

International Intelligence

British Warhawks Flock Together

Most outspoken British Iraq war advocates are members of the "Atlantic Partnership," founded and headed by former Conservative Party Home Secretary Michael Howard, the *Guardian* revealed on Jan. 27. These include Lord Charles Powell, Margaret Thatcher's former foreign policy guru and brother of Tony Blair's Chief of Staff Jonathan Powell; Lord Renwick, former British Ambassador to the United States; Sir John Keegan, Hollinger *Daily Telegraph* Defense Editor; and right-wing historian Andrew Roberts, described by the *Guardian* as "the commander-in-chief of the hawks," who is now writing a biography of Henry Kissinger. Patrons of the group, founded on George W. Bush's inauguration, include former British Prime Minister John Major; Henry Kissinger; and Italy's Mont Pelerin Society-linked Defense Minister Antonio Martino.

Michael Howard's group of Atlantic Partnership "panelists" include Jeffrey Gedmin, former head of the New Atlantic Initiative in Washington, D.C., and now head of Aspen Institute-Berlin; Lord David Owen, former British Foreign Secretary; Sir John Keegan; Lord Renwick; Andrew Roberts; and John O'Sullivan, the former Thatcher speechwriter and *National Review* editor.

French Scandals Hit Marc Rich

No fewer than four French Cabinet ministers, and Prime Minister Jeanne-Pierre Raffarin, are mobilized publicly against Ariel Sharon's patron, Russian mafia "godfather" Marc Rich, and on the verge of taking legal action. Rich and his associates are involved in two affairs which are polluting, literally and metaphorically, the French national scene.

First, the *Prestige*, a ship transporting heavy fuel pellets, broke up into two pieces and is now polluting both the coasts of Portugal and of France. Second, there is the shut-down in the north of France of a subsidiary

of Metaleurope, which will lay off 850 employees and cost 2,000 more their jobs in feeder industries.

"De facto," said *Libération* on Jan. 24, "those two black dossiers, environmentally and socially black, converge strangely. On the same place, first—the canton of Zug in Switzerland. And on the same man, the sulfuric American businessman, Marc Rich." Zug is the headquarters of Glencore, which makes and sells specialty metals, and has a 30% controlling share of Metaleurope. Glencore, formerly Marc Rich and Co. before the fugitive financier sold it to his own employees in 1994, just sold the only profit-making asset of Metaleurope, the Nordenham electrolysis unit in northern Germany, to . . . Glencore! Essentially bankrupt, Metaleurope is closing down its unit in northern France, leaving behind many unemployed and much pollution. It is also in Zug that one finds the headquarters of Crown Resources, which belongs to "Russian oligarchs" connected to the mafia, which brokers oil and which chartered the *Prestige*. Marc Rich was an official adviser of Crown until the Summer of 2001.

Details Emerge On China Space Program

In a Jan. 17 interview with *People's Daily*, Huang Chumping, program head of the Long March-11F rocket, which is used to launch the Shenzhou spacecraft, revealed some more of the details of China's manned space program.

He explained that, unlike the United States and Russia, which launched dozens of flights before sending men into space, China will have launched only the four Shenzhou missions that have already taken place—leading him to feel "enormous pressure." He said that "considering that no more tests will be conducted, our principle is taking the four tests as the standard. We are resolved not to change the technological state, where it is possible." The fifth launch, which will be manned, he said, will be done in an even more "strict, meticulous, prudent, and practical" style of work.

Huang said that two of the current 14

astronauts in training are instructors who were trained in the former Soviet Union. They are teaching the others because "we cannot afford to pay very high fees [for] all of them [to be] sent abroad for training." He said that although the Shenzhou is designed to accommodate three astronauts, the number on the first flight will be determined in light of the concrete circumstances. Other Chinese press have reported that the first Chinese manned space mission will take place in October.

Huang reported that the manned space program includes seven major systems: the astronauts, space technology applications, the spacecraft, the rocket, the launch site, monitoring the mission, and retrieval of the spacecraft. Over 3,000 factories are involved, and tens of thousands of scientific research, manufacturing, and planning personnel. The project involves huge investment, he said. The majority of the funds is used in ground construction, for factories, the launch site, and equipment. These are fixed assets, that can be used in many fields of the nation's economy. "The money which was really used in space was actually not much," he said.

The Shenzhou spacecraft, Huang said, is larger and more advanced in onboard equipment than the Russian Soyuz, which is its heritage, and means China has reached the space technology level of the 1990s.

Eurasia Railway Key to Korea Deadlock?

Thus a Jan. 22 article by Markku Heiskanen of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, a representative of the Finnish Foreign Ministry in arranging a Eurasian Railway conference in Helsinki in April 2002 with top-level Russian and Chinese participation. The piece appeared on the Asia-Pacific site *nautilus.org*.

"What is under way now," Heiskanen wrote, "could mark the beginning of 'a new logistical world order,' probably constituting new large-scale conceptions in international relations, not least by introducing a new (yet ancient) region of continental peaceful cooperation in Eurasia. . . . The

SOUTH KOREA'S new President Roh Moo-hyun considers America's great statesman Abraham Lincoln as his personal inspiration and role model, Roh's representative told a Washington conference. Congressman Yoo Jay-kun, Special Envoy of the Roh to Washington, said that Roh undertook an intensive study of the life, works, and all the writings of Lincoln, and wrote a long book to explain Lincoln's thought to the Korean people. Mr. Roh felt so close to Lincoln's way of thinking after this study, *I Met Lincoln* was the title of his autobiography.

THE IAEA has postponed the Feb. 3 scheduled meeting on the Korea nuclear issue. International Atomic Energy Agency spokeswoman Melisa Fleming told AFP on Jan. 25 that the meeting was originally called under the mistaken belief that there was a consensus (as utopian State Department official John Bolton had claimed). But South Korea and Russia appealed for a delay, and thus, she said, the meeting would be held later.

NEPAL cease-fire was announced Jan. 29 in Kathmandu, by the government and Maoist rebels with peace talks to start in "a couple of days." On Jan. 29, an unnamed senior leader of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand's National Democratic Party said the breakthrough came as a result of the direct intervention of King Gyanendra.

RUSSIA'S UN Ambassador on Jan. 29 refuted press reports that President Putin had asked for tougher measures against Iraq. Sergei Lavrov confronted a reporter: "He didn't say this. You reported this; he didn't say this. You reported that he was apparently ready to change his position, which is wrong. He said that we believe that inspections must continue, and that if Iraq stops cooperating with inspectors and starts blocking the inspectors, then, certainly, the [UN] Security Council would have to look into it. . . . But as long as Iraq cooperates, they [the inspections] must continue. So, there is no change."

reconnection of the trans-Korean railway would be of the utmost importance as a confidence and security building measure on the Korean peninsula. The further connection of the trans-Korean railway with the Eurasian railways networks through Korea's gigantic neighbors China and Russia opens up prospects for the Eurasian railways to become an important multilateral confidence and security resource, not only on the Korean Peninsula but in the whole of Northeast Asia."

Heiskanen noted that the particular line through Korea, the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, and north to the Norwegian deep-water, ice-free port of Narvik, could also reinvigorate the traditional sea trade from Narvik to the east coast of the Americas. This was an important focus of the Helsinki symposium last year, although it is only one "link" of such a land-bridge. He reported how the Chinese Ministry of Railways and the International Union of Railways (IUC) had also organized a symposium in Beijing last December to study the recently complete IUC's "Northern East-West Corridor" project to open a freight corridor from China to the U.S. East Coast, via the Eurasian railways and Narvik. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Commerce also attended the Beijing conference.

Ice-Age Carving May Be of Orion

An ivory carving, discovered in a cave in Germany in 1979, may be a representation of the constellation Orion, according to scholars reported in a Jan. 21 BBCnews Online story. The carving, on a tiny sliver of mammoth tusk (less than 2 inches long by 5/8-inch wide), shows a man with arms upraised, legs outstretched, and a sword hanging at his right side, precisely the pose still used today for the representation of the constellation Orion, the hunter. On the other side of the tablet are 4 vertical rows of notches, totalling 86. The tablet was found in a cave in the Ach Valley in the Alb-Danube region of Germany, and is associated with the culture known as the Aurignacian. Carbon-dating of bone ash deposits, found next to the

ivory, suggest an age between 32,500 and 38,000 years, making it one of the oldest representations of a man ever found.

Dr. Michael Rappenglueck, formerly of the University of Munich, believes that the man is Orion, and that the 86 notches may be both an astronomical record and a pregnancy calendar.

The constellation Orion (known to the Egyptians as Osiris), is visible on Winter evenings, near to the path of the ecliptic in the Northern Hemisphere night sky, the three bright stars of the belt, and Betelgeuse in the shoulder, being the most apparent.

France Breaks With Britain on Zimbabwe

The invitation to Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe to attend the Franco-African summit in Paris on Feb. 20-21, signed by French President Jacques Chirac on Jan. 23, has produced "fury" in the British and U.S. governments, and among British and European parliamentarians, according to the *Zimbabwe Independent* Jan. 24.

Foreign ministers of the European Union (EU) are to "discuss at their general affairs council meeting [Jan. 27] what MPs on both sides of the English Channel are calling the most serious breach of the sanctions regime yet," says the *Independent*. The U.S. State Department said the French decision was "regrettable" and urged the application of EU sanctions in a "consistent and effective manner," according to Voice of America News Jan. 25. France, however, cites the exception in the sanctions regime for meetings promoting democracy and human rights in Zimbabwe.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair is now supposed to have reached agreement with the French government, according to which he will drop objections to Mugabe's attendance in exchange for a commitment from France to back the renewal of EU sanctions, which expire Feb. 18. Sources told the *Independent* that Blair had to accept the deal "after it emerged that some EU countries including Italy, Portugal and Greece, were unwilling to support the resumption of sanctions, claiming they were not working."