

International Intelligence

Israel says Iran is getting nuclear bomb

Iran is about eight years away from having a nuclear bomb, Israeli Army intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy said on Sept. 19. "It is possible to assume that if, on the one hand, the process will not be accelerated or, on the other hand, foiled, Iran . . . in a period of some eight years, will be in a situation in which it has a military nuclear capability," he said.

Saguy told Army Radio that "painstaking, behind-the-scenes intelligence work" was underpinning "very comprehensive diplomatic efforts" aimed to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear arsenal. "All these elements come together as a mutual interest of Israel and, I am happy to say, other nations, to try to foil or delay as much as possible Iran becoming a nuclear nation," he said, without naming the countries.

Russian missile corps has its electricity cut

The electricity supply was cut off to Russia's strategic nuclear missile command on Sept. 21, in an incident that might have jeopardized Russian national security, according to military leaders. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin vowed to punish the "brainless clerks" who did this, ostensibly in retaliation for the military's failure to pay its electricity bills. Said Chernomyrdin: "The person guilty of this outrage will be punished today."

Strategic missile forces Commander Igor Sergeev stated that if officers had not switched on a back-up power system, control of the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons arsenal could have been "considerably complicated. . . . There are no words in the Russian language, even unprintable ones, to describe what happened. You cannot even imagine how much switching off the electricity threatened the security of the country."

The action was taken by Mosenergo, the Moscow energy authority, which was owed

50 billion rubles by the military.

The London *Independent* said that the incident would likely be discussed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visits to Britain and the United States at the end of September.

Rutskoy will challenge Yeltsin for presidency

Gen. Aleksandr Rutskoy has been nominated as a candidate to challenge Boris Yeltsin for the Russian presidency. This was decided at a gathering of opposition forces in Kaliningrad, a Russian enclave on the Baltic Sea, on Sept. 17-18. The opposition movement promised to hold a larger gathering in October, to choose a "shadow cabinet" to replace Yeltsin's team. Rutskoy was arrested last October, following the Yeltsin-ordered storming of the Russian Parliament.

According to the London *Daily Telegraph*, the Russian government is apprehensive that Rutskoy and his allies will try to exploit the social unrest likely to break out this winter, as hundreds of thousands more Russians become unemployed. To prevent this, Yeltsin's team is "asking the International Monetary Fund to provide up to 12 billion pounds-sterling in aid, which would help set up a social security network and pay pressing debts to farmers, industry, and the health service," writes the *Telegraph*, adding that it is very unlikely that the IMF will be forthcoming with such money.

U.N. eases sanctions against Serbia

The U.N. Security Council eased sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state in a vote on Sept. 23, suspending for 100 days the bans on air travel, and cultural and sporting ties in the former Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Montenegro. It goes into force only after Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali receives a report from the border monitors that Serbia is banning all but the delivery of humanitarian supplies to the Bosnian Serbs. The vote to ease sanctions was 11-2,

with 2 abstentions. Pakistan and Djibouti voted "no," and Nigeria and Rwanda abstained.

A second resolution prevents travel by Bosnian Serb political and military leaders and bans commercial dealings with areas controlled by Bosnian Serbs. A third resolution, condemning the Serbs for driving thousands of Muslims out of their homes in Banja Luka and other areas, was adopted unanimously.

At least 10 ambassadors from Muslim nations strongly opposed the easing of sanctions, telling the Security Council that Belgrade was being rewarded for fomenting the Bosnian war. "The resolution lacks balance," said Bosnia's U.N. Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey. "For while it seeks to reward those who now have admitted to at least complicity in crimes and war-making, the victim is not assisted."

The Arab League on Sept. 24 said that it regretted the U.N. resolution. Adnan Omran, the League's assistant secretary general, told reporters that the decision damaged the credibility of the council, which recently extended sanctions against League member Libya.

Voltaire's birthday celebrated in Oxford

England's Voltaire Foundation held an international congress in Oxford beginning Sept. 28, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of François Voltaire, the most famous philosopher of the French Enlightenment. As *EIR* reported in a feature article by Webster Tarpley (Sept. 23, 1994, "How the Dead Souls of Venice Corrupted Science"), Voltaire was an agent of Venetian intelligence operative Antonio Conti, and played a major role in promoting the cult of pseudo-scientist Isaac Newton.

The London *Daily Telegraph* reported the news of the anniversary celebration on Sept. 22, pointing out that Voltaire's birthday "might have gone almost unnoticed in Paris had it not been for the British."

The Oxford conference was jointly co-sponsored by the universities of Oxford and Paris. According to the *Telegraph's* pre-

Briefly

conference report, more than 200 French academics were scheduled to fly Britain for two days of discussions and "learned junketing," including a concert by "the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment." There is to be a follow-up festivity, with extensive British participation, in Paris.

The event is receiving the "high patronage" of French President François Mitterrand, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur (who spent his summer vacation reading several biographies of Voltaire), and British Prime Minister John Major, according to the *Telegraph*.

The Voltaire Foundation was created by Thomas Besterman, who came to Britain from Poland in 1915 and edited the entire correspondence of Voltaire (20,000 letters) twice. He procured these documents from the Voltaire Institute in the writer's home in Geneva, Switzerland, after a bitter fight with that institute.

Hunger striker demands end to Iraq embargo

Bernard Cornut, a French civil engineer and former official of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), began a hunger strike on Sept. 10, to put pressure on the French government to review its policy regarding the embargo against Iraq.

Cornut, who has participated in various international campaigns to lift the embargo, began his strike just as the U.N. Security Council was meeting to renew the four-year-old blockade against Iraq. Despite the fact that Russia, France, and China have repeatedly urged the Security Council to ease the embargo, the United Kingdom and United States have consistently led the permanent five Security Council members to maintain the genocidal sanctions.

Russia, China, and France have an economic interest in lifting the embargo. Russia signed a \$10 billion trade deal with Iraq on Sept. 10, and France's oil firms have signed agreements for exploration and development of Iraqi oil.

The Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, an international group formed in 1991 by several

non-governmental organizations in order to coordinate humanitarian projects, is supporting Cornut's hunger strike. The committee issued a statement urging others to extend their solidarity. "French Foreign Minister Juppé is reportedly ready to meet with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz," the statement said. "Now is the time for France to break the stranglehold of the Sanctions Committee. Now, too, is the time for U.S. President Clinton to honor his pre-election pledge to lift the genocidal embargo."

Former Uganda President addresses EIR seminar

Godfrey Binaisa, the former President of Uganda, addressed an *EIR* seminar in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 22. He told the history of the Hutu-Tutsi conflict in Rwanda, and how it had been created by the Belgians. He showed how the "Rwandan civil war" was actually a war of aggression by the Ugandan Army, whose top officers are the sons of Rwandan refugees who now comprise the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Binaisa, who is a well-known figure among Africans, also decried the call for tribunals against genocide in Rwanda, stating that such tribunals would be a farce if Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his sponsor and boss, British Overseas Development Minister Lady Lynda Chalker, were not in the dock. He also called upon Africans to "wake up" and see what is being done to the continent by the British. He called for the dismantling of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and their replacement with a Hamiltonian system of banking in Africa.

EIR Asia Editor Linda de Hoyos also spoke, stating that an independent *EIR* investigation had confirmed the former President's charges against Chalker and Museveni. She warned about the operations now ongoing against Nigeria, noting that Nigerian "democracy leader" Abiola had been a funder of Museveni. However, she said, at the core of the Rwandan catastrophe is the ideology of the British royal family, specifically that of Prince Philip, chairman of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

● **ALMOST 90%** of the non-Serbian population in northern and eastern Bosnia has been expelled or killed by the Serbs, according to the U.N. High Commission on Refugees. Of the 837,000 citizens—mostly Bosnian Muslims—who lived in those regions before 1991, roughly 80,000 are still there, and expulsions are continuing.

● **TAJIKISTAN'S** Russian-controlled government and rebels signed an agreement on Sept. 18, according to which both sides would cease hostilities until Nov. 5. The agreement will go into effect after the deployment of a "U.N. control mechanism" on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The agreement allows the opposition to take part in the Nov. 6 presidential elections and a referendum on a new constitution.

● **DOUGLAS HURD**, the British foreign secretary, is leading a British propaganda offensive against Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams in the United States, the London *Guardian* reported on Sept. 22. Hurd is attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

● **HELGA ZEPP-LAROCHE**, chancellor candidate of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity, addressed the German nation on Sept. 22, in a brief television advertisement which focused on the need for a worldwide economic reconstruction program. "We need the economic integration of the Eurasian continent," she said, "for example, the construction of a land bridge along the old Silk Route, as far as China and South and Southeast Asia."

● **QUEEN ELIZABETH'S** visit to Russia in October will be "historic and unique," said Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Sept. 25 during a visit to London. A well-informed Moscow source told *EIR* that "there are many in Britain who are promoting the idea of a new entente with Russia."