

International Intelligence

Atlantic Treaty Assn. Meets in Budapest

The Atlantic Treaty Association meeting in Budapest on Oct. 31, brought together officials from all NATO members and many eastern European nations, including the Hungarian and Estonian Prime Ministers, and the Foreign Ministers of Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Austria, Macedonia, and Slovenia. While ATA President Theodossis Georgiu called for cooperation to extend from the Atlantic Ocean to Vladivostok, to promote security and prosperity, Hungarian President Ferenc Madl stressed that Hungary would like to see its neighbors meet membership criteria to join NATO in the largest possible number. He added, "It is our moral duty and basic security interest to help Yugoslavia find the way back to Europe."

Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi also pushed for NATO enlargement, and called for the establishment of an independent European defense system. The latter idea has been pushed by the U.S. military establishment, which wants European NATO forces to deploy in Europe, in order to free up U.S. forces for out-of-area campaigns in other parts of the world.

Secretary General Lord George Robertson spoke of a "wide-ranging and flexible" partnership, with special regard to NATO's relations with Russia and Ukraine. However, as Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed during his visit to France, while Russia does not object to the European Union's expansion eastward, it does strongly object to NATO enlargement. Thus, the whole discussion will only serve to drive a wedge between Russia and European NATO members.

Yugoslavia Seats First Non-Communist Gov't

The Yugoslav Parliament on Nov. 3 elected the first government since World War II that has no Communist participation. The government is a coalition of Serbian reformers and Montenegrin socialists. Prime Minister Zoran Zizic announced that his priority is to

get economic aid and to resume diplomatic relations with countries which had suspended them during the Kosovo war. He also wants to lead his country into the European Union. The new Foreign Minister is Goran Svilanovic, who is known as an outspoken critic of former President Slobodan Milosevic's wars. On Nov. 6, Svilanovic called for the formation of a "Truth Commission" on the South African model, comprised of individuals "who enjoy absolute confidence among our people," to establish responsibility for crimes committed during the wars of Yugoslav secession. In that context, he called for an early reopening of the UN war crimes tribunal's office in Belgrade. Trials for war crimes could be held in Yugoslavia, he added.

In New York, on Nov. 3, the UN General Assembly voted to admit Yugoslavia as a new member, not as a successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The vote now makes it possible to tackle some of S.F.R.Y.'s thorny legacy, such as the division of old debts and assets.

President Vojislav Kostunica's office announced on Nov. 1 that Serbia and Montenegro had reached an agreement on their relationship within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, based on a concept of "a common association of Serbia and Montenegro," which will serve both countries as a "single government." Details will be worked out after the Serbian elections on Dec. 23. On Nov. 2, Montenegro announced that it would hold a referendum on independence from the F.R.Y. in June 2001.

Baghdad Fair Heralds Crumbling of Embargo

Putting something of a cap on the international defiance of the UN embargo against Iraq, Jordanian Prime Minister Ali Abu Ragheb flew into Baghdad International Airport on Nov. 1, to attend the largest trade fair Baghdad has hosted since the Gulf war began a decade ago. He is the first Arab head of government to visit Baghdad in ten years. Representatives from some 40 countries attended the fair.

Back in Amman on Nov. 3, Ragheb reported that he and Iraqi leaders negotiated a

government-to-government oil deal for next year, whereby Iraq would deliver to Jordan some 5 million tons of oil at a vastly reduced price of \$20 a barrel. The two countries also signed an agreement to build a 450-mile-long pipeline from Haditha, Iraq to a refinery near Amman. The project, expected to cost \$350 million, will allow replacement of the transport of oil by tanker truck.

Further crumbling of the Anglo-American isolation of Iraq occurred on Nov. 6, when Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ordered the border points with Iraq to be permanently reopened, in order to facilitate the movement of goods between the two countries.

On Nov. 5-6, Iraq began domestic passenger flights from Baghdad to cities in the "no-fly zones" — Basra in the south and Mosul in the north. Baghdad officials have said they do not intend to inform the UN of any such flights in advance.

Not deterred by reality, on Nov. 2, U.S. and British war planes made their latest "routine" bombings of Iraq.

Zimbabwe 'Opposition' On European Tour

Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the Zimbabwe opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), toured Europe in early November, to drum up support for his effort to overthrow President Robert Mugabe. Mugabe badly defeated Tsvangirai in democratic elections in June, and more recently, the MDC leader has been calling openly for Mugabe to be overthrown if he refuses to resign. Tsvangirai arrived in London on Nov. 6, after a stopover in Sweden.

In his stump speeches, Tsvangirai used surveys from the Suzman Foundation, showing that he is far more "popular" than Mugabe. The South Africa-based Suzman Foundation is a major controller of the opposition to Mugabe as well as to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa. Suzman's director, Oxford University Professor Emeritus R.W. Johnson, openly espouses British recolonization of Africa. In late October, Johnson helped to bring arch-racist Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, to speak at Oxford. Johnson wrote a com-

LYNDON LAROUCHE and other “fighters for justice” should be more prominently featured in Arabic media, urged Qatar University Prof. Ahmed Al-Kedidi in the Nov. 5 issue of Qatar’s *Al-Watan*. Al-Kedidi proposes a “new Arab mass-media strategy,” naming several columnists in addition to LaRouche, as people who have been “defending the Palestinians and Arab rights and denouncing Israeli arrogance.”

PRINCE CHARLES visited the Czech Republic on Oct. 30, just in time for Hallowe’en. He inaugurated the British Advisory and Training Team at the Military Academy in Vyskov, and visited an organic farming firm where he bought two bars of soap at a factory that makes “environmentally clean” soap from fruits.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ministerial meeting in Rome unanimously adopted a resolution to abolish the death penalty throughout Europe, both “in times of war and in times of peace.” The Nov. 4 resolution was adopted at a meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights. A “solemn declaration” will be made at the ministerial meeting in Strasbourg on Nov. 9.

AZERBAIJAN held parliamentary elections on Nov. 5. They come at a time when President Heidar Aliyev is very ill, with BBC claiming that Aliyev wants his son to succeed him. Russian sources have told *EIR*, that the situation in Azerbaijan is “very tense,” and that the previous Anglo-American deals with Aliyev are in a state of disarray, while Russian-Azeri relations are improving.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov met with visiting Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim al-Jaber al-Thani to discuss the Middle East crisis on Nov. 4. Discussions included the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, whose next chairman will be Qatar.

mentary in *The Spectator* and posted it on the website of the Zimbabwe Democracy Trust, defending Smith, who, he said, was merely fighting for his “tribe.”

Mugabe, who was on an official visit to Nigeria on Oct. 31-Nov. 3, told international media that imperialists were rearing their ugly heads, using blacks as fronts; he further alleged that the MDC was funded by the minority whites who had imposed apartheid rule in Africa.

Call for Treaty on Submarine Movements

The Nov. 2 issue of the *Moscow Times* carried a commentary insisting, that no matter what the findings of the investigation into the sinking of Russia’s nuclear submarine *Kursk* last Aug. 12, an international agreement to reduce the likelihood of deadly submarine collisions is needed. As of now, the “dangerous sphere of submarine operations remains virtually entirely unregulated.”

The *Times* continued: “According to the Defense Ministry, Soviet and Russian submarines have been involved in 11 documented collisions with foreign submarines since 1967. Two of the most recent documented cases occurred in the Barents Sea, not far from where the *Kursk* now lies. In February 1992, the U.S. Los Angeles-class submarine *Baton Rouge* collided with a Russian counterpart. Likewise, in March 1993, there was a similar incident involving the American submarine *Sturgeon* and a Russian Delta-3-class strategic submarine. Fortunately, neither of these incidents resulted in loss of life or in any significant release of radiation into the environment, although either of them easily could have. Submarine collisions occur for the simple reason that their movement is completely unregulated, and as a result they fairly frequently find themselves operating in extremely close quarters. In such circumstances, they enter one another’s blind spots, meaning that they are so close together that their normal ranging and detection equipment is unable to function properly. At such ranges, submarines are simply unable to hear or see one another.

“It would seem high time that the

world’s naval powers, especially those that possess nuclear submarines, returned to this crucial question. They should set themselves the goal of reaching an agreement that would regulate the ranges patrolled by each nation’s submarines. In addition, such an agreement should also include mutual obligations not to send submarines into areas where other fleets are conducting training exercises.

“Most people do not realize that international cooperation in this area remains on the most primitive level,” the article stated, concluding: “God forbid, another submarine disaster should occur.”

Cambodia Prepares Huge Welcome for Jiang Zemin

Cambodia is readying a massive welcome for China’s President Jiang Zemin in mid-November. The Phnom Penh police commissioner estimates that nearly 180,000 people will line the streets along the seven-mile route from the airport to the Royal Palace when he arrives. Among the celebrants will be 20,000 Chinese schoolchildren and overseas Chinese. King Norodom Sihanouk has invited President Jiang to stay at the Royal Palace.

Front groups of the U.S. “Project Democracy” in Cambodia are likely to be disappointed in their intent to deliver a petition to China’s President, demanding that Beijing make an apology for past support of the Khmer Rouge, and that it compensate victims of the Khmer Rouge. However, it is not out of the question that these protesters may stage a provocation, based on past performance of their local mentor, opposition politician Sam Rainsy. On Nov. 6, the Rainsy-advised Democratic Front of Khmer Students and Intellectuals was barred from delivering such a petition to the Chinese Embassy in Phnom Penh. The Free Trade Union of Workers of the Kingdom of Cambodia issued its own statement calling for China to apologize.

Both of these organizations are wholly beholden to the “democracy” mafia in Washington, the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute.