

International Intelligence

New Kissinger panel to set U.S. Cuba policy

Partisans of Sir Henry Kissinger's nation-wrecking foreign policy are proposing to revive the 1983 National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, better known as the Kissinger Commission, in order to manipulate U.S. policy toward Cuba. The original commission set up Project Democracy's strategy for Contras and free trade for the Americas, in which Central America was declared fit only for banana plantations and British colonial-style free-trade zones.

The recent initiative for a Cuban commission was organized by two members of Kissinger Associates, William D. Rogers and Lawrence Eagleburger, starting around Labor Day this year, according to William Ratliff of the Hoover Institution. Sen. John Warner (R-Va.) sent a letter in late October to President Clinton, urging the administration to convene such a commission. George Shultz, Howard Baker, Malcolm Wallop, Eagleburger, Rogers, Kissinger, and 13 other Senators signed the letter. The letter called for "a bipartisan list of distinguished Americans," to "conduct a thoughtful, rational and objective analysis of our current U.S. policy and its overall effect on this hemisphere." Rogers argues that it should be chaired "by someone as distinguished as Kissinger," and must be made up of people who have no known views on Cuba, so its conclusions can be accepted "as close to neutral as possible." As the Nov. 8 *Washington Post* noted, former Wyoming Sen. Malcolm Wallop is hardly neutral: He has represented Canada's Sherritt International Corp., which dominates Cuba's nickel mining, and is very tight with Fidel Castro's regime.

Tony Hall gives status report on N. Korea famine

On Nov. 17, Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), who just returned from North Korea, described his fourth trip to that country, to provide President Clinton with an account of the continuing effects of famine there. He said the most striking feature is the sight of grave-stones on just about every hillside. He re-

ported that the countryside has been deforested, most factories are closed, there are very few cars and trucks on the roads, and most of those are military vehicles.

There's very little electricity or running water, and 95% of the water is contaminated. Hospitals have no heat or medicines, and staff even wash cottonballs for reuse in surgery. Disease control is non-existent. The food distribution center that Hall visited outside of Chongjin is distributing what they call "substitute food," made from leaves, grass, and tree bark, which is ground up and made into noodles. Among the "positives signs," Hall reported that food aid is making a difference, saving the lives of children, although they are still malnourished. But, he added, while there is more activity in Pyongyang than a year ago, "outside the capital, they have a health problem that is unbelievable," with a prevalence of water-borne diseases, tuberculosis, and respiratory problems.

As for the toll from the famine, Hall said, "I don't think anybody has an accurate assessment. North Korea admits to a million people dying. . . . I would say it's somewhere between 1.5 and 3 million people that have died."

Euro-fanatics organize for fascist states

Some fans of the European Union have dropped their mask, and are organizing for the destruction of the nation-state. In a lecture in Bologna on Nov. 7, Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa explained the paradox of a so-called single Europe, in which the traditional nation-states are going to be replaced by entities characterized by the "will to power." Padoa-Schioppa, a former director of the Italian central bank, co-authored the austerity conditionalities under the "Maastricht criteria" and is currently one of the six directors of Maastricht's European Central Bank.

Padoa-Schioppa begins, "The European adventure was intended to overcome and replace nation-states. . . . Today we see things in a different way . . . , the function of states is not only *allowed*, but even *necessary*" (emphasis in original). The role of the state is to push for "competition." And,

even when this is not explicit, but "originates from the will to prevail, the ancient will to power that has animated nation-states for such a long time," competition "is lawful and even useful." In other words, "protectionism is not allowed, but patriotism is." Padoa-Schioppa's concept of "patriotism" harkens back to the legacy of the 1815 Congress of Congress of Vienna, when European nations existed as impotent entities run by oligarchies motivated by will to power, and the British Empire could play one against another in fratricidal wars.

"By breaking the exclusive tie between state and nation, the European constitution marks a shift in the history of culture, as well as in the history of power," he said.

Sudan foreign minister on official European tour

Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismaili toured Europe on Nov. 12-22, including official visits to Germany, Switzerland, Norway, and Italy. This is the first time in a long time, that such a high-level official has been invited for state visits, and expresses some relaxation in tensions with Khartoum.

Regionally, Sudan is also improving relations with its neighbors. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Nov. 10 between Sudan and Eritrea, through the mediation of Qatar, which ensures that neither country will support insurgent groups against the other, and that existing strife will be solved through negotiation. With Ethiopia, also, things are looking up, as the government closed down an office of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army there, and resumed regular twice-weekly fights to Sudan, which had been suspended.

In Britain, however, Baroness Caroline Cox, a member of the ill-named Christian Solidarity International, has established the "Conservatives for Human Rights," to solve Sudan's problems. As presented to the House of Lords on Oct. 26, the Tory party group proposes that London promote the creation of an international committee, within the UN Security Council, to "solve" the war in southern Sudan—i.e., to undermine all existing African efforts toward peace.