

gas, and according to Iranian accounts, to extract 1,995 cubic feet of gas per day, from the Pars-e Jonubi field.

Immediately, irate voices were heard in Washington, to the effect that the agreement was in violation of the notorious Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), who presented the act, exclaimed that the French company should be "sanctioned to the fullest possible extent. There is no doubt," he ranted, "that Total has been trying to precipitate a dispute with this contract over the implementation of the act." The U.S. State Department's reaction was more directly political: "Our position on any investments in Iranian gas and oil fields is clear: Such investments make more resources available for Iran to use in supporting terrorism and pursuing missiles and nuclear weapons."

According to the legislation on sanctions, Clinton has 180 days to consider the situation, and decide whether sanctions should be imposed. Given the dimensions of the agreement, all three partners, Russia, France, and Malaysia, could be eligible for sanctions.

From initial indications, it appears as if the Clinton administration wants to avoid unnecessary confrontation. State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin stated on Sept. 29, that sanctions might be waived. He said, "The objective of the legislation is not to impose sanctions," but to get other countries, in Europe in particular, "to work with us on the subject of tightening up pressure on Iran." There are several indications of the administration's desire to improve relations with Iran, albeit in a step-by-step, very gradual process. The Clinton administration did make known on July 27, that it would not oppose a pipeline from Turkmenistan through Iran, to Turkey, when it could have used the sanctions legislation, to oppose it.

What threatens to blow up the situation, is the climate of frenzy which is being whipped up in Europe. Since the deal was announced, the press has gone overboard to paint a picture of a "war of words" between the old continent and the new. Those stoking the flames of conflict are being led by Leon Brittan, the British bully in the European Union who is urging "Europe" to seize the opportunity of the Iran deal, to "confront" the United States. That there is no need for confrontation, was noted by the German financial daily *Handelsblatt*, which pointed out that talks had already been scheduled for Oct. 15, for the United States and the EU to iron out any differences over trade issues. Why the French government, which backed the Total deal, went ahead with the announcement in the manner it did, notes *Handelsblatt*, is a big question mark. The thrust of the controversy, is to pit Europe and Russia against the United States.

President Clinton is facing a historic summit with China's President Jiang Zemin, and the challenge to forge a partnership with that great power in Asia. The current drumbeat against Iran, must be seen as part of the broader British effort to sabotage Clinton's policy toward Eurasia, and dealt with accordingly.

George Soros vs. sanity in Poland

by Anna Kaczor Wei

After a short election campaign that was interrupted by dramatic floods in southwest Poland, on Sept. 21 Polish citizens (only 48% of eligible voters) elected a new Sejm (parliament), now dominated by the Solidarity-led coalition called Solidarity Electoral Action (AWS), which got 34% of the vote. The second largest party is the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD), with 27% of vote, followed by the Freedom Union (UW), chaired by infamous free-marketeer Leszek Balcerowicz, 13%; the Polish Peasant Party (PSL), 7%; and the Movement for the Reconstruction of Poland (ROP), chaired by former prime minister and nationalist Jan Olszewski, with more than 5%.

As of this writing, the AWS leadership is still in negotiations to form a coalition government. They will have to make a decision by Oct. 17, present their candidate for prime minister, who, after getting the approval of President Aleksander Kwasniewski, will form his cabinet. Many Polish sources confirm that the AWS is ready to form a coalition with the Freedom Union, with "the blessing" of the PSL and the ROP, to counterbalance the influence of the SLD, which they consider their main adversary because of its communist past. Such a coalition, however, will have at least one major flaw: It will be based on a conflict of interest, because the expectations of many Solidarity unionists are contrary to the economic ideas of the UW, whose leading politicians, including Balcerowicz, for many years have been collaborating with George Soros, the hit-man for the British financial oligarchy.

Soros's invasion of Poland

EIR readers are familiar with Soros's involvement in the destruction of the currencies and economies of many countries, most recently in Southeast Asia, where during the last few weeks, Malaysia's Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has attacked speculators like Soros in response to their destructive activities there.

Soros first set foot in Poland in the mid-1980s. In his book *Underwriting Democracy* (New York: The Free Press, 1991), Soros describes his first involvement in eastern Europe, including Poland, where he moved to establish one of his foundations in 1988: "Pelczynski was ready to negotiate with the government, and I had my own contacts with the Solidarity

underground. . . . When Solidarity came to power, I asked the board to resign and put the foundation into the hands of a new team headed by Zbigniew Bujak, erstwhile leader of Solidarity in Warsaw. . . . I established close personal contact with Walesa's chief adviser, Bronislaw Geremek." Geremek is currently a leading politician in the UW, and a member of the board of Soros's Batory Foundation in Poland. Other leading UW members are also on the board, for example, former Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka.

Further on, Soros describes how he "prepared the broad outlines of a comprehensive economic program" for Poland, and "showed the plan to Geremek and Professor Trzeciakowski." Soros's plan became known as the Balcerowicz Plan, otherwise called shock therapy, or the Polish model. For many Poles, Balcerowicz, former finance minister and prime minister, is the embodiment of the insanity of the free-market reforms, including such measures as lifting tariffs on 800,000 commodities almost overnight, and increasing interest rates to more than 90%.

The fact that 13% of the vote makes his party the third-largest force in the parliament, leaves many Polish patriots worried that a new ruling coalition, if it involves the UW, may accelerate free-market reforms and speed up the collapse of an already weak economy. This seems quite possible to them, given that the chairman of the Solidarity trade union, Marian Krzaklewski, has often voiced his support for the continuation of free-market reforms and the unpopular policy of mass privatizations, which so far have resulted in the takeover of Polish industry and, increasingly, the banking system, by foreign interests. It is also alarming that the AWS includes such proponents of the Conservative Revolution in the tradition of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, as Kazimierz Ujazdowski, leader of the Conservative Coalition, who represents in Poland the British-linked Windsor Group.

Trade unionists must act

However, the last seven years have proven to many Solidarity unionists that free-market reforms mean the loss of jobs, a lower standard of living, the destruction of health care and education, and no comprehensive vision for the development of the country, since everything supposedly depends on "market forces." They are determined to change economic policies in a way that would guarantee the reconstruction not only of the regions destroyed by the recent floods, but also of infrastructure and industry throughout Poland.

A leading trade unionist from the industrial region in Upper Silesia, Krzysztof Młodzik, told *EIR* that rank and file unionists are committed to the fight for infrastructure development, and reported that there is growing support for the idea of Lyndon LaRouche's Eurasian Land-Bridge project and transport grid development, because people are beginning to understand that it means more jobs in many branches of

industry. A similar sentiment was expressed by Prof. Adam Biela, who won his seat running on the AWS ticket. He also mentioned to this author that many AWS parliamentarians are aware of the Soros connection to the UW, and will make sure that the future economic policy of the government is directed more toward the development of the productive economy. He also reported that during the post-election Solidarity meeting in Gdansk, the delegates demanded that the future coalition include, if necessary, also the PSL and the ROP—which is a good sign, because both parties have been campaigning for protectionist measures to save Polish farmers and industry.

In his book, Soros wrote about the Polish economy in 1991: "If loss-making operations were forced into liquidation, both labor and other resources would become freely available. Western enterprises could then come in and employ cheap Polish labor and other resources in supplying Western markets." Although this goal has been partially achieved, should Poland join a growing anti-International Monetary Fund coalition now, it would still have a chance to recover. However, this coalition has to be urgently expanded to include the United States of America, because, as LaRouche has stressed many times, it is presently the only country which can successfully lead an alliance against the British "Invisible" Empire.

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