christian Democratic Union.

AUSTRIAN Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel told the *New York Times* of Feb. 20: “Nobody is going to bring this government down from the outside. We stand firm, a small, independent country. Isolation may last days, weeks, or even one year, but we are not going to come crawling and asking for favors.”

PAKISTANI authorities asked former acting Chechen President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev to leave their country immediately, Itar-TASS reported on Feb. 22. The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly criticized Islamabad for allowing Yandarbiyev to tour the country to seek support for the Chechen cause.

THE UN International Narcotics Control Board reports a large increase in opium poppy production in Afghanistan over the past year. During 1999, there was a 40% increase in land use in Afghanistan for opium poppy cultivation; 97% of the crop is in land under control of the Taliban.