

International Intelligence

Lebanon's General Aoun scores Western betrayal

Gen. Michel Aoun, the Lebanese commander who was ousted by Syrian military forces one year ago and forced to flee into emigration in France, charged in an interview with the French daily *Le Figaro* on Sept. 7 that he had been abandoned by the immoral *realpolitik* of the West.

"It was 7 in the morning when the Syrian offensive started," he said. "I immediately realized that the Syrian troops were attacking from all sides and I told myself that in order to do that, they had to have had the Western green light. No means were left to defend the small strip. I thought it was wiser to avoid the bloodbath."

Aoun believes he was "naive" concerning the United States. "I could not believe that the U.S. would have double standards," he said. "Often people would tell me: 'They sold Lebanon to Syria in exchange of [President Hafez] Assad's support for their Iraq war.' I always answered: 'It's impossible, come on. Morally, they can't do that.'"

The evening before the Syrian attack of Sept. 27, 1990, General Aoun knew that everything was over. "When the Israelis and the Americans declared officially that they were against any military intervention, I really got scared. There was a Pontius Pilate smell in all this. They were washing their hands in advance. I understood then that something was going to happen."

"Everybody has dumped me," Aoun said. "Everybody but the Lebanese people." And when asked why he didn't accept some *realpolitik*, Aoun responded: "I don't like that word. *Realpolitik* is the politics of people who have no criteria nor references. I think that if one has no moral criteria, one cannot think correctly."

Serbian chauvinists attack the Pope

There was a "violent demonstration" outside the papal nuncio's office in Belgrade, in which the Pope was in the demonstrators'

"target sights," according to the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* of Sept. 9. The size was not large, only several hundred, but, as *Corriere* indicates, it was hardly "spontaneous," and was staged to make an impression on foreign audiences, as several of the slogans and signs were in English.

Demonstrators accused the Pope of being the "dark protector of Catholic Croatia," with signs reading, "Wojtyla is the leader of the Croatian assassins," and, in reference to the World War II Croatian fascists, "Wojtyla Ustashi!" They carried an effigy of the Pope with a swastika in his hand.

This was all calculated to provoke a religious war atmosphere, as the demonstrators then moved loudly to a Serbian Orthodox Church for a ceremony. The church leadership, however, has been trying to avoid such a turn of events.

As one Serbian source told *EIR*, "Whether [Serbian communist leader Slobodan] Milosevic organized this or not, it corresponds to the official propaganda of Milosevic and the feelings he has been trying to whip up against the Vatican. If he didn't necessarily organize it, he certainly inspired it."

Iraq releases data on medical 'catastrophe'

The Iraqi Health Ministry released new data early in September showing the level of genocide currently inflicted on the Iraqi population by the U.S.-imposed 13-month blockade and embargo.

The ministry reports that as a result of the shortage of medicines and related necessities, 16,000 Iraqis stricken with cancer have not been able to have either effective treatment or any at all. More than 14,000 children under five have died due to lack of medicines. Only 690 Iraqi patients received urgent eye operations in the first three months of 1991, due to the acute shortage of medicine, anesthetics, etc. There were 6,012 eye operations in Iraq in the same period in 1990. As a result of the inability to operate, the number of new cases of blindness in Iraq has increased 1,000% in the past

six months, as compared to the same period in 1990.

There were 1,118 miscarriages in Salah al-Din province in western Iraq alone since the embargo, attributable to the blockade. Moreover, there have now been 1,640 reported cases of cholera in Iraq since the blockade, after virtually none in the previous period. The actual number of cholera cases is necessarily vastly greater than can be reported, due to the breakdown of health monitoring because of the war and blockade.

Iraq puts a challenge to the Non-Aligned

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein told a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Ghana early in September that the aggression against Iraq is unprecedented in history and constitutes a clear example of a new phase of imperialism and an attempt against the non-aligned countries' sovereignty, territorial integrity, and economic infrastructure. He raised the challenge that NAM opposition to the attempts to destroy Iraq and to starve its people will show whether or not the movement is ready to defend the principles it embraces.

Hussein charged that the United States has now begun to implement the second phase of the U.S.-Zionist scheme to consolidate Israel's annexation of Palestinian territories.

He concluded that the meeting convenes under very critical circumstances that require NAM to assert the principles on which it was founded and reconsider its position in light of these principles, the last of which are the decisions made at the eighth summit conference held in September 1989, particularly that on the attempts of some superpowers to restore their hegemony and to control the non-aligned countries and exploit their economic resources.

The Iraqi delegation presented the conference with a proposal to end the economic siege imposed on Iraq. The draft calls on the international community to pressure the U.N. Security Council to take urgent mea-

sures to lift the embargo. It also calls on those countries that froze Iraqi assets to release them so that Iraq can buy the necessary food and medicine for its people.

Colombia's Parejo warns of terrorist attack

Former Colombian justice minister and ex-ambassador to Switzerland Enrique Parejo González said in a radio interview on Sept. 11, that a terrorist attack could be carried out against him, like the drug mafia assassination attempt in 1987 which came within a hair of claiming his life. Parejo, who receives no security protection from the Colombian government, is hated by the cocaine cartels for his role in trying to shut them down.

"The situation in our country is paradoxical," he said. "Those of us who have wanted to serve our country with disinterest, loyalty, and trying to comply with the law, are living in clandestineness. We have to hide because the state does not guarantee our security. . . . It is paradoxical and painful that those who have wanted to be society's servants have to hide ourselves so that the criminals don't murder us, while the criminals can choose their own jail, their own wardens and guards, and furthermore are able to receive unlimited visits and give unlimited interviews."

Parejo added that in all the concessions the César Gaviria government has granted the drug cartel, "They were never obliged to give information so that their criminal organizations could be dismantled; no determination was made regarding their vast fortunes, which remain intact and continue to serve to corrupt the national life. No extradition was established, to the benefit of the narcos."

Pankin and Baker vow to stop arms to Afghanistan

Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed on Sept. 13 to stop supplying arms to the

Afghan communist government and to the Afghan rebels by the end of the year. Baker claimed, according to a report in the London *Guardian* on Sept. 14, that this agreement would clear the way to close "U.S.-Soviet" relations. Since the Soviet Union no longer exists, it is unclear what exactly this means.

Baker and Pankin claimed that the end to arms supplies would be followed by a cease-fire and cessation of arms supplies from other sources. The two agreed to support "a democratic process in Afghanistan." President Najibullah of Afghanistan expressed satisfaction over the statement, but his position has been severely weakened, especially by the threat of famine in Kabul.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar had warned several days before that the rebel groups not launch a frontal attack on Kabul, which he said would lead to a bloodbath.

Italian prime minister criticized by Church

Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was criticized by a Catholic Church official for planning to visit the Beijing-approved "bishop" of Shanghai, Reuter reported on Sept. 14. The Shanghai bishop is a member of the government-backed Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association, which does not recognize the authority of the Pope or the Vatican.

"I am sorry to have to say that our prime minister is not doing a service to the Christians of China by visiting the Patriotic bishop of Shanghai," Father Piero Gheddo said in an interview with the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato*.

Gheddo, head of the Asia News agency, which specializes on the Church in China, said Bishop Aloysius Jin Lu Xian had been installed "by the Chinese Communist Party and not by the Pope." He said eight bishops were missing and believed held in "re-education" camps, and many others have been arrested.

Gheddo said that while in Shanghai, Andreotti should meet the city's Vatican-recognized bishop, Joseph Fan Zhongliang, who was arrested for several weeks in June.

● **FORMER LEBANESE** President Amin Gemayel, during a visit to Washington, told the *Washington Times* of Sept. 15: "A creeping annexation of the country by Syria is taking place. Unfortunately with the blessing of the international community. . . . The situation now is similar to the Munich agreement which allowed Hitler to take over some parts of Europe."

● **JOINT MILITARY** exercises of the German and Soviet armies have been proposed by Matvei Burlakov, the chief commander of the Soviet Western Group of Forces, at a press conference at his headquarters in Wunstorf, eastern Germany, on Sept. 9. No official proposal has been presented by the Moscow defense ministry so far.

● **SENIOR NATO** officials were hosted by the Moscow General Staff Academy for a seminar on defense strategy, a spokesman for the NATO Defense College in Rome announced on Sept. 16. "The purpose of this visit is to exchange views in the new spirit of cooperation between NATO, the central and eastern European states, and the Soviet Union," he said.

● **CHINA** must serve as a counterweight to U.S. influence in the Middle East, said Iranian parliamentarian Saeed Rajaei Khorasani, the chairman of the Parliament's Foreign Policy Committee, according to the Iranian news service IRNA. While Khorasani was putting forth this proposal, a Chinese delegation was visiting Iran.

● **VIETNAMESE** Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam completed a visit to China in mid-September, which paved the way for renewed relations and a probable summit between Vietnamese Communist Party Chief Do Muoi and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin. The settling of the Cambodia problem has paved the way for such a rapprochement.