

International Intelligence

Zapatistas provoke fight with Mexican military

Seven soldiers and two terrorists of the Zapatista National Liberation Army were hurt on Aug. 25, after a clash in the village of San José La Esperanza in the southern state of Chiapas. This was the first confrontation between Zapatistas and Army soldiers since June 10, 1998. According to the Defense Secretariat, the clash occurred after a military unit had detected three hooded and armed individuals, following which, 40 people wearing hoods “violently attacked the military unit, in a clear provocation, seeking an excessive reaction by the troops.” The Zapatistas put out wild claims that the police and military had attacked the town, tortured Indians, and beaten women. Immediately, the Congressional negotiating commission, COCOPA, announced they would travel to Chiapas to see how to revive “peace talks.”

The Zapatista terrorists are clearly gunning for action. In addition to their deployments to stop oil drilling and construction of a highway, they announced on Aug. 25 that they had created three new “autonomous towns” in Chiapas. A Zapatista document was read at one demonstration, hailing the new towns, and demanding the “demilitarization of indigenous towns in the country.”

UN’s Zacklin tries to whipsaw Cambodia

After four days of deadlocked talks between Cambodian government officials and a delegation headed by UN Assistant Secretary General for Legal Affairs Ralph Zacklin, on the structure and scope of a trial for Khmer Rouge leaders, Zacklin told a Phnom Penh press conference on Aug. 31 that “there is at the present time a very wide divergence on the very nature of the tribunal we are talking about.” He reported that Prime Minister Hun Sen has requested a meeting with Secretary General Kofi Annan in mid-September, when Hun Sen is expected to address the opening of the General Assembly.

Cambodia has rejected the terms pro-

posed by the UN, which include having Annan appoint the majority of judges and the prosecutor, all non-Cambodians. The Cambodian government considers the UN conditions a gross breach of its national sovereignty. As Hun Sen has enunciated his government’s policy: The crimes were committed against Cambodians, in Cambodia, by Cambodians. Primary jurisdiction rests with the Phnom Penh government. Notwithstanding, Zacklin arrogantly asserted: “If the government is not able to meet the UN conditions, the UN will simply cease to follow this process. The UN is prepared to make assistance available, but only on condition that international standards are met,” he said. “The government can proceed on its own, but unless certain minimum standards are met the UN will not lend itself to this process.”

Last spring, Cambodia had asked the UN for help in drafting a law against genocide/crimes against humanity. Zacklin’s “conditions” are what it got. At present, only Khmer Rouge leaders Ta Mok (a.k.a. “the Butcher”) and Duch, are being held in custody under the 1979 law making the Khmer Rouge illegal. In mid-August, the UN Human Rights office, Amnesty International, and George Soros’s Human Rights Watch objected to Phnom Penh’s efforts to extend pre-trial detention in cases of genocide and similar crimes.

Chávez unleashes reign of terror on Venezuela

Venezuela’s President Hugo Chávez is loosing a reign of terror on that country with all the cynical trappings of legality adopted by the French Revolution’s own Danton. In late August, Supreme Court President Cecilia Sosa resigned, after charging that Chávez’s National Constituent Assembly (CNA)—which is to re-write the constitution—had effectively usurped the functions of the court, when the CNA imposed a “judicial emergency” two weeks earlier.

The Supreme Court judge whom “Citizen Chávez” then picked to head this “Judicial Emergency Commission” is Alirio Abreu Burelli. No stranger to Jacobin lawlessness, in 1985, Abreu Burelli had or-

dered *EIR*’s book *Narcotráfico, SA (Dope, Inc.)* to be banned in Venezuela at the request of business mogul Gustavo Cisneros.

A week after shutting down the courts, on Aug. 25, the CNA voted to shut down Congress, creating a “legislative assembly.” Onetime Chávez ally Jorge Olavarria, who is now a fierce opponent, charged that “this is nothing more than the continuation of a coup d’état. Today there is no constitution, there is no Supreme Court, there is no Congress.” Attempts by congressmen to meet in emergency session on Aug. 27, ended when Chávez-deployed mobs, defended by the National Guard, physically prevented legislators from entering the Congress building.

Chávez’s ally Adm. Hernán Gruber, Governor of the Federal District of Caracas, was quoted by Reuters on Sept. 1, calling for Venezuela to fight crime by publicly executing criminals.

Mediterranean heads of state summit proposed

Speaking before an assembly of French ambassadors, President Jacques Chirac called for “the first summit of heads of state and government of the Mediterranean.” Participants would include the heads of state of nations which have long-standing hostility toward each other—e.g., Israel, Lebanon, Algeria, Morocco, and Libya. This project, said Chirac, “will give the necessary impetus to edification on both sides of our common sea . . . toward a single region of peace, of cooperation, and of development.”

Chirac has been preparing this since at least July, when the late King Hassan II of Morocco was France’s special guest at the July 14 Bastille Day military parade in Paris. Chirac referred to Morocco’s new King, Mohammed VI, as someone “with insight and talent,” who will pursue the work of his father. French relations have also greatly improved with Algeria since Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who is attempting to end the country’s seven-year-old civil war, became President. Chirac said of Bouteflika that “his words and acts, since his election, show that this man of courage will seek to change the course of things. Yes, the moment has come to change

the course of things between Algeria and France.”

Also important, Chirac solicited the participation of Libya, saying that its “collaboration with the French justice system” in the 1980s bombing of a French commercial airliner over Chad “allows us to turn that somber page” of history. Finally, Chirac saluted Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak’s “determination” to “establish peace.”

Chirac took the opportunity to attack the effort to extend the role of NATO worldwide: “France will never agree to having a regional organization build itself into a holy alliance for everything and everywhere.”

Indonesia challenges Washington Post lying

The First Secretary for press at the Indonesian Embassy in Washington has challenged the *Washington Post*’s Aug. 27 editorial, “East Timor’s Day,” which demanded that the United States threaten “brutalizing” Indonesia with a cutoff of foreign loans and aid, and the possibility of an international peace-keeping force, if Jakarta fails to control pro-Indonesia militia during East Timor’s Aug. 30 autonomy vote.

In a letter to the editor, which, as of the Aug. 30 vote, had not been published by the *Post*, Secretary Mahendra Siregar makes the point, “The conflicts between factions in East Timor is as old as the 400 years of Colonial Portuguese ‘Divide and Rule’ Policy, and as fierce as the armed conflicts between different groups of people in Northern Ireland or Kosovo.” But unlike Portugal, Indonesia not once, but twice, has given East Timor the option of independence. “When the colonial Portuguese authorities, in a most irresponsible manner, simply packed up and left East Timor, the province was already in a bloody civil war between its five political parties and their militias. One of the political parties, FRETILIN, issued a unilateral declaration of independence on Nov. 28, 1975, without benefit of any act of self-determination. As a consequence, the other four parties, UDT, APODETI, KOTA, and Trabalhista, proclaimed the independence and simultaneous integration with Indonesia on Nov. 30, 1975. . . . On May 31, 1976 the

Indonesian highest legislative body, People’s Assembly, issued a decree that accepted the province’s integration into Indonesia.”

The vote on Aug. 30 is “a second chance for the East Timorese to decide their political status. According to the UN supervised agreement, Indonesia will be responsible to provide security. . . . It is for this purpose, Indonesia deployed 15,000 police to the province with an area of 15,000 square kilometers. . . . It is as tough as the 30,000 well-equipped UN and NATO peacekeeping forces have to face in Kosovo with an area of 11,000 square kilometers.

“ . . . [A]s the third largest democracy in the world, Indonesia would be very disappointed if any party like the *Post* would advocate a bullying foreign policy to be applied on us. I am afraid it would simply send a very confusing signal to other countries in the world. . . .”

Last cosmonauts leave Mir ‘with bitter heart’

On Aug. 27, the crew of three aboard the Russian space station Mir left the 13-year-old station by means of their Soyuz spacecraft. As the crew was preparing to close the hatch to the Mir, cosmonaut Viktor Afanasyev said, “We are leaving with a bitter heart, we are leaving a little piece of Russia.” Mission Control was described by the press as saddened and quiet, as the 27th and last crew on Mir closed down many of the station’s systems, and left it empty.

The end of flights to Mir marks the first time in the Soviet/Russian space program that there will be no independent manned effort in space, besides that of the United States. Russia’s Soyuz craft can only be used for transportation, unlike the Space Shuttle, which can be used to perform scientific experiments in orbit for up to 18 days. Soyuz will now be used for transport to the International Space Station, which began assembly last November.

The current plan is to send a crew to Mir early next year to start to lower its orbit. By March, it is expected to be ready for a self-destruct reentry through the Earth’s atmosphere.

JORDANIAN authorities raided an Amman office linked to Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic militant organization, and issued arrest warrants for four Hamas leaders, who are all currently in Iran. The authorities also closed the office of the Hamas magazine *Falastina al-Muslima*, which was being published illegally, according to the Jordanian Interior Ministry.

NORTH KOREA and the United States have scheduled bilateral talks, to begin on Sept. 7 in Berlin, intended to head off a regional crisis over North Korea’s anticipated test launch of a new long-range missile. The four days of bilateral talks will involve U.S. State Department official Charles Kartman and North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan.

ROMANIA postponed the start of the school year for at least a week in five counties and in Bucharest, because of an epidemic of meningitis, Radio Free Europe reported on Aug. 31. Nearly 4,000 cases of meningitis have been registered so far.

FARC TERRORIST leader “Simón Trinidad” bemoaned the hardships he went through to join the Colombian narco-terrorists, in an Aug. 22 interview with the Argentine daily *Clarín*. “My family is one of the most aristocratic of Valledupar, and my father is a prominent lawyer.” He himself was a bank manager when he began collaborating with the FARC. But “to leave behind a lifestyle, the bourgeois comforts, and the social gatherings—this was very hard.”

IRAQI officials gave a tour of Baghdad hospitals and relief organizations to the first U.S. Congressional staffers to visit the country since the war in 1991. The delegation met with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Deputy Health Minister Shawqi Murquis, and UN and relief organization officials.