

International Intelligence

Call For Action Against U.S.-Financed Neo-Nazis

Former German Assistant Defense Minister Will Wimmer, a Christian Democrat, called for action against American financial supporters of German neo-Nazis, in an interview with the *Leipziger Volkszeitung* on Oct. 27. As *EIR* reported last week, alarm is growing over the electoral gains of the right-wing nationalist German People's Union (DVU), which won 6.1% of the vote in state elections in Brandenburg on Sept. 19, and the openly pro-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD), which won 9.2% in Saxony. "These metastatic parties (DVU, NPD, and others) receive financial support especially from the U.S.A.," Wimmer said.

"With reference to principles of the U.S. Constitution [the freedom of speech], worldwide and also in our country, anti-Semitic, fascist, and generally radical ambitions are being instigated in a way that makes you feel sick."

Wimmer appealed to Wolfgang Thierse, the chief speaker of the national German Parliament, to get especially active in the defense against this plague. It is most urgent, Wimmer said, that U.S. funds that "are pouring into the right-wing/radical swamp over here, are dried out and blocked, as it is done against financial sources of international terrorism."

The Leipzig daily added that "every year, big sums of money" for German right-wing radicals also come "from Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, France and Spain."

Avnery Warns of Israel's 'Coming Civil War'

Well-known Israeli peace activist Uri Avnery warned of an imminent outbreak of civil war inside Israel, as the result of the country's failed settlements policy. Avnery's column was posted on the website antiwar.com on Oct. 27. He wrote: "They talk about it at cabinet meetings and in the

Knesset, on TV talk shows, in editorials, and the news pages. The Chief-of-Staff has publicly warned that the Army may fall apart. One of the ministers says that the very existence of the state of Israel is in danger. Another minister prophesies a bloodbath like the Spanish Civil War.

"Quietly and not so quietly, the Shin Beth is taking precautions. The prison service has been ordered to prepare facilities for mass detentions. The Army leadership is planning a call-up of 10,000 reserve soldiers and starting to think about the steps they must take in the case of . . . No, it's a very real threat," Avnery stated.

He reviewed the history of the settlements, and his warnings at the very outset, in the Knesset, that settlements in the Occupied Territories would be a hand grenade, set to blow up Israel. Now, he warned, even "the good Laborites who were implanted by the Labor government on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, talk and behave like the worst followers of the late fascist rabbi Meir Kahane."

After reviewing the fundamentalist ideology of the settlers, Avnery warns that "in preparation for the Great Rebellion," the settlers have thoroughly penetrated the military, through "the arrangement," which allowed religious groups to create their own separate Army units, which, he wrote: "has allowed the entry of a huge Trojan horse. In any confrontation between their rabbis and their army commanders, the soldiers of the 'arrangement' [units] will obey the rabbis. Worse: For years now, the settlers have systematically penetrated the ranks of the officers' corps, where they now constitute an even more dangerous Trojan horse."

Avnery warned of a rightist "collective mutiny" within the military, involving tens of thousands of fanatics. Avnery adds that the settlers, combined with their allies inside Israel proper, constitute "something like half a million people—a mighty phalanx for rebellion."

Avnery concluded that, until now, the threat of the Great Rebellion has been used as blackmail to prevent any pull-out of the settlements. Now, with the Sharon plan for "disengagement" from Gaza in play, all bets are off. As he noted, the Biblical promise

cited by the settlers' fanatical rabbis goes beyond the West Bank and Gaza, and includes parts of Syria and Lebanon in the Biblical Israel.

Muslim Scholars Consider Boycott of Iraq Election

The Association of Muslim Scholars is considering a boycott of the Iraqi elections, according to a report in the online *Jordan Times*, Oct. 25. The Association, established 18 months ago, is the most important group of Sunni scholars, and Sunnis make up about 15-20% of Iraq's population. Sheikh Abdul-Salam al-Kubaisi, a senior association official, said the group would call for a boycott if it determines the vote would prolong the American presence in the war-torn country. As quoted in the *Jordan Times*, Kubaisi said: "When we do, we will reject the election, issue an edict declaring it illegitimate, and not accept its results. We are capable of doing this, both in the so-called Sunni triangle and beyond."

The elections for a 275-member assembly, which is to draft a constitution, are scheduled for Jan. 31. On Dec. 15, 2005, another election would be held.

One factor fuelling the anger of the Association, is that the United States has arrested many of its leaders. The latest arrest occurred on Oct. 22, when American troops raided the Baghdad home of senior member Sheikh Abdul-Sattar Abdul-Jabbar, taking him and two of his sons into custody. Kubaisi said 72 Association officials are either in U.S. or Iraqi government custody. The Association also has protested the U.S. military attacks against Fallujah and other centers of resistance.

Afghanistan Now Top Producer of Opiates

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, said that his office will release a survey in November that will show how Af-

ghanistan has surpassed Colombia and has become the highest producer of drugs.

Although the new figures have not been made available yet, the 2003 production of opium in Afghanistan was about 3,970 tons. The highest ever was in the year 2000 when it exceeded 4,600 tons. This year's harvest is expected to be close to 5,000 tons—a rise of 25% over last year's figure.

According to available reports, the Afghani drugs were sold last in year in Europe and fetched about \$30 billion. In Afghanistan, the drug crop fetched \$2.5 billion—almost 50% of Afghanistan's GNP.

Is this the "beautiful freedom" President Bush is talking about?

Falangist Bank Aims at Mexican Universities

Spain's Falangist Banco Santander is attempting to "corner the market" on Mexico's future, with a \$43 million investment over the next three years in a variety of Mexican university programs, including providing 3,000 scholarships to students of their choice, the Spanish newspaper *La Razón* reported on Oct. 27. The flagship bank, BSCH, of the infamous Grupo Santander, together with the Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, has already taken over vast portions of Ibero-America's banking systems.

La Razón reported that at a recent meeting with Mexican President Vicente Fox and more than 220 university deans from across Mexico, the Grupo Santander presented its plan, which also includes an initiative to tighten the "business-university" tie through various awards.

Santander has already established 71 bilateral cooperation agreements with Mexican universities, and it intends to sign more over the next three years. Still another Santander initiative, known as "Portal Universaria," involves giving select students greater training and access to the Internet, as part of its "creative business training" approach. Santander has invested more than \$6 million at 234 Mexican institutions of higher education, and the banking group is already sponsor-

ing the same kind of initiative at 781 universities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Spain, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Portugal, and Venezuela.

While Grupo Santander is presenting these supposedly philanthropic investments as part of its concept of "corporate social responsibility," a closer look at who is behind this bank reveals a far different agenda at work. According to a June 2004 study by *EIR*'s Dennis Small, Banco Santander is not only "one of Europe's leaders in speculative derivatives trading"—with ties into the private dope-pushing banking network of the British Royal Family—but it also "swaps spit," according to Small, with "a second hard-core Synarchist financial institution, Assicurazioni Generali, the infamous and ultra-powerful Venetian insurance company . . . [which serves as] a clearing house for the operations of numerous *fondi* . . ."

Iraqi Shi'ite Parties in Agreement on Candidates

Various Shi'ite parties have reached a "preliminary agreement" on a list of candidates for the planned January elections in Iraq. A committee has been formed, which is to "ensure that all Iraqis—be they parties, movements, currents, or independents—will be represented in one list. This list will be open to all," said Hamid Khaffaf, the representative in Lebanon of Iraq's Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani, the leading Shi'ite figure internationally, who is promoting the initiative.

Lebanese TV, which reported the news, said that the committee intended "to prepare a unified national list of candidates who enjoy the confidence of the religious authority," which refers to al-Sistani. Given al-Sistani's clout, such a list would have good chances of being voted in.

Another al-Sistani spokesman was quoted as saying what the criteria for candidacy would be: "We will support all those who seek a way out of the crisis, who want to end the occupation, and who are committed to implementing free elections."

SOUTH AFRICA'S Minister of Public Enterprises, Alec Erwin, outlined a multi-billion rand infrastructure investment program, including funding for the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor, which is planned to come on line by 2012. Beyond this pilot nuclear plant, the plan calls for building 24 commercial PBMR reactors of 165 megawatts each, to boost South Africa's electricity generation. In addition to new nuclear plants, the program calls for upgrading railway lines and equipment and ports. The plan was reported in South Africa's *Sunday Times*, Oct. 24.

RUSSIA'S PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin signed a decree on Oct. 25, banning sales of weapons to non-government bodies in Sudan. It was designed to implement UN Security Council resolution 1556 of July 30. The news service MosNews comments that Putin was responding to fears that Russian weapons were being used by the Janjaweed rebels to kill civilians.

IRAQI Interim Prime Minister Alawi accused the United States of "negligence" in the massacre of 49 Iraqi National Guard recruits on Oct. 24. "There was an ugly crime in which a large group of National Guards were martyred. We believe this issue was the outcome of major neglect by some parts of the multinational [forces]." His remarks were covered in the Arabic media.

MEXICAN universities are up in arms over cutbacks in President Vicente Fox's budget for university-level science and technology. Although during his Presidential campaign, Fox had pledged a minimum of 1% of the GNP for science and technology, he now says that allocation will be "totally impossible" under current conditions. Mexico's *El Universal* reported Oct. 21 that university dean Juan Ramón de la Fuente responded to Fox that the Mexican government today spends the ludicrous level of 0.35% of the GNP on science and technology.