

# International Intelligence

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## ***Primakov holds useful dialogues in Germany***

German media characterized Russian Presidential candidate Yevgeni Primakov as someone who is "reliable and constructive," in their reportage of his Oct. 28-29 visit to Berlin. The former Prime Minister met with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, and opposition head Wolfgang Schäuble. He also gave a speech hosted by the German Foreign Policy Association.

Primakov told the press that, in his discussions with political figures, they had all voiced deep concern over the Russian military operations in Chechnya, but they also had to admit they did not have an answer to the problem, at present. Primakov responded to them that neither Germany nor other Western nations have yet been confronted with a terrorist threat of the dimension that Russia is facing in the North Caucasus. He added that he thinks the military operation is justified, as long as it is limited to air strikes, and he emphasized that he disagrees with any deployment of ground forces, because it would cause too many casualties and threaten Russia with stumbling into a larger war.

He warned against the expansion of NATO to the East and the U.S. plans to withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty, which, he said, would pose an "asymmetrical threat" to which Russia would be forced to respond.

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## ***Brit mercenaries offer to kill PKK, arm KLA***

Britain's infamy as a safe-haven for terrorist groups is becoming seconded by its fame for mercenary organizations that will offer weapons to a terrorist gang one day, and offer to wipe out another the next. Aims Ltd. of Salisbury, Wiltshire, which has been linked to Prince Philip, is accused in the *Sunday Times* of London on Oct. 31, of making an offer to Turkey to wipe out Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) rebels, through radiation poisoning, of offering to assassinate PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan (whom Tur-

key has sentenced to death), and of providing arms and mercenaries to the Kosovo Liberation Army during the NATO war against Yugoslavia.

The firm, according to the *Times*, "has close links to British intelligence and the SAS." It was founded by Brian "Tom" Smith, a former noncommissioned officer in the British Army who served as a special military adviser to the military leadership in Ghana, "claims to have close links to Special Branch and has boasted to business colleagues that he is connected to a former MI5 officer who is said to be a close friend of the Duke of Edinburgh."

The *Times* "Insight Team" reporters say that Aims proposed to Turkish military officials that they would irradiate Kurdish rebels, whom Turkey had captured in northern Iraq. Smith's memo to the Turkish government, provided to the *Times*, read, in part: "Radiation detection. This is a method in which a radioactive source is placed in the target and the source is then monitored. This can be done by aircraft or satellite. The downside is that the target succumbs to radiation poisoning in approximately 21 days. This has been used by certain nations when they have released POWs." Other proposals that Aims offered to the Turkish military involved sabotage of Greek Cypriot air defense systems, and "neutralization" of alleged Kurdish bases in southern Cyprus.

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## ***Menem asked to pardon Malvinas hero, Seineldín***

"Call for Pardon for Seineldín," was the headline in the leading Argentine daily *La Nación* on Oct. 29, reporting that Carlos González Cabral, who had been the political secretary for former President Arturo Frondizi, had sent a letter to President Carlos Menem, requesting that he pardon Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, a national hero of the 1982 Malvinas War against Great Britain.

As *La Nación* reports, González Cabral's letter charges that Transparency International (TI) and its president for Latin America and the Caribbean, Luis Moreno Ocampo, led the prosecution team against Seineldín, politically targeting him, not because of the December 1990 military upris-

ing which Seineldín had led, but "to intensify the psychological war, launched much earlier, against the armed forces, not only of this country, but of all of Ibero-America."

*La Nación* concludes, "Finally, González Cabral tells Menem that he believes, 'as do many Argentines, that if [Chile's] Gen. Augusto Pinochet could be decorated by Argentina (in 1993, by Army chief Martín Balza) after allying with the [British] usurpers of our Malvinas . . . the former combat soldier, Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín, should be free.'"

Although not covered by *La Nación*, González's letter reminds President Menem that Transparency International stands behind Spain's Judge Baltasar Garzón, who is illegally seeking Pinochet's extradition, which Menem himself had denounced as "judicial colonialism." González writes, "TI was founded in 1993 to serve the British Empire. It is a powerful organization run by London . . . which always counted on the support of Prince Philip of Edinburgh."

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## ***Anxious Ecuadorans seek solution from military***

Anxious and terrified people are asking the military to resolve the economic crisis, declared Ecuador's Defense Minister, Gen. José Gallardo (ret.), speaking at the Oct. 27 function commemorating the founding of the Air Force. "With immense concern," he said, "we have learned that people of different economic strata and conditions are coming to military authorities, to express their anxiety over the growing unemployment brought about by the ruin of large, medium and small productive companies. They are terrified by the dizzying rise in the value of the dollar [against the devalued currency, the sucre], which sets off a chain reaction of greater economic deterioration and poverty."

Gallardo, however, went on to insist that Congress pass the International Monetary Fund-dictated budget cuts and tax increases. The government of President Jamil Mahuad, apparently with the backing of a leading section of the Armed Forces, argues that the IMF accord is the only hope for the country, because it should bring in \$400-800 million.

**MALAYSIA'S** *New Straits Times* previewed "Russian Laureate Night" to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Russia's great poet, Alexander Pushkin. The Oct. 31 event was announced by Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz, who said that the festivities would include poetry and piano recitals, and drama in English, Bahasa Malaysia, and Russian.

**SADDAM HUSSEIN** of Iraq discussed the possibility of a constitutional amendment allowing a multi-party system, in Oct. 26 talks with the Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party leadership. Iraq was in the process of drafting a permanent constitution in 1990-91, which process was halted by the war against it.

**IGOR IVANOV**, Russia's Foreign Minister, is scheduled to visit North Korea on Nov. 8-11, to sign a new treaty replacing the one in effect since just after the Korean War. He is the first Foreign Minister from Moscow to visit Pyongyang since then-Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited there in 1990. Among other topics to be discussed is the U.S. plan to build an anti-missile defense system in Northeast Asia.

**JAPANESE** Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was quoted by wires on Oct. 31, saying, "It is essential to prepare the necessary framework to counter possible attacks on our country." He referred specifically to the suspected ballistic missile launch last year by North Korea, and an incursion of suspected North Korean spy ships into Japanese waters earlier this year.

**EDUARD SHEVARNADZE**, Georgia's President, told a press conference in Tbilisi on Nov. 1 that Georgia will be a NATO member by 2005. He welcomed the Oct. 31 election victory of his Citizens' Union of Georgia party, and said he is hopeful to win the re-election next year. If so, his pro-NATO policy will be continued, which will ensure that Georgia will be a member of the Western alliance by the year 2005, he said.

Stating that it is "indispensable" for the country to reach an accord with the IMF, Gallardo called on the Congress "to reach a consensus to save the republic."

Two days earlier, on Oct. 25, major newspapers published an unprecedented communiqué signed by the Armed Forces, striking out at the "senseless and dangerous" behavior of political, business, and trade union leaders, who engage in "permanent conflicts, scandals and paralyzing actions, without offering far-reaching strategies or objectives which extend beyond election and material concerns. The results are clear: confrontation, violence, social fragmentation, incalculable economic and social losses." If continued, this could lead to "radicalization, and possible violent solutions, and confrontation."

The Armed Forces called for society and its leaders to provide "generous, rational and wise contributions to guide a practical policy, capable of overcoming the antagonisms, and find viable political, economic and social solutions based upon common interests."

## *Transparency puts out 'bribe payers index'*

For the first time, Transparency International—the World Bank "anti-corruption" watchdog that is heavily backed by Britain's Prince Philip—has put out a listing called the "Bribe Payers Perception List," along with its five-year-old "Corruption Perception Index." The listings are used to target countries for political and social destabilization, and/or to deny them access to international credit. The list contains 19 countries whose "corporations are perceived to be paying bribes to foreign officials." The allegedly ten worst cases include China (including Hong Kong), South Korea, Taiwan, Italy, and Malaysia.

Malaysia's Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik dismissed Transparency's Bribe Payers Perception Index as "ridiculous," on Oct. 28. He ridiculed TI's methodology, pointing out that even TI admits it is impossible to obtain factual evidence to back up the index. Lim's views are supported by the Malaysian International

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, and prominent U.S.-linked firms.

## *Australians set to turn down pseudo-republic*

The push for Australia to become a "republic," by replacing Queen Elizabeth of England as head of state with an Australian President, looks set to fail, as late-October polls show that only 33% indicate they would approve it at the national referendum on Nov. 6. The present referendum would allow a President to be chosen only by Parliament, not directly elected, as in the United States. The "republicans" are run by the Australian Republican Movement (ARM), comprised of current and former employees of Australia's richest man, media magnate Kerry Packer, a close crony of Her Majesty. At the 1998 Constitutional Convention, Packer's ARM joined forces with the monarchists to agree to have the President appointed by Parliament, and allow the President to dismiss the prime minister and vice-versa.

A triumvirate of Australia's most senior knighted jurists, former Governor-General Sir Zelman Cowen, and former High Court chief justices Sir Anthony Mason and Sir Gerard Brennan, have attacked the push for the direct election of a President, complaining that "Without extensive constitutional constraints an elected Presidency could destroy the Westminster system of responsible government." As argued in 1920 by High Court Justice Isaac Isaacs, a framer of the Australian Constitution, and subsequently a Governor-General of Australia: "It is essential to bear in mind two cardinal features of our political system which are interwoven in its texture and . . . radically distinguish it from the American Constitution. One is the common sovereignty of all parts of the British Empire [that means the Crown, of course]; the other is the principle of responsible government . . . the institution of responsible government, a government under which the Executive is directly responsible to—nay, is almost the creature of—the Legislature. This is not so in America."