

International Intelligence

Balkanization: British Policy in South America

Even as South American nations begin to discuss building a transcontinental railroad, British agents are attempting to blow up the chessboard again, this time targeting Bolivia.

Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, and Brazilian President Lula da Silva discussed, despite tensions among them, how to further regional integration, in a Aug. 4 meeting in Buenos Aires.

Fernández and Chávez were then scheduled to travel together to Tarija, Bolivia, to join Bolivian President Evo Morales in inaugurating a plant that produces liquefied gas, in a show of support for Bolivian national unity. Their trip had to be cancelled, however, when separatist demonstrators rampaged in the city, barricaded roads, and were heading towards the airport where the Presidents were to land.

The deployment of fascist thugs was also critical, albeit not yet on as large a scale as seen in Bolivia, in defeating the Argentine government's agricultural tax bill last month. Congressional supporters of the government were told they and their families would be killed, should they vote for the government's bill.

Gen. McCaffrey Reports Disaster in Afghanistan

U.S. Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), former White House drug policy advisor, who often functions as an informal advisor to senior Army leadership on the current wars, reported on the disaster in Afghanistan, following his July 21-26 trip to that country and to NATO headquarters in Belgium. In a memo dated July 30, addressed to the Social Sciences Department at West Point Military Academy, McCaffrey writes that 68% of the population of Afghanistan has never known peace; life expectancy is only 44; and it has the highest maternal death rate in the world.

The security situation, the economy (especially agriculture, which is "broken"), governance, and the opium problems are "all likely to get worse in the coming 24 months."

McCaffrey continues: "The atmosphere of terror cannot be countered mainly by military means. We cannot win through a war of attrition.... Afghanistan will not be solved by the addition of two or three more U.S. combat brigades from our rapidly unraveling Army."

Instead, McCaffrey argues that, in addition to building up the Afghan security forces, economic measures are required. He calls for the deployment of a "five battalion Army engineer brigade ... to lead a five-year road-building effort employing Afghan contractors and training and mentoring Afghan engineers.... The war will be won when we fix the Afghan agricultural system which employs 82% of the population.... The war will be won when the international community demands the eradication of the opium and cannabis crops and robustly supports the development of alternative economic activity." McCaffrey pointed to the tremendous growth in the poppy crop since the U.S. invasion in 2001, and warned, "Unless we deal head-on with this enormous cancer, we should have little expectation that our efforts in Afghanistan will not eventually come to ruin."

Pakistan's Assembly To Impeach Musharraf

Following three days of grueling negotiations between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) supremo Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister and head of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz), (PML-N) Mian Nawaz Sharif, a decision was reached on Aug. 7 to impeach President Pervez Musharraf for unconstitutional policies such as imposing a state of emergency in November 2007 and dismantling the Supreme Court.

Since the negotiations to impeach Musharraf followed Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's trip to Washington, it is likely that the Bush Administration gave the green light for impeachment. According to analysts, removal of Musharraf from the Presidency be-

came necessary to form a consensus between the PPP, PML(N), and the Pakistani military. Nawaz Sharif, who is backed by the Saudis, was removed by a coup in 1999 by then-Chief of Army Staff Musharraf, and was sent to exile in Saudi Arabia. Sharif refused to agree to his party becoming a part of the government unless Musharraf was removed. That effectively paralyzed the government.

Although the issue is an internal one, the long shadows of the foreign troops in Afghanistan and the MI6-ISI-led violence in Pakistan's tribal areas are visible. Washington, facing a grim reality in Afghanistan, is urging Islamabad to move militarily into the tribal areas, where thousands of jihadis are attacking the U.S./NATO troops across the border in Afghanistan.

What Washington apparently expects, is that once Musharraf is removed, the PPP, PML(N), and the military will be able to act in unison—a prime U.S. requirement in light of the growing difficulties along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Israeli Petition Urges No Attack on Iran

Over 100 academics and peace activists have signed a petition calling on the Israeli government not to attack Iran, and urging more diplomatic efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear crisis.

The petition, while saying that there is a real threat from Iran, warns that Israel is moving toward a military attack, and that "all the arguments for such an attack are without any security, political or moral justification," according to a report in the *Jerusalem Post* on Aug. 7. The petition calls on Israel to show more patience with ongoing negotiations that United States and the European Union are undertaking with Iran. The signers warn that a military strike would constitute "an act of adventurism that could endanger our very existence."

Coordinators of the petition include Prof. Gadi Algazi, Judy Blanc, Prof. Rachel Giora, Prof. Anat Matar, Prof. Adi Ophir, Prof. Yoav Peled, Reuven Kaminer, Prof. Haggai Ram, Prof. Yehuda Shenhav, Prof. Oren Yiftachel.