

International Intelligence

Israeli Army chief foresees war danger

"As long as the peace negotiations continue . . . I think the chance of a Syrian-initiated war is very slim," Israeli Army chief Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak told Israeli television in early October at the end of Yom Kippur, on the 19th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war. However, "a deadlock in the negotiations with the Arabs could serve us as a strategic warning for the possibility of a . . . violent confrontation." In six rounds of negotiations in the last year, no agreement has been reached.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded at least 90 Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip on Oct. 7, during marches in support of a hunger strike by prisoners. Reuters quoted medical sources as saying. Soldiers fired live ammunition, plastic bullets, and tear gas to disperse several thousand demonstrators outside the Red Cross headquarters in Rafah refugee camp, witnesses said. The clashes were the fiercest in the Gaza Strip in five months. Nearly 3,000 people demonstrated in Gaza City, and smaller marches took place in the West Bank towns of Nablus and Jenin. The protests were to back an 11-day-old hunger strike by thousands of Arab prisoners demanding better treatment and conditions.

Kosovo threatened with bloody war

"This could easily develop into war, it could be even bloodier and more tragic than the war in Bosnia," warned Adem Demaqi, the father figure of Kosovo Albanian nationalism, on Oct. 4, amid signs of a dramatic deterioration of the situation in Kosovo.

Recently, there has been a spate of shootouts between Albanians and Serbian police. In the first on Oct. 1, several Serbian policemen were reportedly killed. At the same time, a trial has begun in the western Kosovo city of Pec of 19 Kosovo Albanians, charged with illegal possession of weapons. More than 1,000 Serbian troops were flown into the capital, Pristina, Oct. 3-4, reflecting

the confrontational mood of the authorities in Belgrade.

With the mood becoming increasingly angry and impatient among younger Albanians, Kosovo Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova told the Oct. 5 London *Independent* that "a war in Kosovo depends on the outcome of the power struggle in Belgrade, and whether [Serbian President Slobodan] Milosevic uses Kosovo as his last card." Rugova called on the international community to warn Serbia "not to open up another front."

Support for Great Russia by U.S. worries Europe

Romanian government circles are alarmed by the U.S. support for Russian imperialist policies at the expense of the non-Russian nations of the Community of Independent States (CIS) and eastern Europe, Viktor Meier, the Balkans correspondent of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, reported Oct. 6.

Romanians are deeply shocked and concerned that the Great Russian strategy of reconstructing the Soviet empire even has the support of the West, "especially from the side of the Americans."

The concessions from the West represent, Meier pointed out, the reaffirmation of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, at the expense of the Romanians, who will never get back the Bessarabian territory once taken by Stalin and recognized by the West in the Yalta agreements.

Meier's findings are corroborated by the Oct. 6 *Frankfurter Rundschau*, which reported on concern in Latvia that it will be reincorporated into a new Great Russian empire. Janis Dinevics, the Latvian negotiator in the talks with Moscow on Russian troop withdrawal, said he was shocked by the rude behavior of the Russian negotiator, Sergei Sotov, who declared that all talk about the Hitler-Stalin Pact was nonsense and that it is a historic fact that Latvia joined the U.S.S.R. voluntarily.

Mavriks Vulfsons, foreign policy adviser to the Latvian government, said that the most scandalous thing about the Russian intentions toward the Baltic states is that the

West seems to support them. There is a new fixation on Moscow by the West recently, similar to the earlier Gorbysmania, he said.

Hong Kong future bleak as Chinese rule nears

Reactions to the proposals of Hong Kong Gov. Chris Patten on Oct. 7, which outlined an agenda for the next five years for the British colony before it comes under the control of the People's Republic of China (P.R.C.), epitomize the bleak future Hong Kong faces as Chinese rule is scheduled to begin in 1997.

Patten proposed governmental restructuring involving such things as having the 230 seats of the Hong Kong district and urban councils elected democratically (one-third now are appointed), and that these 230 persons form an electoral college which will elect 10 members to the legislature in 1995. Chinese leaders called the proposal "extremely irresponsible." The official New China News Agency issued a statement denouncing the proposals because, it said, they were put forth without prior agreement by China. Britain has also recently been pushing China on the issue of more democratically elected seats in 1995, to which the P.R.C. is reported to have answered with an emphatic "No."

Pirate-style attacks by Chinese security forces are adding to the unease. In recent months, there have been at least five attacks, and analysts say many southern Chinese officials are already flouting British rule. Reuters reported Sept. 27. In the most recent attack on Sept. 25, a Hong Kong police launch was held up at gunpoint until British Royal Navy ships rushed to the scene and the Chinese ship withdrew.

"If Chinese gunboats can plunder Hong Kong vessels when Britain is still nominally in charge, what will they do after 1997 when there is no British government to protest?" asked Norman Miners, a politics lecturer at Hong Kong University. "The choices are pretty stark. The only way to stop it is if the British Navy fires a few shots. If they're acting as pirates then they should be treated according to the international rules against piracy."

Pakistan breakup closer to reality

The Pakistan Army has decided to quit Sindh province, where it had been deployed to keep order against the warring Mohajir Qaum Movement and Pakistan People's Party.

MQM chief Altaf Hussain, who is based in London, has told the Pakistan government that unless the Army leaves the province immediately, Sindh is fast approaching a situation similar to Bangladesh in 1971—i.e., liberation from the Pakistan government in Islamabad.

The major city of Sindh, Karachi, is the premier dope depot in Pakistan, which has been targeted to be financially upgraded under an independent Sindh.

Is Turkey moving to annex parts of Iraq?

An official declaration of the Turkish government on Oct. 8, as reported in the Oct. 10 Paris daily *Le Monde*, is fueling speculation that Turkey is preparing to annex the Mosul and Kirkuk provinces of Iraq.

The statement read, "We are against all moves that will open the way to the disintegration of Iraq," but also declared that "Turkey is the principal guarantor of the security of the people of northern Iraq, including the Kurds, the Turkomans, Arabs, and Assyrians."

According to *Le Monde*, the statement must be seen in the context of current military cooperation between Iraqi Kurds and the Turkish military in joint operations against the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) insurgents who have bases in the Kurdish region of Iraq. The Turkish military is giving the Iraqi Kurds air support and the Turkish chief of staff said that Turkish troops would reinforce the Iraqi Kurds if necessary.

The internal debate inside Turkey is also reportedly moving toward a general agreement on the annexation of Iraq's oil-rich provinces. President Turgut Özal, from the beginning of the Gulf war, expressed great interest in the Iraqi provinces, which had

been given to Iraq in 1926 by the young republic of Turkey. Although he was attacked for such statements at the time, now almost everyone in Turkey accepts the idea.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel is quoted as saying that the best solution would be that "Iraq make peace with the world." While reiterating his support for the territorial integrity of Iraq, he said that peace in the region is impossible as long as Saddam Hussein is in power, and that "an initiative from a federal state in the north of Iraq to seek a federation with Turkey" might be a solution since, after all, "Mosul was once an Ottoman province."

Le Monde pointed out that 1.5 million Turkomans live in the region of Kirkuk and look toward Turkey for security. It quoted M. Muzaffer Arslan, chief of the Iraqi Turkoman party, who claims that the Iraqis have imprisoned 2,500 Turkomans. Arslan declared, "Turkey has a conservative policy, she will only offer humanitarian help, but I hope that she can guarantee our security."

Masons have vast influence in France

The vast influence of Freemasonry over French politics was exposed in a feature on France's TF-1 television. The broadcast documented that 100 out of the 577 French deputies, and 30 of the 200 French senators, are Freemasons. At least 11 members of Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy's cabinet are "under orders of the Grand Master." These include Defense Minister Pierre Joxe and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* reported on Oct. 8.

The French television program also indicated that there is massive freemasonic manipulation of the French left and right, and of key social issues in France, including abortion and genetic engineering.

Also documented, is the power the Freemasons had over former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who had wanted to have a freemasonic ceremony in his presidential office, but was instead prevailed upon to hold the ceremony at the lodge headquarters.

Briefly

● **IRAN** has nuclear warheads from former U.S.S.R. arsenals, the *Moscow Times* reported recently. Two warheads of 40 kilotons each reportedly can be mounted on Scud missiles.

● **PAKISTAN** Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left Islamabad for a five-day visit to China on Oct. 6, Reuters reported. The 40-man delegation included Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz. "Our emphasis . . . will be to break new ground for furthering economic cooperation between the two countries, besides discussing international, regional and bilateral issues," Sharif said.

● **KAZAKHSTAN** President Nursultan Nazarbayev called for the formation of an Asian security pact, in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Oct. 7.

● **THAILAND'S** Parliament unanimously overturned the amnesty granted to generals who ordered soldiers to open fire on demonstrators last May.

● **INDIA AND PAKISTAN** agreed on Oct. 7 to a meeting of defense secretaries in New Delhi on Nov. 2-4 to discuss pulling back troops from the disputed Siachen glacier in Kashmir, Reuters quoted an Indian High Commission source as saying. They also agreed that experts would meet on Nov. 5-6 in New Delhi for talks over a disputed creek.

● **WASHINGTON** will cut back troops in Korea in the next 10 years to no more than a 3,000-man brigade, according to a policy paper released by the South Korean Foreign Ministry. The report, cited by Reuters on Oct. 9, said the U.S. will maintain its troop levels in Japan "to prevent Japan becoming a major military power."

● **WILLY BRANDT**, the former mayor of West Berlin, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, and chancellor of West Germany from 1969 to 1974, died Oct. 8 of intestinal cancer at the age of 78. Brandt's last significant political intervention was his opposition to the war against Iraq.