

International Intelligence

German bishops worried over 'Chiapas investment'

According to an article by the German wire service DPA, published in the Mexican daily *Excelsior* on May 4, the German Catholic Church and the bishops' charity Adveniat are concerned about their "financial investments" in Mexico, and especially in Chiapas, and are sending an "information mission" to the country and to the convulsed region in particular to protect that investment.

Adveniat and its sister organization Misereor are the principal conduits of millions of marks that were funneled into the Chiapas separatist project now coming to fruition under the terrorist "Zapatista National Liberation Army" and Bishop Samuel Ruiz. The nominal objective of the Adveniat mission to Mexico is to determine whether to increase aid to Mexico or not.

The head of Adveniat, Auxiliary Bishop Franz Grave, gave a press conference before his trip to Mexico, stressing the role the Mexican church (read: Bishop Ruiz) has played in "recognizing the culture and dignity of the Indians." Grave attended the assembly of the Latin American Bishops Conference (see p. 53) near Mexico City.

FIS-linked army goes after infrastructure

The army of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the leading opposition group in Algeria, is making infrastructure its next target as a new method to destroy the economy upon which the power of the regime is based. The Islamic Salvation Army released a declaration on May 3, according to the London-based newspaper *Asharq Alawsat* on May 4, reporting that its groups destroyed six strategically important bridges in different parts of the country. These operations, says the declaration, "will have a tremendous effect on paralyzing Algerian economy," through which the solution of the military struggle between the government and the Islamic armed groups will be

concluded.

Meanwhile, Algerian state media reported a new offensive in Ain Addafla in northwest Algeria, which witnessed the biggest confrontation between the Islamic groups and the regular Army in March.

BBC promotes eco-terror in Canada by videos

On April 13, British Broadcasting Corp. producer Ted Oakes sent out through the green networks via Internet, an announcement on the release on Canadian TV of video footage of successful eco-terrorist actions in Britain. The videos, which can also be ordered by mail, depict successful "direct actions" and violent confrontations with the British police.

The message, widely reported in Canadian newspapers on May 2, says that Canada will be the next staging ground for these kinds of actions. For the last several months, Oakes has been collecting footage internationally. Oakes's message states that "Britain's wildly successful direct action video magazine *Undercurrents* is launching in Canada." The show will be comprised of "in your face" eco-action footage from Britain, edited together with England's latest dance music.

U.S.-Russia conflict could loom in Balkans

An influential European source of Balkans origin said on May 8 that if no diplomatic breakthrough is made soon on the situation in former Yugoslavia, then there is a real possibility of a U.S.-Russian conflict in the Balkans.

"People have been focusing more on the issues of Iran, or NATO, but the most volatile issue is former Yugoslavia, that is the only situation where there is an actual hot war," he insisted. "There is an underestimation of the possibility that, if this fighting continues and there is no diplomatic solution on the Clinton-Yeltsin level, or among the big powers, then former Yugoslavia can be

the source of a possible U.S.-Russia conflict.

"The latest news I have from Russia, is that they are preparing to renounce the sanctions against Serbia. There is a very nationalist/pan-Orthodox mood growing, coupled with resentment that Russia is being marginalized by the West in Balkans diplomacy. If current trends continue, we will soon see 'volunteers' coming into the Balkans from various sides, and the potential for a real global crisis."

Pope to visit Venezuela in February

His Holiness Pope John Paul II will travel to Venezuela in February 1996 at the invitation of President Rafael Caldera, who was in Rome for the beatification of Mother Maria de San José, a Venezuelan nun. After meeting in private on Friday, May 5, Caldera and Pope John Paul II gave public speeches.

Caldera said that when they voted for him, Venezuelans knew that he was committed to the Church's social doctrine, as reaffirmed in John Paul's encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*. "The task of governing according to those guidelines is full of obstacles, as Your Holiness well knows. The main difficulty is the selfishness of special interests that are unwilling to contribute the quota each should for the sake of an equitable distribution of burdens and benefits. No less is the burden of the commitments and demands from external factors, whose resistance to accept the postulates of international social justice was already denounced by your distinguished predecessors John XXIII and Paul VI, and very dearly by Your Holiness," said Caldera.

According to the May 6 *El Universal* of Caracas, John Paul II spoke in Spanish in response. He referred to *Centesimus Annus* and to the commitment of the Venezuelan nation to "promote the common good" through "policies aimed at combatting, until their eradication, misery and extreme poverty, at conquering unemployment and marginalization through the creation of jobs and just wealth, at transforming the tremendous

Briefly

● **RUSSIA** and China reached agreement to implement their 1991 agreement on settling remaining border questions during the May 8 meeting in Moscow between Yeltsin and Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, the Russian news agency Interfax reported on May 9. Russia will give back several disputed islands in the Amur River to China.

● **SABOTAGE** of a Viasa airplane in which Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera was flying to Rome is suspected by Venezuelan authorities. It had been under tight security surveillance for 24 hours prior to the takeoff, but was forced to return to base on May 3 when one of its turbines caught fire.

● **EXPRESO**, the opposition's daily in Lima, warned reelected Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori editorially on May 7 that if he doesn't stick to the IMF-imposed economic "reforms" of his first four years in office, he could be out of a job. *Expreso* is incensed that Fujimori has pulled back from full privatization of oil and electricity.

● **FAT HENRY** Kissinger met with Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo in private for two hours on May 9 during a dinner at the official Presidential residence of Los Pinos. Although the subject of the discussion was not revealed, all observers agree that there was sufficient time for a "rinse" of the Presidential brain.

● **YEHUDI MENUHIN**, the famous violinist, defended the late conductor Wilhelm Furtwängler against a violent article branding him a Nazi in the London *Daily Telegraph* on April 20. "Furtwängler may have shaken Hitler's proffered hands, but I myself shook various hands which I would have preferred to avoid—and was photographed doing so. I wonder how many Americans today would resist shaking the extreme right-wing hands of some of our more popular fascist thugs?" wrote Menuhin.

natural resources with honest work and with creative, scientific, technical, and management-organizational genius." The pontiff also said that democracy has some battles pending, "which will only be won with an internal renovation of democracy itself, to serve the common good of all the citizens with honesty and transparency."

Japan coalition presses for apology to China

On return from a five-day China trip, on May 8, Socialist Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in Tokyo renewed his campaign for a Diet resolution apologizing for Japan's actions in World War II. According to Japanese sources in a position to know, Murayama won agreement from his coalition partners, Liberal Democratic Party Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, the ex-LDPer who heads the small Sakigake Party, to try to push the resolution through by the end of the Diet session on June 18.

Recently every newspaper in Asia, led by the Beijing *People's Daily*, has been filled with articles attacking Japan for its role in the war on the 50th anniversary of the war's end.

"This is the basis for future Japanese economic relations with China," not some "leftist nonsense" from the old Socialists, one Japanese source said. "It is part of a strategy for Japan's economic role in Asia. It is tied to the recent trip of [former LDP Finance Minister Michio] Watanabe to North Korea," he noted, "in which our friends in your State Department asked us to help" smooth feathers in Pyongyang and keep the Clinton-North Korea agreement on course.

When the Murayama government was formed last June, he pointed out, the LDP and Sakigake promised to pass such a resolution to mark the 50th anniversary of the war's end, "as part of a package for future-looking economic development in Asia. Murayama agreed to give up traditional Socialist policies and so he finally endorsed Japan's nuclear program and the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty—while the LDP was to

make other concessions such as the World War II apology."

British asset Ichiro Ozawa and his New Japan Party are leading the fight to stop the pro-China resolution. Actual passage of the resolution will be a huge fight, sources said, which could help bring down the government. The coalition leaders tried hard to pass the resolution before Murayama's China trip, but were opposed by a group of 150 conservative LDPers led by Ozawa who say any apology would be an insult to the memory of Japan's war dead.

Netanyahu encourages Temple Mount crazies

Benjamin Netanyahu, a leader of Israel's Likud party, has come out in support of letting Jews pray at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque on Haram al-Sharif, according to an unconfirmed report in the May 5 issue of *Haaretz* newspaper. The complex, the third most holy site in Islam, has always been off-limits to non-Muslim worshippers, except for the period it was held in the Crusades.

"The right of prayer by Jews on the Temple Mount should be arranged, especially because we allow freedom of worship to all religions in Jerusalem," *Haaretz* quoted Netanyahu as having written in a letter to Yehuda Etzion, one of the Temple Mount fanatics who was arrested in the 1980s for plotting to blow up the mosque, and for maiming several Arabs. In February 1994, one of Etzion's associates, Baruch Goldstein, killed 50 Muslim worshippers at a mosque in Hebron.

Netanyahu's reported provocation comes one day after some Jews burst into the mosque, sparking a scuffle in which three Israeli police officers and a Wafq (Islamic Trust) official were hurt. This was the third such incident in just over a month.

As *EIR* has reported since 1981, blowing up or otherwise desecrating the holy site could plunge the entire region into religious war. Demolition of the mosque complex was always central to the program of the Irgun and Stern gangs which later formed the Likud party bloc.