

International Intelligence

Schalck-Golodkowski gets only a slap on wrist

The former East German deputy foreign trade minister and Stasi colonel, Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, was convicted in a Berlin court on Jan. 31 on various counts of arms smuggling. The court gave him a suspended one-year sentence for importing guns and night-vision devices from former West Germany to East Germany, in violation of a West German ban on sensitive military-related exports.

The former East German secret police colonel was a key part of the global drugs-and-weapons smuggling operations of his U.S. counterpart, the alleged anti-communist Lt. Col. Oliver North, as *EIR* has documented. Schalck reported directly to East German communist party boss Erich Honecker. A Jan. 27, 1990 dispatch in *Die Welt*, the German daily, citing sources high up in the East German regime, reported that Schalck and his East German Foreign Trade Ministry "played a decisive role" in the international narcotics traffic.

Schalck's lawyers said they were confident the verdict would be overturned in Germany's constitutional court.

Nazi scare in Lübeck compared to Carpentras

The recent "neo-Nazi" hoax in Lübeck, Germany is comparable to that in Carpentras, France in 1990, said Alfred Grosser, professor at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris. The longtime expert on Franco-German affairs was interviewed by the Hamburg-based *Die Woche* journal about the recent tragic fire in an immigrant shelter, which killed several residents.

Denying that the alleged neo-Nazi arson attack was a typically German phenomenon, Grosser said: "When in May 1990, the Jewish cemetery in Carpentras was desecrated, tens of thousands took to the streets throughout France, although it was not proven that right-wing extremists had rampaged there.

Today, it is likely that the ones who did it were just local rowdies with no political motives."

Grosser also attacked the extreme left in the Lübeck scare campaign, for an obsession with a "right-wing enemy," which led them to take "this fire as a welcome pretext, as a proof that Germany is fascistoid."

Grosser said the French media have improved somewhat over the past few years, so that the Lübeck incident did not occupy the press pages that prominently, but he also reported an affair dating a "few years back when the new Germany correspondent of our biggest television station asked me where he could film neo-Nazis. I told him that depended on how much money he would pay. A 'Heil Hitler' would cost 1,000 deutschemarks, the same with uniform 2,000, and so on. But I also told him that there were more important problems in Germany."

Tensions in Aegean stem from unjust treaties

President Bill Clinton's intervention on Jan. 31 with both governments cooled down the Aegean conflict between Greece and Turkey, but does not solve the underlying tensions over the Dodekanes archipelago in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, which have to do with a history of unjust treaties. The 12 bigger islands and about 1,000 smaller ones were originally occupied by the Ottoman Empire and handed over by the Turkish government in 1932 to the Italians—a transfer which the Turks now contest, on grounds that it was an unjust treaty, under the pre-war conditions which were unfavorable to Turkish interests.

The Greeks also have claims on these islands, dating back to the pre-Ottoman period, and received them from the Italians in the Paris Treaty of 1947, from which the Turks were closed off.

The island of Imia (Greek name) or Kardak (Turkish name) has been the focus of the most recent friction, which ostensibly was triggered by the wreckage of a Turkish trawl-

er there. The captain refused being rescued by nearby Greek vessels on grounds that the island belonged to Turkey. The Greek and Turkish media's attention to the issue helped to escalate the problem, through the Greek mayor of the nearby island of Kalolimnos hoisting a Greek flag on the unpopulated island of Imia/Kardak. Then three journalists of the leading Turkish daily *Hurriyet* (said to be close to the military) landed there with a helicopter and replaced the Greek flag with a Turkish one. The Greek navy then replaced the flag with a Greek one, and meanwhile, warships of both sides were swarming around the site of the conflict.

São Paulo Forum out to harass papal visit

In at least three of the four Ibero-American countries which Pope John Paul II was scheduled to visit Feb. 5-12, the São Paulo Forum deployed students into the streets, organizing riots, demonstrations, occupations of public buildings, and confrontations with law enforcement before his arrival.

The São Paulo Forum is the continent-wide, above-ground wing of the terrorist movement founded by Fidel Castro and encouraged by elements of the Wall Street establishment and State Department.

The terrorist potential behind the "student" protests has already been seen in Nicaragua, where at least eight Catholic churches have been bombed, and more threatened, since the pope's trip was announced last year.

In Nicaragua, where the pope was due to arrive on Feb. 7, Sandinista-led students were carrying out street protests, ostensibly to force the government to allocate 6% of the national budget to education. On Jan. 30, some 300 students stormed the Foreign Ministry, headquarters for the preparations for the visit, holding hostages for hours; another group seized a bus carrying policemen en route to a security drill for the visit. Student leaders announced they will continue disruptions until the government gives in.

In El Salvador, which was awaiting John

Paul II on Feb. 8, the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front organized repeated demonstrations to protest the Catholic Church's decision to rebuild the cathedral in the capital (charging that it took money from "the people"), such that construction will now not be completed on schedule.

In Venezuela, where the pope was to visit Feb. 9-12, the last week of January saw days of student riots in Caracas and other cities, led by Hugo Chávez's MBR-200 and allies. The pretext is protests over public transport fares, but security sources told *EIR* they have proof that the MBR-200 planned to cause disturbances right through the pontiff's visit. According to *El Universal* of Feb. 1, a police raid on a Caracas safehouse of Bandera Roja terrorist allies of the MBR, turned up a detailed map of the capital, with National Guard posts, public utilities, and transport centers marked in red. *El Universal* added that plans to "commemorate" Chávez's 1992 uprising on Feb. 4, with terrorism, have been blocked by government agencies.

New Polish premier has farm background

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski appointed deputy parliamentary speaker Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz (pronounced Vlodzhimyezh Tsimoshevich) of the ex-communist Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) as the new prime minister on Feb. 1. Cimoszewicz ran for President in the 1990 elections as the most credible among the ex-communists. He was only a low-ranking Communist Party member before 1989 when the old system collapsed, but came to prominence with the 1993 parliamentary elections in which the SLD scored a sweeping victory.

In the first coalition government of the SLD and the Polish Peasant Party, formed in October 1993, Cimoszewicz was justice minister and a deputy prime minister. He lost the posts in a cabinet reshuffle in March 1995 and became a deputy speaker of the lower house of parliament. He was chosen late last year to head parliament's important

constitutional committee, working on Poland's new charter.

Cimoszewicz holds a Warsaw University doctorate in law and was a Fulbright scholar at Columbia University in 1980-81. From 1985 to 1989 he was a farmer in eastern Poland.

The Polish Peasant Party (PSL) on Jan. 31 set the removal of the free-market privatization minister, Wiesław Kaczmarek, as a key goal in cabinet reshuffle talks. Many Peasant Party chiefs accuse Kaczmarek, who last year launched Poland's Mass Privatization scheme, of selling the country's assets too cheaply and readily to foreign interests. The Peasants also demanded that the SLD replace its member Jerzy Jaskiernia, who is justice minister, as part of a deal to preserve the coalition.

The PSL has also questioned Finance Minister Grzegorz Kolodko's plans to cut inflation and the budget deficit. PSL economists say his approach could undermine economic growth and harm vital social programs.

British-protected Tigers bomb Sri Lankan capital

At least 53 people were killed and 1,250 injured when a suicide bomber drove a truck laden with explosives into the high-rise Central Bank buildings in Colombo on Jan. 31. The Press Trust of India put the death toll at 2,000.

With this atrocity, the Tamil Tigers (LTTE), exposed by *EIR*'s Special Report ("New Terror International Targets South Asia," Oct. 13, 1995) as a British-protected terrorist gang, have made good on their vow to bring their losing secessionist war to the capital of Sri Lanka. Eyewitnesses said the explosion was preceded by a brief exchange of fire between security personnel and LTTE cadres, according to an article in *The Hindu* datelined from Colombo on Jan. 31. This was evidently a diversion for the truck being driven into the building. It is believed that at least 10 LTTE cadre took part in the attack.

THREE ISRAELIS were arrested for allegedly running the biggest drug-smuggling and money-laundering ring ever caught in Israel, according to the Feb. 1 *Jerusalem Post*. Some reports say that one of the three, Ronni Mann, supervised Cali cartel deliveries to all of North America and Europe.

THAILAND carried out its first execution since 1987, on Jan. 29, and the overwhelmingly Catholic Philippines is under increasing pressure to start executions, under the law that restored the death penalty in 1994.

VUKOVAR, "the city that stands for suffering," should be rebuilt under U.S. sponsorship, proposed Jure Radic, the deputy prime minister and minister for reconstruction of Croatia, at a press conference in Washington on Feb. 2. He said that so far, there has not been a response to this proposal.

NIGER, Nigeria's northern neighbor, has an all-civilian government, named Feb. 1 by the new military leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Mainassara. The new military leadership has been sending delegations around the region, and reported they got a sympathetic hearing in Nigeria from President Sani Abacha.

THE POLISH Schiller Institute was officially registered on Feb. 1 by a Warsaw district court, almost a year after its founding meeting was held in Warsaw.

JACQUES CHIRAC, the French President, denied on Feb. 1 that he had asked President Clinton to consider easing sanctions on Iraq, when questioned in Washington by a reporter.

UGANDAN Ambassador to Sweden and Denmark E.G. Ssempala is to be Uganda's new ambassador to the United States, it was learned Jan. 31 in Stockholm. Ssempala has actively organized against the Schiller Institute in the African exile community.