

International Intelligence

Blair under fire from 'Old Labour'

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's "New Labour" has come under the strongest attack from within the Labour Party yet, when a former member of his inner circle, Peter Kilfoyle, lambasted Blair's anti-labor, anti-poor policies during a Parliament speech on March 27. As he made his formal resignation from the Ministry of Defense, Kilfoyle accused the Blair government of "stridently moralizing," making the unemployed feel they were being "chastised" for being out of work. Said Kilfoyle: "There are many who fear that there is a mind-set within government, which Calvinistically associates poverty and deprivation with blaming the victim. . . . I don't recall the Good Samaritan extending his hand to the man that fell amongst thieves, and then remonstrating with him that he's the author of his own demise."

He attacked Downing Street for acting like the "colonial Raj" toward Britain's poorer regions, and said that the "welfare-to-work" program is training people for "non-existent jobs."

The *Daily Mail* on March 28 ran the Kilfoyle story under the banner, "What About the Workers?" and called Kilfoyle's speech "the ghost of Old Labour" returning to "haunt Tony Blair." The *Mail* continued: "It was the most wounding attack from one of his own supporters that Mr. Blair has endured since his 1997 election victory. Ministers fear it could spark a widespread insurrection from left-wingers disgusted by Mr. Blair's middle-class agenda."

Taiwan DPP chief details Chen's cross-strait plans

At a March 24 press conference with reporters from Macao and Hong Kong, the chairman of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Lin I-hsiung, outlined some of the new government's plans for diplomacy regarding mainland China. The DPP candidate, Chen Shui-bian won the March 18

elections for President, unseating the 50-year reign of the Kuomintang. Outgoing "President Lee [Teng-hui]'s cross-strait policy has hurt the feelings of the mainland authorities. Our policy will pay more respect to our neighbor," Lin said, adding, "Taiwan and China should have closer relations than those between two countries."

Asked about the fate of the National Unification Guidelines (NUG) and the National Unification Council (NUC), the highest organ for policy toward the mainland, which the Kuomintang created in 1990, Lin said that the NUG would be retained to regulate the development of cross-strait relations. Asked if the new government would amend the constitution to limit Taiwan's territory to only Taiwan, Kinmen, Penghu, and Matsu islands, as proposed by Chen's Constitutional White Paper, Lin answered that this is *not* on the DPP's consideration list.

Apart from discussion to change the DPP charter to not include independence, Chen also repeatedly stated the previous week, that when he is inaugurated, his foremost task then is to be a leader for all the people, not the DPP.

MILF wants independence vote from Philippines

Hashim Salamat, chief of the Philippines separatist group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), called for a UN-sponsored independence vote for the Muslims in Mindanao, "like what was done in East Timor . . . [with] a real result . . . conducted by a third party, most likely, if possible, the United Nations." His statements were featured in the March 31 issue of *AsiaWeek*. Fighting in Mindanao between the MILF and the government has intensified over the weeks since the peace talks broke down.

The MILF became Mindanao's main separatist group after the 24-year-old Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) reached a peace settlement with Manila in 1996. Muslims comprise around 7% of the 70 million people in the Philippines, and Salamat has called for a referendum in five Mindanao provinces where, he said, Muslims comprise

the majority: Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi. The population of these areas, including Christians, would be asked to choose between autonomy and independence.

Monkeys attack Kenyan villagers over water

At a Kenyan trading center 600 kilometers north of Nairobi, near the Somali desert, monkeys and starving villagers clashed over drinking water, leaving eight monkeys killed and ten people wounded in a two-hour fight, Kenya's *Daily Nation* reported on March 21. The incident occurred after three water tankers arrived at the drought-stricken area. The monkeys attacked the gathered villagers at the tankers and forced them to flee for help, as the animals took over the water, until the villagers later counterattacked with axes and machetes.

In the northern Wajir District, at least 85 people have starved to death in the last few weeks. Wajir District Commissioner Fred Mutsami said it was difficult to give exact figures: "I am aware that more than 57,000 people are in dire need of relief assistance, . . . the district is undergoing severe drought, and there is also a severe depletion of pasture that has forced the people to move to neighboring districts."

Brazilian Indians: No to 'indigenist' reserve

Representatives of three key Indian associations in the Brazilian state of Roraima travelled to the national capital of Brasilia in late March, to lobby against phony "indigenist" plans to take yet more area out of human activity, in a state in which 144% of the land is already locked up as Indian or ecology reserves. The Indians have been meeting with many congressmen and senators, and say they will camp out in front of the National Palace, until they get a meeting with the Justice Minister and President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Among the materials they are handing out, is a pamphlet from the

BRITAIN has a contingency plan to evacuate 20,000 nationals from Zimbabwe if widescale violence erupts, according to the *Daily Telegraph* of March 25. In addition, tens of thousands of British-descended white farmers may apply for British passports. The scare follows the seizure of white farms by supporters of President Robert Mugabe, whom the British have targeted for destabilization.

DAVID TRIMBLE was re-elected as chairman of the Ulster Unionist Party on March 25, by a narrow margin over a hard-liner. This is being widely described as a setback for the Northern Ireland peace process.

MITTERRAND'S former Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, was named as the new French Finance Minister on March 27. In 1985, as prime minister, he was part of the decision not to use a U.S. method for disinfecting blood products used by hemophiliacs, who were also not told that the products, derived from multiple donors, may have been HIV infected. Some 4,000 people contracted AIDS, most of whom have now died. Fabius was acquitted of manslaughter in July 1999.

THE EUROPEAN UNION is allocating \$11.3 million in aid to southern Sudan, in the wake of rebel John Garang's expulsion of private aid organizations that refused to recognize the "sovereignty" of his Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The EU statement specified that the aid would not go to Garang, who is becoming increasingly isolated.

CANADIAN newspaper mogul Conrad Black, owner of the London *Daily Telegraph*, wants to sue Britain's Ambassador to Berlin, Sir Paul Lever, who criticized him and the owner of the London *Times*, Rupert Murdoch, whose anti-German coverage is "dominated by a vocabulary from the war and permeated by a feeling that somehow, Britain is under threat." Such propaganda, said Lever, is not in Britain's interests.

LaRouche-allied Ibero-American Solidarity Movement, exposing the British-run plot to internationalize the Amazon, through ecology and indigenist frauds.

The Indian associations are circulating a letter to the Justice Minister, Jose Carlos Dias, warning against the plans of the Indian aid bureaucracy, FUNAI, and the Liberation Theology-run Indigenist Council of Roraima (CIR), to expand the Raposa and Serra do Sol reserves to include the area between them. The expansion would require the expulsion of the people who live there now. They charge that FUNAI and the CIR are perpetrating a fraud, in the name of the Indians. The CIR is an outright criminal organization, they say, which steals cattle, destroys telephone towers, burns bridges, etc., to achieve their objectives. If the proposed reserve expansion occurs, "a lot of Indian blood would flow . . . but at the hands of the CIR."

Fat Henry takes hits in Argentina, Thailand

Argentina's government was warned against the "red carpet" treatment it is meting out to the visiting Sir Henry Kissinger, by Carlos González Cabral, former political secretary to the late President Arturo Frondizi. In both *La Nación* of Argentina, and *La Nación* of the Dominican Republic, González writes that the government of President Fernando de la Rúa, which complains about the corruption left by Carlos Menem, "should reflect on this figure, so nefarious for [Argentina's] people and those of Ibero-America, since, together with George Bush, he jailed, because of his political convictions . . . Lyndon LaRouche, Jr., and several members of his movement."

González points to Kissinger's service to the British, for which he was knighted, as well as his authorship of the "clearly genocidal" National Security Study Memorandum 200 in 1974, which called Third World population growth a threat to U.S. security. Recall, González warns, that in 1976, then-U.S. Ambassador Robert Hill named Henry Kissinger as the U.S. official who had "au-

thorized" Argentina's military government to launch its campaign of repression.

In Thailand, Kissinger came under fire as the Indonesian government's *pro bono* adviser. A March 3 guest editorial in Bangkok's *The Nation* was entitled: "Fix It, Dear Henry, Dear Henry. . . ." "It is heartwarming to read that Henry is providing his services free of charge; how very kind and generous of the century's (or dare I say, the millennium's?) greatest statesman. Of course, Kissinger's appointment has nothing whatsoever to do with the fact that he is a board member of Freeport McMoran Cooper & Gold, Inc., of the U.S., which owns one of the world's largest mines in West Papua, Indonesia. . . . Henry's magnanimous gesture comes from deep within his heart. . . . Of course, [President Abdurrahman] Wahid should follow Henry's urging that Indonesia honor the contract with Freeport because, as Dr. K quite rightly and eloquently points out, 'The contract should be respected because it is in the interests of Indonesia that the contract is respected.' This is logic that nobody can argue against."

Karabakh president wounded in shooting

President Arkadi Ghukassian of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic was shot and wounded in an attack near his home, just after midnight on March 21. Nagorno-Karabakh is an Armenian ethnic enclave inside Azerbaijan, over which the two countries fought a war in 1992. Manipulating the potential for conflict there has been a favorite pastime of British geostrategists. According to ArmenPress, "The President was seriously wounded . . . but doctors said his life is out of danger. The terrorists managed to escape after the bodyguards opened fire on them." Ghukassian's bodyguard and driver were also gravely wounded. The Karabakh government issued a statement, condemning the attack as "a criminal effort against Karabakh statehood."

Armenia is still reeling from the mass assassination of its Premier, Speaker of the Parliament, and other officials, last Oct. 27.