

International Intelligence

French hospital closings spark national resistance

The closing of the hospital in Bitche, Lorraine has become a focal point for national resistance to the government's austerity restructuring of the health care system. At a Sept. 27 meeting of the Organizing Committee to Save the Bitche Hospital, co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche distributed about 400 leaflets and the newspaper *Nouvelle Solidarité*. The leaflet explained the relationship between the restructuring plans, the world financial crisis, and the necessity for LaRouche's New Bretton Woods monetary system.

The French government plans to eliminate 34,700 hospital beds, 3,700 of them in Lorraine. As a result of the reduction of services in Bitche and the overcrowding of the next nearest hospital at Sarreguemines, several people have already died, although their conditions were not critical.

Doctors, nurses, the hospital director, several local mayors and one National Assembly deputy were at the meeting. The head of the Medical Doctors and Employees Coordinating Committee from Bordeaux lambasted the immorality and cynicism of the national ministers in charge of implementing these changes, Dr. Bernard Kouchner and Martine Aubry. The spokesman, himself a physician, was particularly harsh in his criticism of their effort to popularize euthanasia in France, as part of the austerity drive.

Indonesian group calls for anti-Habibie protests

The National Front, founded in August 1998, and led by prominent retired military and civil leaders, issued a statement of support Oct. 1 to a call for 40 days of demonstrations, beginning on Oct. 5, to topple Indonesian President B.J. Habibie. The call was issued by a meeting of student activists dubbed the Bandung Reform Movement, under the umbrella of the Reformation Movement of the Entire Java. The chairman of the National Front is Lt. Gen. Kemal Idris (ret.), former chief of the Army Strategic Re-

serve Command, and includes former Jakarta Gov. Ali Sadikin.

Prominent individuals denounced the National Front, and demanded that the country proceed with the general elections next year. Among them, Amien Rais of the National Mandate Party and Zakiruddin Jamin of the United Moslem Party of Indonesia have said they will oppose the National Front. Dr. Asma Affan of the University of North Sumatra and Dr. Mochtar Pabottingi of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences have also rejected the Front's call. K.H. Jusuf Hasyim, a noted Islamic figure whose nephew, Abdurrahman Wahid, heads the largest Islamic organization, admonished Idris and company: "As old persons and retired generals, they must be wise in facing this current condition and should not instigate youngsters." Hasyim cautioned, they are "playing with fire in dry grass."

On Oct. 5, police blocked 200-300 students from demonstrating outside the Parliament, who were demanding the scrapping of the "dual function" of the military (Abri), as defined in the Constitution. Although the students are members of the People's Strategic Committee Against Abri's Dual Function, literature from the People's Democratic Party (PRD) was distributed. The PRD had been banned by the former Suharto government as a subversive organization. The previous week, student organizations also called for abandoning the state doctrine of Pancasila, outlined in the 1945 Constitution, which laid the basis for an ecumenical underpinning for government.

Enéas Carneiro cites EIR in campaign ad

On his last half-minute TV ad of the Brazilian Presidential campaign, broadcast on Oct. 1 to an estimated audience of 100 million, Dr. Enéas Carneiro went after President Fernando Henrique Cardoso for being a crony of the likes of mega-speculator and drug legalizer George Soros. He then held up the Aug. 29, 1997 issue of *EIR* which portrays Soros smiling through a field of marijuana on its cover. Moreover, said Dr. Enéas (as he is known), Brazil's other leading candidate, "Lula" Da Silva of the Worker's Party,

signed Soros's two-page *New York Times* ad, demanding that the UN legalize drugs, then held up the infamous Soros ad, pointing to Lula's name.

And the third "major" candidate, Ciro Gomes, who says he is an independent, is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue, said Dr. Enéas, just like the other two candidates. So, if you don't want your children to be getting cocaine at the doors of their schools, reject these candidates, he said, concluding with his trademark, "My name is Enéas."

Luzhkov attends meeting of U.K. Labour Party

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov showed up at the British Labour Party annual conference in Blackpool on Sept. 30, and later gave a press conference at the Russian Embassy. The day earlier, he had met Prime Minister Tony Blair for five minutes. Luzhkov charged that the International Monetary Fund and other Western lenders were "throwing money on the fire" by making large loans to Russia. The *Times* of London quoted him as saying that "the IMF and other organizations that granted Russia credit made a huge mistake." Large sums of western aid had been misappropriated, and spent on consumer goods instead of being invested, he claimed. He also accused the IMF of a "strategic error," in treating Russia as though it were some small east European country. The scale was completely different. In this context, he called for a major restructuring of Russia's debt, to provide some breathing space.

He emphatically denied that there would be food shortages in Moscow this winter, asserting that the city had adequate stocks of potatoes, vegetables, flour, and other staples. Emphasizing that he would take personal responsibility, Luzhkov added: "Any talk of hunger is absurd. Perhaps someone wants this to happen."

Luzhkov said he had not yet decided whether to run for the Presidency in the year 2000, "But if I see that the contenders do not have appropriate state positions and views that will bring stability and prosperity, then I may throw my hat into the ring."