
International Intelligence

Glass-Steagall Breaks Out Into the Open in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 5—After a half-year of campaigning by the LaRouche Movement in Sweden for a Glass-Steagall reform of the global banking system, the establishment media is finally discussing the issue of separating commercial and investment banks, and also, a ban on securities trading by the Swedish banks. Two articles today in *Svenska Dagbladet* blast the fact that the banks are speculating with depositors' money.

Under the headline "Scrap the Banks' Weapons of Mass Destruction," journalist Andreas Cervenka compares what the bankers are doing with al-Qaeda terrorism: "While terrorists of the bearded type often choose to meet their doom together with their victims, their suited cousins in the finance industry often strap their derivatives bombs and other explosive instruments around the bodies of colleagues, clients, bank shareholders, and taxpayers, while they themselves are a safe distance away from the explosion. . . . A roulette croupier taking clients' money to buy marks and then betting wildly at his own table, would not last long as an employee. But in the banking world it is totally acceptable to funnel the deposits in the bank offices to the internal gambling den of the bank."

An op-ed in the same issue, by a broker for Nordnet, Johan Tidestad, calls for better protection for banks' clients. "A first step could be to force the banks to put the trading for their own accounts in separate companies, that are not supported by the depositor guarantee for the citizens. . . . Another way is to ban certain types of trading."

Danger of Break-Up of Belgium Is Increasing

PARIS, Sept. 6 (*Nouvelle Solidarité*)—On Sept. 3, Belgian King Albert II accepted the resignation of the prospective

prime minister, Socialist Party head Elio Di Rupo, who had been mandated, after the June 13 election, to form a government with the Flemish separatist party N-VA. The king immediately called upon the head of the Senate (a Flemish separatist) and of the House (a Walloon Socialist) to start new coalition discussions.

Deputy Prime Minister Laurette Onkelinx, speaking after the talks failed, dangerously dramatized the crisis: "We have to prepare for the end of Belgium. Not wish for it, but prepare for it nonetheless. We cannot ignore that it is what is wanted by a large proportion of the Flemish population" (which is not true).

In reality, negotiations broke off, not over language, but over who is going to pay for the bankrupt city of Brussels. While a secret deal had been worked out, with Walloons handing over more autonomy to the Flemish regional government, in exchange for Flemish money to rescue Brussels, the separatist N-VA party, a creation of the Inter-Alpha Group-connected KBC bank, sabotaged the agreement at the last moment.

The Walloon Socialists uphold a more traditional social-economic model, while the Flemish separatist N-VA wants financial shock therapy, reducing benefits to the unemployed, offering tax breaks for corporations, and creating "fiscal competition" among regions.

Karzai Orders British Firm Out of Afghanistan

Sept. 6 (EIRNS)—A London-based private military company, Blue Hackle, has been told to leave Afghanistan because of involvement in smuggling arms out of the country. Officials said that President Hamid Karzai revoked Blue Hackle's operating license on Sept. 5, effective immediately. The *Scotsman* reported that "tense meetings between Karzai, General David Petraeus . . . and other senior western officials were taking place in Kabul."

The Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Aug. 30 seized "a large amount of military equipment including arms and munitions" from the firm. NDS said the matériel was "being illegally transferred by a private security company from Kabul city to the airport and then to an unknown destination."

The advisory board of Blue Hackle shows its "Dope, Inc." pedigree: It includes a former Tory minister of state for foreign affairs (responsible for Hong Kong and the Middle East); a former minister of state for the Armed Forces at the Ministry of Defence; a former commander of the 1st Battalion Queen's Own Highlanders in Hong Kong; a former advisor to then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the prevention, containment, and resolution of conflict, and post-conflict peace-building; and an official who spent 43 years with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (the original Dope, Inc. bank, now known as HSBC).

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry head of counterterrorism, Gen. Abdul Manan, said bluntly, "Blue Hackle is a criminal company."

Putin: Russia Has Nothing To Fear From China

Sept. 7 (EIRNS)—Russia has nothing to fear from China, and worries by some that millions of Chinese will someday occupy vast swathes of Russian territory in the Far East are overblown, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said yesterday, according to *People's Daily*. "There is no threat on the side of China. We have been neighbors for hundreds of years. We know how to respect each other," Putin told an annual meeting of world experts on Russia, known as the Valdai Club, at the Black Sea resort of Sochi. "China does not have to populate the Far East to get what it needs—natural resources. We deliver oil and gas. There are huge coal reserves near the Chinese border. China does not want to aggravate the situation with us," Putin said.