

International Intelligence

NATO to be enforcer for U.N. Security Council

Under the pretext of dealing with the war in former Yugoslavia, the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have pushed through an important alteration of both the U.N. and NATO charters, effectively making NATO a military arm of the U.N.

On Nov. 16, the U.N. Security Council unanimously passed a resolution which, under the rubric of stopping the arms flow into the region, asks and authorizes NATO and the Western European Union (WEU) to board ships in the Adriatic Sea, to inspect their cargoes, and to fire warning shots across the bows of vessels that refuse to stop. There is no formal U.N. relationship with NATO, and the request is formally in contradiction to the U.N. Charter.

In a statement issued on Nov. 18, NATO reported that at its weekly meeting it "agreed in principle that NATO maritime forces would enforce compliance" with U.N. Security Council resolutions. "NATO forces would coordinate and cooperate with the WEU and possibly other countries wishing to operate under the same U.N. Security Council resolutions." NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner was mandated to immediately inform U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali of the decision.

NATO and the WEU have each, contrary to their charters, operated ships in the Adriatic since July, to monitor shipping movements.

Albanian President fears 'third Balkan war'

Any "ethnic cleansing" in Serbia's Kosovo province could lead to a third Balkan war, and the Albanian government will not allow ethnic Albanians to be forced from their homes there, Albanian President Sali Berisha told Austria's *Kurier* newspaper in an interview published on Nov. 19. He said that Albania would do everything possible to prevent war in Kosovo. "We will stick to all

international agreements," he said. "But we will not accept ethnic cleansing. If the situation gets worse, it will come to a third Balkan war." The first and second Balkan wars sparked World War I.

In a related development, Turkey, which now has a military treaty with Albania, called for a meeting of all Balkan states in Istanbul to discuss the situation in the area, a foreign ministry statement released Nov. 19 stated. The statement said that fighting in Bosnia could spread to Kosovo and Macedonia.

Also, the Iranian government is calling upon the U.N. to end the arms embargo to Bosnia.

Shubeilat 'disappointed' in cowardly lawmakers

"I was not frightened, but I was disappointed by the cowardly MPs who left me exposed and said nothing, although they knew the truth," said Jordanian parliamentarian Leith Shubeilat, in an interview with the London *Independent* published on Nov. 18. Shubeilat was subjected to a frameup trial, given a sentence of 20 years' hard labor on Nov. 10, and then granted a pardon by King Hussein. He had been charged with plotting against the state, in cahoots with Iran.

According to the newspaper, Shubeilat is "known as a moderate Islamist; he is a man who must surely be believed, particularly as he sits in the simplicity of his own home where Islam presents itself at its least threatening."

Referring to his arrest and trial, Shubeilat said: "I thought there was nothing on my file so they couldn't get me." He attributed his ordeal to the fact that he was asking questions about very powerful people. He had "opened too many files" as head of a committee investigating corruption—including a file on the Mukhabarat, the secret police—and had called for a larger political role for the Parliament. He said he warned King Hussein on the role of the Mukhabarat: "I had told the king these people had a vested interest in frightening him." The king was lied to, Shubeilat charged. "He knows I'm

a moderate. I have spoken against Iran, and I'm on his side on democracy. They must have convinced him he was in danger to scare him."

Describing the concocted "evidence" presented against him at his trial, Shubeilat said: "When they opened the file, I knew nobody could believe what then came out. They produced a newspaper clipping of a public meeting I attended in Iran as proof of my plotting. They said I had arms and explosives and produced three pistols. Most MPs in Jordan have machine-guns."

U.N. zone in Balkans really run by Serbia

The areas supposedly under U.N. protection in former Yugoslavia are really controlled by Serbia, wrote Rupert Neudeck, head of the German medical agency Cap Anamur, in the daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* of Nov. 16.

Dr. Neudeck reported that when he reached the so-called U.N.-zone near Karlovac in a car with two Croatian parliamentarians and a German diplomat, the Serbian border guards shrieked: "Nobody from Germany, Austria, or the Vatican States gets in here."

Dr. Neudeck warned of the impending doom of Kosovo, due to the failure of the West to act to stop the Serbian genocide. He described an incident in which an Albanian teacher tried to drive him and a German journalist to Pec, through a forest of Serbian Army roadblocks; they were stopped by a Serbian soldier, who threatened the Albanian for "driving German spies," bellowing, "We will do far worse to you guys than even what we're doing to the Muslims in Bosnia."

In Kosovo, where only 10% of the people are Serbians, those who need medical care, including pregnant women, are afraid to be taken to a hospital, because every single Muslim doctor has been replaced by Serbians.

In a related development, the German daily *Die Welt* reported on Nov. 21 that Slovenian Foreign Minister Dmitri Rupel has sent a dramatic appeal to his Austrian coun-

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terpart, Alois Mock, comparing the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo to "a concentration camp," and stating that "the [Serbian] aggressor has destroyed everything of a cultural and European significance."

Cardinal Ratzinger addresses moral crisis

Josef Cardinal Ratzinger, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican, reaffirmed the Christian doctrine that man is made in the image of God, in an interview published in the French daily *Le Monde* on Nov. 17. The occasion for the interview was the Vatican's release of the new "universal catechism," the first since the Council of Trent in 1566.

Asked for his reaction to the charge that the Church's strictures are designed to turn human beings away from pleasure and happiness, he replied: "It is entirely the opposite. We even want to say that to be human, is to live in the most complete sense of the term. That was already at the heart of the ethic of Saint Augustine. . . ."

"Christian morality, in effect, cannot reduce itself to a catalogue of things that are permitted or forbidden. It cannot be abstracted from a fundamental vision, which unifies being and human life. The account of the Creation shows that man was created in the image of God and expresses the sacred character of human existence. Beyond this, in incarnating himself, God shows that the entire human attitude is expressed by the expression of love. We see the radicalness of God's respect for human life. That sacred dimension of man is the pivot for the entirety of Christian morality."

Yeltsin: Russia looks more toward the Pacific

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in a speech in Seoul, South Korea on Nov. 19, declared, "Today our foreign policy is shifting from the United States and western Europe for Asia and the Pacific." This was Yeltsin's first official visit to an Asian country.

Yeltsin and South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo signed a 15-point treaty governing bilateral relations, and, although no official announcement was made, Yeltsin made it clear that Russia is willing to sell weapons to South Korea. Yeltsin announced that Russia is "reviewing" the clause in the 1961 treaty between the U.S.S.R. and North Korea which provided for automatic intervention in the event of an attack on North Korea. Yeltsin said that Moscow did not consider that it had a single enemy in Asia.

On Nov. 17, Russia announced new loan guarantees for Korean investors in Russia, which will meet South Korea's conditions for restoring a \$3 billion aid package first granted in 1990, but then frozen.

PLO seeks new Vatican intervention in Mideast

The Palestine Liberation Organization has asked the pope to create a Palestinian-Holy See commission similar to the Israeli-Vatican one that was set up this year, the PLO's office in London announced on Nov. 20. Afif Safieh, head of the PLO's British office, said in a letter to Pope John Paul II that such a commission was needed since relations with the Holy See were "by definition and by necessity triangular"—Vatican, Israeli, and Palestinian.

Safieh, a Roman Catholic born in Jerusalem, said in his letter that he believed it was inadvisable that Israel and the Vatican should re-establish diplomatic relations before a solution has been found to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Talks between the Holy See and Israel, he said, would be "synchronized with the peace process in the Middle East so as to act as a much needed catalyst and incentive for peace-making rather than a premature and undeserved reward."

Safieh welcomed what he called the pope's "genuine concern for the plight of the Palestinian people" and thanked him for his "frequently stated . . . support for Palestinian self-determination." A PLO spokesman said the Vatican had given a preliminary response to the letter, but he declined to give details.

● **SERBIA'S** government and organized crime are now interchangeable, according to a report in the *Daily Telegraph* of London published on Nov. 17. Dobrijoje Radovanovic, head of the Belgrade Institute for Crime Research, told the newspaper: "It's like the Prohibition in America. Gangsters flout the law because they know the state is directly enmeshed."

● **TURKEY** is seeking to convene a conference on the Balkans, to take place in Istanbul soon, to discuss political, strategic, and economic perspectives for all of southeastern Europe. The government in Ankara has established contact with the governments of Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Serbia, Croatia, and Macedonia on the project.

● **THE VATICAN** will send a high-level delegation to Vietnam to discuss church-state relations in the communist country. The delegation, headed by Bishop Claudio Celli, the Vatican's deputy foreign minister, will hold talks with officials in Hanoi starting Dec. 1. There are 2.5 million Catholics among Vietnam's 60 million people, the Vatican said.

● **SYRIA** wants a special relationship with Russia similar to its close ties with the former Soviet Union, Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam said on Nov. 18. Khaddam told Syrian newspapers, "There are contacts between the Syrian and Russian governments to discuss the possibility of making Russia a real and serious inheritor of the Soviet Union."

● **PHILIPPINE** President Fidel Ramos aroused the anger of the Catholic Church, with a speech on Nov. 23 urging efforts to control population growth. Ramos, the first Protestant President of the Philippines, has previously avoided any direct clash with the Catholic Church. He opposed any effort to overturn a constitutional ban on abortion, however.