

# International Intelligence

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## ***China offers ports to Seventh Fleet***

The Japanese news agency Jiji reported Nov. 22 that Chinese authorities are sounding out the possibility of offering Chinese ports to the U.S. Seventh Fleet. The proposal is that the Seventh Fleet use the port of Shanghai and Julin in Hainan. The vice-premier of the State Council, Geng Biao, suggested in 1979 on the eve of Deng Xiaoping's visit to the U.S. that the fleet's presence in the South China Sea could be used to supply the Pol Pot forces in Kampuchea and to transfer to China information about the actions of the Vietnamese navy. U.S. "defense of the South China Sea" would then leave China free to "concentrate on its northern border" according to Geng Biao.

China specialists in New Delhi are suggesting that Peking may have revived this proposal to test the new Reagan administration's commitment to the "China card" policy.

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## ***Ghana pre-empts coup, throws out Libyans***

The Ghana government on the evening of Nov. 17 gave the entire staff of the Libyan embassy 48 hours to get out of the country. Subsequent press accounts in Ghana's capital, Accra, charged that Libyan head of state Muammar Qaddafi was financing "a supposed revolutionary group based in Ghana which was preparing a bloody coup d'état."

This is the latest in a series of destabilizations across central and west Africa that Qaddafi has been charged with instigating. Libyan military intervention into the civil war in the central African country of Chad has been publicly confirmed by Chadian leaders who are being supported by Colonel Qaddafi. Between two and three thousand Libyan troops are in Chad, and Soviet-supplied Libyan aircraft are bombing the positions of the

anti-Libyan faction in Chad's capital, Ndjamena.

In October, Qaddafi issued a call to the Muslim and nomadic populations of the west African countries of Mali and Niger to revolt against their governments, and join his "holy war" to establish an Islamic Saharan republic. At the end of October the west African state of Gambia had to appeal to neighboring Senegal for military aid to defeat a Libyan-supported coup attempt there.

Opposition figures from most countries in West and North Africa are supported by Libya, and their followers and other tribal elements are being given military training in Libya.

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## ***Israel to give Bolivia rural aid?***

Bolivian Education Minister Colonel Ariel Coca was offered a \$14 million rural education and training program by Israeli ambassador Shlomo Levi Nov. 13, according to the *Jerusalem Post*.

Bolivia's rural economy revolves almost entirely around production of the coca bush from which cocaine is refined.

The military government is notorious for its ties to international cocaine traffickers. Last year, Colonel Coca intervened to obtain the release of a pilot caught with 100 kilos of Bolivian cocaine from a Panamanian jail.

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## ***French diplomat proposes Central American plan***

At the end of his five-day visit to Mexico, French Deputy Foreign Minister Olivier Stirn declared that neither nation wants to see "the Caribbean and Central American become a battle zone between East and West." Stirn said he had a long discussion with Mexican President José López Portillo on how to stabilize the region so that "each country has the

right to organize itself freely in a peaceful environment without any foreign intervention."

A French official who was accompanying Stirn told *EIR* that France wants to see Mexico take a leading role in Latin America in a political "joint venture" with France.

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## ***German parliament debates economic policy***

In a Nov. 17 debate in the West German parliament, Christian Democratic Union spokesman Walther Leissler Kiep, who is a member of the party's liberal wing, warned of the dangers of dirigistic economic policies in the Third World, then attacked the chancellor's refusal to press for large-scale nuclear energy development.

Economics Minister Otto von Lambsdorff called for austerity to increase capital investment, and specifically praised the ambitious French nuclear energy program. He declared, "I'm not one of the Chicago boys," adding that high U.S. interest rates are causing problems for the German economy.

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## ***Arab League summit: upgrade ties to Europe***

In the opening sessions of the Arab League summit, which convened Nov. 26 in Amman, Jordan, Arab heads of state called for improved relations with Europe as well as upgraded economic development plans.

In his address to the conference, Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi called upon the Arab world to work closely with Europe and to use its ties with Europe as a lever for changing U.S. Middle East policy. "The European stance," he stated, "is the best because it draws a link between European interests and Arab rights."

Jordan's King Hussein, the summit host, greeted the conference by warning of the threat emanating from "conflicts between Arab governments, which become deeper and lead to crises, usually because of failure to deal with them quickly." Hussein was alluding to the deep rift that has emerged between the prodevelopment Jordan-Iraq-Saudi axis and the Iran-Syria-Libya bloc.

In addition to publicly stating their wish to work with Europe, the Arab heads of state also agreed to a series of proposals for economic planning, investment, and development of the Arab world. A \$62 billion five-year plan for economic development was approved by the attendees, with \$19 billion allocated for infrastructure, \$18 billion for scientific development, \$15 billion for food production, and \$10 billion for industry. "The task at hand," said King Hussein, "is not agreement on this matter; we all agree. The task is now implementation of the program."

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### ***Iran's war effort on the brink of collapse***

Iran's war effort is fast falling apart, according to *EIR's* military intelligence sources, who report that Iran's claims of military victories and successful counterattacks are nothing but "exaggerations."

According to French sources, Iran's war effort has bogged down in the northwestern province of Khuzestan, where Iraqi forces continue to consolidate their hold. Famine has begun to break out in Iran's cities, and sources are predicting a "winter of discontent" that could bring down the Khomeini government.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti press last week, Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadi said that life in Iraq is quickly returning to normal. Foreign companies that had pulled out their personnel in the early days of the war are now sending their employees back to Iraq to continue work on Iraq's development projects.

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### ***London Times promotes Anglo-Italian axis***

"Italy is a country without a strong sense of national identity and its most recent attempt at international assertiveness [was] at the time of Mussolini," stated the *London Times* in a Nov. 24 editorial.

The *Times* editorial, written as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher concluded a two-day visit to Italy, argued Thatcher's view that the role for Italy in world affairs is to join with Britain.

Italy, the *Times* suggests, could become the mentor of the new European Community members Spain, Portugal, and Greece, "as a means of guaranteeing that they will not slip back into dictatorship." Now, therefore, they should hook up with Britain, recommends the *Times*. "Ties with Britain have always been seen in Italy as a way of counterbalancing exclusive arrangements to their north. The Italians have no objection to the Franco-German alliance as such, but they do have the feel of being excluded and would like to develop the British link in response."

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### ***Civil war increases refugees from Chad***

Refugees from southern Chad have been arriving in neighboring Cameroon, after fleeing from the seven-month-old civil war.

The refugees report foodstuffs were increasingly lacking. They need 85,000 tons of food to make up the deficit in the area, and that military forces in control of the area were holding peasants and townspeople to ransom.

On Nov. 24 the French government issued a statement expressing "serious worries" at the intervention of "important armed elements from abroad . . . causing numerous victims among its population and threatens the stability of the region."

## ***Briefly***

● **EQBAL AHMED**, a senior fellow at Washington's Institute for Policy Studies, is eager to meet with Saudi radicals and dissidents who wish to overthrow the current Saudi regime, according to Arab intelligence sources. Ahmed, a director of IPS's Transnational Institute in London, was a key figure in Anglo-American intelligence operations that toppled the Shah and installed Khomeini into power in Iran.

● **ARMIN MEYER**, U.S. ambassador to Iran during the Johnson administration and currently a professor at Georgetown University, is visiting Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East. Meyer has been identified by intelligence sources as an intermediary between Washington officialdom and the leadership of the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party in Iran, and is said to have longstanding ties to networks in the international secret society, the Muslim Brotherhood.

● **SETTLERS** on the Israeli-occupied West Bank show a 20 percent drug addiction rate among the youthful population, according to sources in Europe involved in fighting drugs. This rate is in contrast to the 8 percent rate prevailing in high schools within Israel.

● **AN EIR** conference in Rome Dec. 4 will include the presentation of a proposal for reconstructing southern Italy in the wake of the recent earthquakes. The proposal, drafted by the Partito Operaio Europeo (European Labor Party), will include construction of earthquake-proof nuplexes in the Naples/Palermo area, as the basis for fully mechanized agriculture and modern irrigation; a full transportation infrastructure; and quake-proof housing. Nuplexes are urban industrial complexes centered around nuclear power plants.