

International Intelligence

Mozart and Verdi Performed in Baghdad

The Iraqi Symphony Orchestra defied the Anglo-American occupation and the disastrous security and humanitarian conditions, beginning again to rehearse and perform Classical music, Baghdad's *Asharq Al-Awsat* reported on May 30. The orchestra played short selections from Mozart and Verdi in a small concert, to convince the leaders of the Iraqi "opposition groups" to take them and their music seriously. The concert was attended by Adnan Al-Bachachi, former Iraqi Foreign Minister, who returned from exile recently to lead the Independent Democratic Assembly group. Bachachi had said that he loves Classical music, and that his daughter, who is a pianist in Berlin, was launching a campaign to raise money and buy new instruments for the Iraqi Symphony.

The orchestra has shrunk from 60 to 40 musicians, all of whom have to work other jobs besides playing music, to survive. However, they have decided to meet three times a week, to rehearse and keep this tradition alive. "This is not mere luxury, as many people believe," said Fuad al-Mashta, conductor and flutist.

South Met South At Evian Summit

Heads of state and government of developing nations used the opportunity of the Group of Eight summit in Evian, France, to hold many bilateral and multilateral meetings amongst themselves. The potential created was exemplified in the report by Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, that following two days of bilateral discussions between the Brazilian delegation and the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria and Russia, Brazilian President Lula da Silva "became very enthusiastic about the possibility of a meeting of the large developing countries, which would include China and Russia." Lula told

the press, "We came out of the meetings with the idea that the developing countries need to tighten relations amongst them." He suggested that Brazil host the next summit of the Group of 15 leading developing nations.

Lula was to continue his bilateral meetings June 2, in meetings with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and China's new President Hu Jintao. The first visit by an Indian foreign minister to Brazil was announced for June 5-6, and South Africa's Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma will also participate in those meetings.

The Brazilian daily *Folha de São Paulo* asserted that the government "is making a strong bet on South-South relations," and asked Amorim if the government viewed the South-South proposals as an alternative, should trade negotiations with the European Union and the United States break down. Amorim demurred, saying the two were not counterposed, as South-South cooperation "is good in itself, and, in addition, it strengthens our bargaining power with the developed countries."

Lula's special diplomatic advisor, Marco Aurelio Garcia, reminded the press that this is "not a cooperation of poor people with poor people, with equally poor results." China became, in April, Brazil's second-largest trading partner, after the United States, he pointed out, and Brazil's trade with India and China includes "First World" products, such as airplanes, computer technology, and pharmaceuticals.

LaRouche Candidate In Mexico Draws Blood

Benjamín Castro, candidate for governor of the Mexican state of Nuevo León, has stirred up a hornets' nest of hysteria in response to his aggressive promotion of Lyndon LaRouche's economic policies as the only possible solution to the crisis sweeping Mexico. On the eve of his announced publication of a 24-page pamphlet on his economic development program for the North of Mexico and the Southwest of the United States—including a lengthy interview with LaRouche—Castro found that all party

funds for his campaign had suddenly been frozen, "on orders from above."

Castro, a leader of the LaRouche-associated Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Mexico, is running for governor on the ticket of the Social Action Party (PAS). When Castro initially agreed to run on their slate, he insisted on—and received—assurances that he would in no way be pressured not to present the ideas of Lyndon LaRouche, the currently leading Presidential pre-candidate in the Democratic Party. On June 2, however, Castro was told by PAS officials in Mexico City that all funds for his campaign had been frozen, and that "You shouldn't mention LaRouche: He's the leader of a sect, and anyway nobody understands his ideas."

The opposite is being demonstrated. *El Norte*, a leading newspaper in Nuevo León's capital, Monterrey, on June 2 launched an Internet poll asking readers, "Which gubernatorial candidate will you vote for?" Within the first few minutes, Castro was leading the pack of seven candidates, with 29% of the vote. At that point, the polling computer mysteriously crashed—perhaps, "from above—and the poll was never completed.

Castro's slate also includes a large number of young Mexicans, who are part of the international LaRouche Youth Movement, running as candidates for other state and local posts. A group of 40 such youthful candidates and their supporters caused quite a commotion at a June 3 event at the Autonomous University of Nuevo León, where the featured speaker was an Italian advocate of the late neo-conservative "philosopher" Leo Strauss. Giorgio Agamben had been brought in to speak about "Emergency Rule and the Contemporary World," and presented the views of Strauss's mentor Carl Schmitt, the Nazi Party jurist, and of French Synarchist Alexandre Kojève. The LaRouche youths broke the event open by asking: "What's your view of the love affairs, romances, and orgies organized by Martin Heidegger, Carl Schmitt, and Adolf Hitler?" and then proceeding to fully brief the students on Strauss and the "Children of Satan," as LaRouche has dubbed Strauss's devotees high up in the Bush Administration.