

# International Intelligence

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## ***France, Germany, Russia Agree on Iraq Strategy***

French President Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, and President Vladimir Putin, met in Sochi, on the Russian Black Sea coast, on Aug. 31, and agreed on the following steps:

- No troops to Iraq. Germany will continue training Iraqi police and military outside of Iraq, in the neighboring Persian Gulf states. Otherwise, all three stressed the earliest return to full civilian rule in Iraq.
- Genuine rapid economic reconstruction of Iraq, in which all three governments want to cooperate.
- Intensified cooperation and information exchange among the intelligence agencies of the three nations, against organized crime, especially drug trade, and terrorism.
- Upgrading of general security policy cooperation (not specified).
- Intensified cooperation in the framework of “strategic partnership EU-Russia,” with an additional emphasis on increased Russian oil and gas deliveries to Europe. Putin also assured improvements in transport capacities (pipelines, etc.) for oil and gas. In this context, Schröder attacked speculative increases of oil prices on the Western markets.
- A political solution, return to civilian rule, and economic reconstruction in Chechnya. Chirac and Schröder said they have no reason to doubt that the Presidential elections in Chechnya on Aug. 29 were democratic, nor that Putin wants a political solution.

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## ***Health Officials Warn Of Global Flu Pandemic***

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a preparedness plan Aug. 27 for a flu pandemic, and news media reported public health officials from California, to Minnesota, to Florida forecasting a potential for a worldwide flu outbreak this year. Predictions are that if such an outbreak occurs, it would result in 200,000 U.S. deaths and mil-

lions of hospitalizations—far exceeding immunization or hospital infrastructure capabilities.

These warnings were triggered by epidemiologists’ concerns that the Asian bird flu would mutate and spread to human beings. This is not an idle concern, *EIR*’s Colin Lowry remarked, as mutations have already occurred.

Just as these warnings were issued, the California-based Chiron Corp., supplier of almost half the U.S. flu vaccine, announced that it had found tainted doses of its vaccine in the course of routine quality testing in its Liverpool, England, factory. This will hold up shipment of 50 million vaccine doses. CDC head Dr. Julie Gerberding said that she did not expect a major delay, however, and believes that the U.S. “at risk” population can still be vaccinated in time.

The CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a Pandemic Influenza Response and Preparedness Plan for public comment. The plan’s focus, however, is how to triage hospital beds, ration scarce vaccine supplies, and increase public health surveillance in order to deal with total disruption of national and community infrastructure.

On average, 36,000 people die and 114,000 are hospitalized in each flu season. The 1918 “Spanish flu,” which was a pandemic, killed more than 500,000 Americans and more than 25 million people worldwide.

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## ***Italian Minister Warns Of Terrorist Threat***

Giuseppe Pisanu, Italian Interior and Police Minister, warned of potential terrorist provocations planned by the synarchists, left and right, against the expected mass trade union protests in the Fall. In an interview with the magazine *L’Espresso* published on Aug. 28, Pisanu singled out two areas from which such provocations could come: 1) the “leftist” anarchist swamp in which terrorist ideologue Toni Negri has hegemony; and 2) what *EIR* has documented as the “right-wing” Blas Piñar-centered fascist international

with Roberto Fiore, Jean Le Pen, and the Argentine friends of Fernando Quijano, a former associate of Lyndon LaRouche, who joined the synarchists.

Of the leftists, Pisanu said: “I do not know how many they are, but we can consider several hundred militants, some of whom operate at a dual level, in the sense that they often pop up in street demonstrations, masked and armed with bars . . . but they also act in the dark, in clandestinity. . . . Additionally there are the Marxist-Leninists and the many extreme antagonisms which always ride between strong protest and real crime.”

On right-wing terrorism, Pisanu said: “It is alive and well. Maybe it would be more concrete to speak about extreme right-wing antagonism. I think about the proliferation of quite an assortment of grouplets, going from pro-Islamic and anti-American circles to some xenophobic groupings, often contiguous to violent hooligans and even crime rings. Also, connections have emerged with similar French, Spanish, and Argentine formations. . . . It is groups which look for clashes both with groups of opposite colorations, as well as with the institutional right.” Pisanu added that “among Italians who converted to Islam, there are a high percentage of right-wing and left-wing extremists.”

Pisanu did not mention it by name, but his profile fits fully that of Spanish Falange leader Blas Piñar’s international alliance, of which Roberto Fiore’s “Forza Nuova” in Italy is a part. This is the first time that an official police authority has exposed the Blas Piñar network, confirming LaRouche’s warnings of a terrorist threat from this source.

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## ***African Union Chief Opposes Sudan Sanctions***

Sanctions against Sudan would be a “disaster” for all Africa, warned Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, in his role as Chairman of the African Union (AU) and leader of the Sudan talks. Obasanjo said on Aug. 24, “One thing that would be a real

**TAIWAN** cancelled annual war games, after China cancelled one of its military drills on an island near Taiwan. Taiwanese President Chen Shui-Bian, beginning a visit to Ibero-America, told reporters Aug. 30: "China has cancelled the military drills on Dongshan island, so we have decided that we will cancel the Sept. 9 Han Kuang exercises. . . . We hope everyone on both sides of the Taiwan Strait can cooperate under the principle of peace for a win-win situation."

**BRITAIN'S MI-6** Director John Scarlett should resign, said Member of Parliament John Ancrem, the Conservative Party shadow Foreign Secretary, because of Scarlett's failure to answer allegations that he tried to influence the Iraq Survey Group. While he was head of Britain's Joint Intelligence Committee, Scarlett was reported to have told the group to shorten their report from 200 to 20 pages, and leave its conclusion ambiguous on whether weapons of mass destruction would be found.

**RUSSIA** granted trade preference to Ukraine, as elections near, *Izvestia* reported Aug. 19, in an article about recent positive developments in Russian-Ukrainian relations. "Vladimir Putin Supports Victor Yanukovych and Ukraine's budget," was *Izvestia's* headline. Just before hosting Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Sochi on Aug. 21, President Putin signed a law to eliminate the Value Added Tax on Russian fuel exports to Ukraine. The change is expected to save Ukraine \$800 million a year. Yanukovych is Kuchma's preferred successor.

**DDT** champion J. Gordon Edwards died of a heart attack July 19, while mountain climbing in Glacier National Park. Edwards, 85, was a professor emeritus of entomology at San Jose State University in California, and still fighting for truth in science, especially on the benefits of DDT to fight disease.

disaster is for the international community to collectively feel absolutely dissatisfied with the mode of the handling of events by the government of Sudan, to the extent that they have to unleash something more than what we are trying to contain."

He added that sanctions "would be a great disaster for Sudan, the government, the people, and indeed for Africa. I believe that we [African leaders] can manage it and we will manage it." His remarks were reported by *This Day* Aug. 27 from Abuja, Nigeria, where the Sudan talks are ongoing.

British Foreign Minister Jack Straw also conceded that sanctions cannot be imposed on Sudan at present. Speaking on a visit to Darfur, Sudan, Straw said: "The issue is not whether everything has been resolved by the 30-day period set by the [United Nations] Security Council, but whether the government of Sudan are on track to do that. . . . This is a very imperfect situation." His remarks were reported by Agence France Presse on Aug. 28.

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## Hollinger To Sue Perle As 'Faithless Fiduciary'

The Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Hollinger International denounced Dick Cheney's cohort Richard Perle as a "faithless fiduciary" who "should be required to disgorge all compensation he received from the Company" (\$5.4 million) and who is "liable for damages under Delaware law." The charges against Perle, a member of Hollinger's Executive Committee from 1996 to 2003, were made in a 513-page report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on Aug. 30.

The report called Hollinger's management a "corporate kleptocracy," and documented how former CEO Conrad M. Black and former COO F. David Radler and their associates engaged in a "myriad of schemes, fiduciary abuses, and fraudulent acts . . . to transfer essentially the entire earnings output of Hollinger over a seven-year period" to themselves.

As for Perle, he "repeatedly signed Unanimous Written Consents without eval-

uating (or even reading) them. . . . In fact, he admitted that he generally did not even read them or understand the transactions to which they applied," the report stated.

"It is difficult to imagine a more flagrant abdication of duty than a director rubber-stamping transactions that directly benefit a controlling shareholder without any thought, comprehension, or analysis. In fact, many of the consents that Perle signed as an Executive Committee member approved related-party transactions that unfairly benefited Black and Radler, and cost Hollinger millions. . . .

"The Special Committee believes that Perle's repeated failure to read, evaluate, discuss, or attempt to understand the Executive Committee Consents before signing them, evidences a complete absence of good faith, a breach of loyalty, and an abject failure to fulfill his fiduciary duties as an Executive Committee member. Such conduct subjects him to personal liability for breaching his duty of good faith. . . .

"The Special Committee intends to pursue a recovery from Perle, either consensually or through litigation."

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## Life Expectancy Below 40 Years in 13 Nations

As a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, 13 sub-Saharan African nations have seen their life expectancy drop to below 40 years, according to a recent United Nations Development Program report. In the adult population, 16.5% are AIDS-infected, and a child born in 2002 can expect to live only 32.7 years. In contrast, a child born in Zambia in 1990 could expect to live 47.4 years.

In Zimbabwe, where 25% of the population are infected with HIV/AIDS, life expectancy dropped from 56.6 years in 1990 to 33.9 years in 2002. In Swaziland, where the HIV/AIDS infection rate is 38.8%, life expectancy declined to 35.5 years.

Life expectancy in other sub-Saharan countries named in the UNDP report are: Central African Republic, 39.8 years; Lesotho, 36.3 years; Mozambique, 38.5 years; and Malawi, 37.8 years.