

International Intelligence

United Nations fuels Serbian war machine

The United Nations has violated its own embargo by providing fuel to the Bosnian Serbs. The excuse given is that the fuel is officially to be used "by roadworks vehicles" for clearing snow, but according to Reuters, even U.N. sources admit that it would be impossible to prevent the fuel from being diverted to Bosnian Serb forces fighting the Bosnian government army.

The Serbs have demanded 50% of all fuel shipments passing through their territory, and apparently the U.N. is gladly complying. The compromise flies directly in the face of a U.N. directive from New York that the Serbs should under no circumstances be given fuel.

According to U.N. officials, the military success of the Bosnian government army in recent offensives has in part been due to fuel shortages hampering the mobility of Bosnian Serb heavy weaponry, their military strongpoint.

New criteria offered for NATO membership

NATO members have agreed to a formula under which the organization would eventually offer membership to countries in eastern Europe, but not in the near future, the *Washington Times* reported on Nov. 8. Unnamed diplomatic sources said that the guidelines reflect a compromise between the Clinton administration and Germany.

German officials, led by Defense Minister Volker Ruhe, have outspokenly argued for NATO to be expanded eastward as soon as possible. U.S. policy, said to be shaped primarily by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, is described as not wanting rapid NATO expansion for fear of alienating Russia and strengthening hardliners in Moscow. British sources are said to back the U.S. position.

Diplomatic sources told the *Times* that the guidelines, expected to be approved by the next meeting of the North Atlantic Council in December, would require nations

seeking membership in central and eastern Europe to meet the following criteria: an irreversible commitment to democracy, civilian control of the military, military forces independent of security services, and military equipment and communications interchangeable with those of NATO members. No country will be able to meet these guidelines for several years.

Military exercises in eastern Europe under the 23-nation Partnership for Peace program are already introducing Poland and other countries to these requirements.

Western diplomats said the first countries expected to be seriously considered for full NATO membership are the so-called Visegrad Four: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. But even those countries are unlikely to be admitted before the year 2000, or may have to wait until 2005, according to the report.

Scandal sweeps Canada's intelligence agencies

A civilian review committee will report to the Canadian Parliament in late November on an exploding scandal in the Canadian intelligence establishment. These developments are under investigation:

- It is alleged that Grant Bristow, a paid agent of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), participated in a "far-right" rally in Munich, Germany in March 1991. Bristow and the spy agency were exposed earlier this year for having created and run the largest neo-Nazi organization in Canada, the Heritage Front.

The CSIS apparently did not inform German authorities of Bristow's presence in Germany, or that they were "investigating"—or perhaps helping to instigate—neo-Nazism there.

- It is alleged that the Canadian Security Establishment (CSE) acted at the request of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to intercept and report on the phonecalls of two British cabinet ministers. It is further alleged that, on Thatcher's orders, the Canadian spy agency intercepted communications between France and the government of Quebec. These allegations are contained in a new

book, *Spyworld*, written by Mike Frost, a longtime CSE employee, and journalist Michel Gratton. The reports prompted a demand by Bloc Québécois leader Lucien Bouchard for a commission to investigate the CSE.

The CSE made arrangements after World War II to share intelligence with Britain, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. The very existence of the spy agency was first revealed to Canadians in 1975.

Indian envoy: Britain is source of terrorists

India's ambassador to the United Kingdom, L.M. Singhvi, speaking at a press conference in London in November, said that the interrogation of Ahmed Shaikh, a London School of Economics student held for kidnapping three Britons in India, revealed that young people were being recruited and trained by Islamic organizations, many of which are centered in Britain.

The Convoy of Mercy, which recruited Shaikh Ahmed, is run by a British national originally from Pakistan, Assad Khan. The group has links with Harkat-ul-Ansari, a group actively involved in terrorist operations inside the Indian part of Jammu and Kashmir, Singhvi said. Singhvi also claimed that the terrorists have targeted British universities to recruit fresh activists for acts of terrorism in the Indian subcontinent.

London has long been the headquarters of Amanullah Khan of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, which calls for the British-endorsed policy of an independent Kashmir.

Queen's savagery noted in world press

A photograph of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II killing a pheasant with a blackjack, was published in the mass-circulation German daily *Bildzeitung*, with the comment that this cruel practice is banned by German hunting laws.

The incident was also reported in the British *Mail on Sunday*, which ran several letters to the editor on Nov. 13 under the

Briefly

headline, "Fatal Blow for Royals." The letters are very nasty, including one mocking the queen "putting an animal out of its misery" while her husband, "president of the WWF [World Wide Fund for Nature], had shot it!" Forget the younger royals, the letter says, "what will finally sink the monarchy is the fact that, despite their attempts at being democratic, they remain totally oblivious to the sensitivity of lesser mortals. Or perhaps they do not care what their subjects think."

Another letter called the queen no better than the rest of her "foolish and insensitive family," and a third suggested that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds drop the word "Royal" from its title immediately.

Colombian Indians demand autonomy

Calling for full implementation of Colombia's Constitution, which acknowledges the "right" of indigenous communities to form their own "territorial entities," Indian Senators Gabriel Muyuy and Lorenzo Muelas Hurtado have denounced the government's new law which puts conditions on the formation of such territories. Say the senators: "This is unacceptable, because the government is trying to ignore what the 1991 Constitution recognizes; that there exist indigenous territories inhabited by people of a great ethnic and cultural diversity, different from the rest of the Colombian population, with the right to develop in their own way, with roots much deeper and older than the time of the European arrival to this continent."

Hamas leader calls for cooperation with PLO

Ismail Hanieh, a leader of the Palestinian group Hamas, called on Nov. 13 for averting bloodshed among Palestinians, through dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Hanieh was speaking to Islamic University students in Gaza.

According to Reuters, Hanieh told the students that dialogue with the Palestinian

Authority "should be comprehensive and guarantee democracy, political freedom, and fair elections." He said that agreement was necessary in order to defuse "explosive factors in the Palestinian arena," and that compromises should be made by both sides to prevent in-fighting.

Hanieh's comments mark the first time that a top Hamas official has publicly called for cooperation and agreement with the PLO. According to some reports, a serious dialogue between the PLO and Hamas is under way, for the purpose of reaching a political agreement.

Yeltsin criticizes military reform effort

Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Nov. 14 addressed the country's entire military leadership, opening a two-day session devoted to dealing with the many problems that plague the Russian military. Present were not only the leaders of the Defense Ministry and General Staff, but also all Military District and fleet commanders. Except for Yeltsin's address, which was open to journalists, the entire proceedings took place behind closed doors.

Yeltsin declared that command and reorganization reforms in the Armed Forces were going too slowly, singling out the need to make mobile forces operational, a Russian version of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force. He also stressed the need for the Armed Forces to reach required levels of combat readiness for 1995, adding that many units are undermanned. He attacked the fact that a severe housing shortage for officers and their families still exists, and called on Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was in the room, to ensure that the Armed Forces receive sufficient funding for readiness, procurement, and staff living conditions.

Noting the conflicts along or near the southern periphery of Russia, Yeltsin said that the situation "is fraught with a potential expansion of existing military conflicts and the emergence of new ones in which Russia will be involved, because of its geopolitical and geostrategic interests."

● **THE JORDANIAN** newspaper *Al-Bilad* cites "informed diplomatic sources" that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Syrian counterpart, Farouq al-Shara, held a secret meeting in Cairo on Nov. 7, on the issue of the Golan Heights. They reportedly agreed to a 16-month timetable for Israeli withdrawal.

● **TAIWAN'S** Defense Ministry on Nov. 9 proposed a record budget of \$10.6 billion for the 1995-96 financial year—a 10% increase over the previous year. The defense budget would account for 24.5% of the total national budget. If approved by Parliament next year, this would represent the most money Taiwan has spent on defense in any single year during Kuomintang rule since 1949.

● **A 'NARCO-SUBMARINE'** was discovered by Colombian authorities in Barranquilla, off the Caribbean coast. The mini-sub, belonging to drug traffickers, was apparently less sophisticated than another one recently found docked in the waters alongside Tayrona National Park, which had radar and other high-technology communications equipment.

● **THE QUEEN MUM** is not dead after all. The British Broadcasting Corp. sent a formal letter of apology to the 94-year-old mother of Queen Elizabeth II, for reporting on Nov. 11 that she had died. The announcement was reportedly part of a British Broadcasting Corp. rehearsal script for the real event, and was transmitted briefly by mistake.

● **THE RUSSIAN** military is engineering a shift against Russia's policy of neglect toward Cuba, in the wake of a visit to Havana at the beginning of November by Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov, Chief of the Russian General Staff. Kolesnikov told the Interfax news agency that Russia and Cuba have reached agreements on military and economic exchanges.