

# International Intelligence

## ***Syria and Israel move closer toward peace***

Syria's President Hafez al-Assad, in a speech to the newly elected Parliament on Sept. 10, spoke of Syria's readiness for peace with Israel when its occupied lands, mainly the Golan Heights, are fully returned. This is considered very encouraging by advocates of a peace settlement, since President Assad rarely talks publicly about peace with Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio that he was encouraged by "the general tone" of Assad's speech and his choice of Parliament as the venue for publicly backing a peace agreement. "He declared he has a strategy of peace . . . and there were more than hints that he understands that peace truly means peace, that is to say normalization of relations," Peres said.

The Israeli daily *Haaretz* reported on Sept. 13 that Israel has established a secret channel for negotiations with Syria, involving the two nations' ambassadors to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich and Walid Muallem. According to *Haaretz*, Israeli President Yitzhak Rabin is personally conducting the negotiations, with help from Israel's chief of military intelligence, Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy.

## ***Bhutto calls for military intervention in Kashmir***

Speaking at a convention of the Organization of Islamic Conference early in September, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on the international community to organize a military intervention into Kashmir. Bhutto's statement was broadcast on the Cable News Network in a report on the OIC foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Bhutto declared that "the Kashmiri people in their hearts and souls are Pakistanis" and that "even fraudulent elections are impossible for India" to organize in Kashmir, because India has already turned Kashmir

into the "killing field of South Asia."

Kashmir, which has a majority Muslim population, has been divided between India and Pakistan since 1971, and has long been the target of British geopolitical manipulations aimed at provoking war between those two countries.

India has been trying to thwart Bhutto's call to rally "Muslim unity" behind Kashmir. Indian Minister of State Salman Khursheed told delegates to the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, that he had asked both Muslim and European countries to use their influence with Pakistan to create conditions for bilateral talks. "We are also ready to take them on at the U.N.," he said, if Pakistan insists on bringing the conflict into that arena.

The 51-nation OIC decided to set up a "contact group" on Kashmir at the U.N. The resolution called for a peaceful settlement on Kashmir in accordance with U.N. resolutions and the Simla agreement.

## ***German court okays withdrawal of treatment***

Germany's highest court decided the week of Sept. 12 that the withdrawal of life-saving measures, including food and water, is legal if the patient is "incurably sick" and has agreed to this measure. If the patient is in a state of unconsciousness or coma, his "presumed will" is enough to decide whether he will live or die. This decision overturns the previous laws, according to which a patient had to be already in the process of dying before withdrawal of treatment was permitted.

The Club of Life, founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, issued a press release condemning this move toward euthanasia.

The case before the high court involved a doctor and the son of a 72-year-old woman who was in a coma; the two defendants instructed the patient's nurses to remove her feeding tubes. The nurses resisted, and the two were eventually found guilty of attempted homicide. The victim had never signed any statement saying that she wanted

to die before her natural death.

The high court's decision is a threat to the thousands of people who fall into a comatose condition every year in Germany, and to others who have severe, long-term illnesses. Coma patients have already been the victims of austerity programs, because in Germany only 250 hospital beds are available for the necessary immediate rehabilitation, which can take weeks, months, or years. With this intensive therapy, one-third of all these patients can return to their jobs, and another two-thirds improve to the extent that they can at least live with their families.

## ***U.N. chief threatens Bosnia with air strikes***

U.N. Commander in Bosnia Gen. Sir Michael Rose, a British national, "may call for NATO air strikes against the predominantly Muslim Bosnian government forces," the British Broadcasting Corp. reported on Sept. 19. Rose is accusing the Bosnians of having "provoked the Serbs" into attacking the capital city of Sarajevo, as a means of diverting attention away from a Bosnian government offensive in northern Bosnia.

The reality is that the Serbs have cut off gas, water, and electricity to Sarajevo, and are carrying out "ethnic cleansing" and military operations in such areas as Bihac. Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic has stated that the Bosnian Serbs are being resupplied, not from Serbia proper—in order to maintain the illusion of a Serbian embargo of the Bosnian Serbs—but through the Krajina Serbs in occupied Croatia.

The U.N.'s blue helmet "peacekeeping" forces are reportedly permitting the vital supplies to come in from Krajina, allowing the Serbian forces to launch several new military offensives in the most recent period: new shellings against the inner-city area of Sarajevo; new offensives at Gorazde, Maglaj, and Bihac; and a new wave of expulsions of Bosnians in the region around Serbian-held Banja Luka.

Put under U.N. "control," the Croatians had to remove all police and militia from the Serbian-dominated Krajina region, so that

## Briefly

● **UNITED NATIONS** Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali visited India for three days in September, in an attempt to further link India to U.N. operations, despite India's failure to be awarded a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Boutros-Ghali appears to have pushed hard for India and Pakistan to use him as the primary negotiator in the Kashmir conflict.

● **THE ZAPATISTA** National Liberation Army has issued a "red alert," charging that the Mexican Army has doubled its troops in the state of Chiapas, and is conducting "provocative" exercises that encroach on Zapatista-held territory. "If the war is started again, this time it won't stop," warned "Sub-Commander" Marcos, the terrorists' leader.

● **CESAR GAVIRIA**, the former President of Colombia, upon his inauguration as secretary general of the Organization of American States, said that "the organization must play an ever expanding and ambitious role." Countries must get around the non-intervention principle that has long separated the United States from the rest of the region, he said.

● **A SAUDI GROUP** called the Battalions of Faith has threatened to target foreigners as well as the Saudi royal family with kidnapping and other terrorist actions, unless the government releases Sheikh Salman ben Fahd al-Awdah, who was arrested on Sept. 13 with 30 of his followers, after he denounced the arrest of two members of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights, a moderate opposition group.

● **RUSSIAN TROOPS** in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe have been ordered to open fire without warning against Tajik police, should the police try to arrest them. The order followed an incident in which three Russian officers were arrested and badly beaten.

there is no control at all of what is going on with the considerable military reserves held by the Serbs there.

Especially short-range missiles (which are being fired against Sarajevo) and heavy artillery have been transferred in considerable numbers from Krajina into Serbian-controlled parts of Bosnia, according to independent intelligence reports.

### *Yeltsin worries about discontent in military*

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is creating a ring of elite military units around Moscow, apparently in order to protect the government from potential revolts by dissatisfied units returning from Germany and the Baltic States, according to the Russian daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* of Sept. 14. The news agency Itar-Tass adds that military loyalty to the President is also to be ensured by the new Department of Military Politics in the presidential chief of staff's office. This office would assume the sort of political screening function once performed by the Communist Party and would select all command personnel from division command on up. They would be judged on their loyalty and readiness to carry out any order issued by the President.

On Sept. 15, in an interview with *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Lebed of the 14th Army in Moldova rated the chances of "a rebellion of the discontented" in the Russian Armed Forces as "fifty-fifty." "If the government provides for a normal existence for the Armed Forces, then there won't be a rebellion," he said.

In an interview with the Madrid paper *El País* on Sept. 11, asked whether he thought that the Army should perform a political role in Russia, Lebed said, "In Russia, unfortunately, all problems become political. . . . The Army is becoming politicized . . . because its normal and vital tasks are not being performed. Its combat readiness is declining, the state's defense capability is diminishing, our equipment supplies have ceased—or almost—and no

experimental design work is being carried out: In other words, there is an overall decline."

### *Crimea confrontation is settled—for now*

Under the combined pressure of Russia and Ukraine, the power struggle between Crimean President Yuri Meshkov and the Crimean Parliament is being shelved, at least for the time being. With an eye to the early October Russian-Ukrainian summit, Moscow and Kiev on Sept. 13 called on the two sides in Crimea to end the conflict.

The power struggle, which had been building since July, came to a head early in September, when Parliament passed a law stripping President Meshkov of most of his powers and launching impeachment proceedings against him. Meshkov retaliated on Sept. 11 by dissolving Parliament, and having security forces block entry to the Parliament building. He announced that a "new constitution" would be drafted, and submitted to voters in a referendum next April. This would be followed by new parliamentary elections. In the meantime, he would rule by decree.

A group of parliamentary deputies, with 30 Russian Cossacks, then took control of Crimean TV and radio, seizing the broadcasting facilities on Sept. 12.

Following the intervention from Moscow and Kiev, Meshkov lifted the blockade of the Parliament building, and the deputies stopped their impeachment proceedings against the President.

The reasons for the power struggle are twofold. Since the July election of Leonid Kuchma as Ukrainian President, on a platform of close cooperation with Russia, Meshkov has followed Moscow's instructions and put on hold Crimea's drive to secede from Ukraine. Parliament opposed this shift. Then, there is the question of which group will reap the main material benefits from the ongoing privatization of state-owned enterprises. This clash was reflected in a summer-long series of gangland slayings, in which dozens were killed.