

International Intelligence

Italian defense official endorses beam weapons

Italian Undersecretary to the Ministry of Defense (Air Force) Bartolomeo Ciccardini endorsed President Reagan's anti-missile defense program, in an interview granted to *EIR* in Rome on Sept. 24.

"I prefer the equilibrium of the shield to that of the lance," said Ciccardini; "it is a defensive equilibrium which is safer and can appeal to good faith. It is not a continuous race like that of missiles against missiles. I therefore speak for the necessity of a political decision which would accentuate attention on replacing the nuclear deterrent with systems that guarantee defense. . . ."

Ciccardini noted that "All the sarcasm, in our country and elsewhere, around 'Star Wars,' as if this led to an increase in the danger of war, is due to a lack of military culture which afflicts the political and intellectual world. These new defensive systems represent real progress in relation to the present extremely dangerous strategic situation. . . . It is strange how people who ought to have been very happy about this new defensive possibility have instead described President Reagan as a cowboy in a science fiction film. . . ."

"What the U. S. S. R. fears is the potential technological development of the West, also of Europe and Japan. The U. S. S. R. still expresses the complex of encirclement, in a way I would dare to call theological, and this has been since the time of Stalin. The U. S. S. R. considers the Western proposals as aggressive, every project is seen with mistrust, as an 'anti-Soviet plot.' There is no hope for a rational response in the short term."

The complete text of the interview will be published in *EIR*'s next issue.

Gen. Williams supports Reagan doctrine

General Paul Williams, commander of the U. S. Army's Fifth Corps in Europe, declared Sept. 29 to *EIR* that "I support the President" on his beam-weaponry initiative, and "you can quote me on that." Williams,

a three-star general and the U. S. Army European Command's second-ranking officer, was speaking before the closing press conference of the Fifth Corps' field exercises titled "Confident Enterprise." This summer he was doused with blood by a member of the ecologist-peacenik Green Party who is a deputy in the Hesse parliament.

'National unity' austerity for Israel?

Likud Party Prime Minister-designate Yitzhak Shamir and Labor Party opposition leader Shimon Peres have been probing the possibility of a "national unity government" for Israel. Both men are attempting to use the negotiations to isolate their respective political opponents and frustrate the ambitions of Israeli wild man Ariel Sharon.

Both sides in the negotiations are reported agreed on the necessity of carrying out recommendations for the economy outlined by an International Monetary Fund fact-finding team that visited Israel recently. The *Financial Times* of London says that "alarm bells" are ringing at the Bank of Israel following the late-September announcement that Israel's foreign debt has increased by \$550 million since the beginning of this year, to the astronomical total of \$21.5 billion.

Israel's economic plight is the backdrop for a political offensive inside Israel by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, a leading protector of the Kahane-Temple Mount networks. Sharon is "again on the warpath . . . All wait for his self-inflicted fall," stated the *Jerusalem Post* in a Sept. 21 editorial titled "Who Will Stop Sharon?"

"But the fall is not inevitable," the *Post* warns; "And given the disarray in Israel today, the prospects of, at best, a short-lived government facing economic crisis, a war of attrition in the north, and internal cleavage—the fall of Arik Sharon is certainly not inevitable."

Jerusalem judge acquits Temple Mt. provocateurs

A District Court judge in Jerusalem has acquitted 29 members of the Jerusalem Tem-

ple Mount Foundation and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach group. The defendants had been prevented by police last March from taking over the Temple Mount area and staging a bloody provocation against Arabs worshipping on the Islamic Dome of the Rock there. The judge not only acquitted the 29, but charged that the police forces had "grossly exaggerated" the dangers they represented.

The court decision occurred simultaneously with the arrival in Israel of 4,000 Christian evangelicals sponsored by the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem. *EIR* has identified this organization as a component of the U. S.-based Jerusalem Temple Mount Foundation, which has been working for a religious explosion over the holy site.

Singapore spotlights U.S. role in region

U. S. relations with Japan, rather than with China, must form the basis of security in the East Asian region, Foreign Minister S. Dhanabalan of the usually pro-Peking government of Singapore told a Sept. 29 Asia Society luncheon in New York City. Following the end of the Vietnam war and the growth of the Soviet Pacific fleet, he said, Southeast Asian countries worried that America might withdraw from the region.

Dhanabalan diplomatically sidestepped an *EIR* question as to whether a cancellation of President Reagan's planned visit to the Philippines would be regarded as undercutting Marcos, and decreasing America's role in the region. His answer was to repeat that America must make clear its continuing commitment to the region and the preservation of its bases in the Philippines, whatever the results of the turmoil in that country.

Peruvian strikers use EIR for ammunition

Peru was shut down Sept. 27 by the most effective general strike in decades, and strike leaders are citing *EIR* to explain why they are fighting. The strike, called by the communist-backed labor federation, was supported by the staunchly anti-communist

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APRA party, which has a strong labor base. Official APRA spokesman Carlos Enrique Melgar told the weekly magazine *Gente* that he fully agrees with *EIR*'s exposés of "what the World Bank and the IMF want to do to our state sector" and the role of Wells Fargo. The daily *El Observador* advocates an alliance of workers and industrialists to confront "the Wells Fargo cult which has taken over the Peruvian economy."

In the capital city of Lima, over 900,000 workers struck in opposition to starvation policies dictated by the IMF, and "implemented by former employees of Wells Fargo Bank," according to strike leaders. The police and military were deployed to repress the strikers, killing two, arresting hundreds and using water guns and tear gas against groups of strikers in the streets.

Labor leaders held a strategy session with leaders of the National Industrialists Society (SNI) on how to defend themselves against IMF conditionalities. The unionists and industrialists published a joint communiqué which committed the signers to defense of Peru's national industry—public sector and private.

The bulletin of the conservative National Industrialists Society (SNI) has published *EIR*'s documentation of the Kissinger faction's plot to use debt paper as a pretext to seize national assets.

Libyan assassination plot against Reagan

The following is excerpted from an article, headlined "Man Spilled 'Kill Reagan' Plot in Calgary," which appeared in the Montreal *Sunday Express* Sept. 25:

"A Yugoslavian claiming links to the Arab world said late Friday he was interrogated by a U.S. Secret Service agent about an alleged Libyan-backed plot to assassinate President Ronald Reagan.

"George Ben Yousef, 52, said he informed two U.S. Secret Service agents of a plot earlier this week when they questioned him in a Calgary detention center. He is being held for allegedly traveling on a phony Yugoslavian passport.

"RCMP immigration investigator, Lars Hansen, confirmed: 'the U.S. Secret Service agents were in Calgary but have re-

turned home.'

"In Washington, neither the White House nor the Secret Service would comment on Yousef's allegations.

"In a UPC interview in a tiny holding cell in the Calgary Remand Center, Yousef said he was promised \$1 million (U.S.) to participate in the alleged assassination plot. He said the offer was made last May in Tripoli, Libya, where he visited Ibrahim Abjad, whom he identified as a Libyan government official.

"Abjad told me he was building a group to assassinate Reagan and [former U.S. Middle East peace envoy] Philip Habib. . . . The six men would arrive Sept. 24 in New York and I was to meet them at the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization] office there."

"He said they were instructed to gather information about Reagan's travel plans outside the United States. 'These men wanted to assassinate Reagan in Manila in November because that is a neutral country,' he said. . . .

"He contended the plot was hatched by Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy, Abjad, and Dr. George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. . . ."

Craxi goes through with health-care cuts

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi unveiled his austerity program Sept. 29: a cut of 40,000 billion lire from the anticipated 130,000 billion lire public deficit for 1984. Health care and other social services will be hit the hardest by the Socialist premier.

The present hospital system, which some have characterized as "organized euthanasia," will be further reorganized, under the familiar catchphrase of eliminating "needless beds." According to the new program 6 beds per 1,000 inhabitants is the limit. Restrictions on hospital spending will be tightened, as will public subsidies.

Craxi also announced a cut in payments to certain handicapped workers; and special benefits for families with children will be reduced. Craxi met with representatives of private industry Sept. 28 to plan a further cut in the cost of living escalator.

● **ANWAR FATTAIRI**, the military commander of the Druze forces in Lebanon, declared in a Sept. 24 *Le Monde* interview that "A U.S. intervention may multiply by 10 our losses; we don't care. We are a people not afraid of death. Don't forget that we firmly believe in metempsychosis." He added that the Soviet Union is "our friend."

● **WILLY BRANDT** endorsed the Reagan beam weapons defense program in response to a question from *EIR* at his Sept. 29 press conference in Washington. European Labor Party chairman Helga Zepp-LaRouche immediately released a statement congratulating the Socialist International chief for the "remarkable presence and clarity of mind" in making the endorsement.

● **EGON BAHR**, the most prominent eastward-running pipeline in West Germany's Social Democratic Party and a former Brandt aide, told the press on Sept. 27 that the headquarters of the United Nations ought to be shifted from New York to Berlin.

● **THE DISTRICT COURT** of Frankfurt issued two preliminary restraining orders against leftist publications which have called Helga Zepp-LaRouche's European Labor Party (EAP) "neo-Nazi." One was directed at the pro-terrorist *Tageszeitung*, and the other against the East German-financed magazine *Konkret*. Both publications claimed the statements were in accordance with the current view of the Verfassungsschutz (the West German equivalent of the FBI)—a claim which was strongly denied by the press spokesman for the Lower Saxony Verfassungsschutz.

● **ARIEL SHARON** has made the remarkable discovery, announced in a recent campaign speech, that much of the country of Jordan in fact belongs to Israel.