

International Intelligence

London 'Economist' Plan To Overthrow Mugabe

The *Economist*, mouthpiece of the City of London-based financial oligarchy, admitting that a runoff election will be necessary to determine the next President of Zimbabwe, on May 3 laid out its perspective for overthrowing the government of President Robert Mugabe. Confirming the report in the *Guardian* of April 17, that the "British media have long since abandoned any attempt at impartiality in its reporting of Zimbabwe," so "the prospect must be of continued economic punishment and crisis," the *Economist* called for a UN-supervised runoff, and for Southern Africa Development Commission leaders to take away the SADC diplomatic lead from South African President Thabo Mbeki, who was appointed by the SADC to mediate between the government and the opposition. Mbeki earlier this month charged that the British-backed leader of a faction of the Zimbabwe MDC opposition party, Morgan Tsvangirai, is an agent of a foreign power, a reference to Britain.

The *Economist* claims that Mugabe would use violence, intimidation, and vote-rigging in the runoff, and therefore that Tsvangirai, who won nearly 48% of the vote (compared to Mugabe's 43%) would only agree to participate in the runoff if there were a stronger presence of international monitors, preferably from the United Nations. The Zimbabwe government charged that Tsvangirai's faction of the MDC is carrying out violence, and then blaming the government.

In the peaceful March 29 elections, neighboring SADC countries had provided observers. Implying that the runoff would not be fair if run by the Zimbabwe government, with SADC observers, the *Economist* concludes that Tsvangirai would win the runoff if the election were fair. However, all British claims of vote stealing during the lengthy recount, turned out to be nothing but propaganda.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is dutifully playing his part in this gameplan,

saying on May 5: "I am deeply concerned at reports of rising levels of violence and intimidation within Zimbabwe."

Lisbon Treaty in Trouble In Ireland, Germany

Panic is growing among Euro-fascists over the possibility that the Irish people will vote "No" in the June 12 referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, blocking its going into effect. All European Union member nations have to ratify the Treaty, which would strip them of their national sovereignty.

On May 7, Jean-Pierre Jouyet, the French Secretary of State for European Affairs, expressed concern about the Irish referendum. According to the daily *Le Figaro*: "Outside the official speeches, Jouyet didn't hide his worry: 'There is no Plan B, you can't play games. If the Irish reject it, it would mean a halt, eventually a regression for Europe. The entire ratification process would be in jeopardy.'"

On May 6, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern resigned and left his post to the current Finance Minister Brian Cowen, known for his bullying, and in charge of rallying the country for the "Yes" vote.

Of the 166 Irish members of Parliament, only the 4 Sinn Féin MPs oppose the Treaty. But polls indicate that a large number of the 4.3 million Irishmen remain undecided. A poll released at the end of last month revealed that the "Yes" vote had fallen to 35%, losing 8 points compared to two months before. Only 31% of those asked were certain they would vote against the treaty, while 34% remain undecided.

In Germany, the Supreme Court on May 7 issued a ruling which exposes the contradictions between Germany's Constitution and the Treaty, which is relevant to three legal cases challenging the Treaty which will be filed with the court at the end of May.

The new ruling states that the German government's deployment of AWACS surveillance aircraft to Turkey in 2003 during the Iraq War was illegal, because there was no prior consultation with Parliament—a gross violation of the "parliamentary privi-

lege" to be heard on military decisions, which the court had upheld in 1994. The Lisbon Treaty does not provide any democratic procedure for consultations between the Eurocrats and the national EU member governments and parliaments.

British Hand Behind New Southwest Asia War Drive

The violence that broke out in Lebanon on May 8 is not the result of an internal Lebanese conflict, but is the front end of a British operation to throw Southwest Asia into a conflagration. A senior intelligence source told *EIR* that the crisis has to be seen in the "wider strategic situation," including the danger of a strike against Iran. He pointed to forces in Saudi Arabia and especially its "Wahhabi clerical establishment" as key to the operation; they are acting to widen the sectarian divide between Saudi-backed majority Sunni Muslims throughout the region and Shi'ites in Lebanon, Iraq, and, of course, Iran.

The source said that up until only a few days before the violence erupted, the political discourse in the country between the Lebanese government coalition, led by Anglo-Saudi agent Saad Hariri, and the opposition, led by Hezbollah, Amal, and Michel Aoun's Free Patriotic Movement, had been moving towards a dialogue. Then Hariri, who holds dual Saudi and Lebanese citizenship, returned from a two-month stay in Saudi Arabia, where he runs his multi-billion dollar Saudi-backed business empire. During his two months in Saudi Arabia, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney was there on tour, pushing his war schemes against Iran.

Within days of Hariri's return to Lebanon, the government coalition launched a campaign of provocations against Hezbollah, painting it as a sectarian militia backed by Iran and Syria. So, from one day to the next, government coalition leaders such as Druze leader Walid Jumblatt went from dialogue, to vitriolic attacks on Hezbollah. The government then issued an order to Hezbollah to close down its telecommunications network, and dismissed an opposition-

linked manager of the country's international airport, triggering protest actions, including by the country's major trade union federation, which linked the protest to demands for relief from spiralling food prices and inflation.

Argentina Stands Firm Against Rural Oligarchy

Immediately after the Argentine government indicated on May 7 that it would not negotiate on the issue of raising taxes on soybean exports, representatives of the country's four major agricultural organizations announced that they would resume the protest that shut down domestic farm markets for 21 days in March.

These organizations locked agricultural products out of the domestic market during the March action to protest the higher taxes, which the government says are essential to keeping domestic food prices low and achieve a more just income distribution. Since the March lockout caused food shortages and higher prices, producers say that until May 15, they will only block vehicles carrying grains or beef to ports for export. Because grain and beef exports are also taxed, the producers expect to punish the government by putting a dent in its tax revenue.

But producer leaders add that they can't be held accountable, should some strikers in the interior decide to engage in more aggressive actions. Producers are also warning that they'll stop purchasing agricultural equipment, thus harming some industrial sectors which have tended to support the government.

In reality, two of the protesting organizations—the Rural Society and Rural Confederations—represent the landed oligarchy, which has made a financial killing from the soy monoculture that has expanded in the country over the past ten years.

The real issue here is the political assault on President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner by the British Empire's operatives on the ground. The latter are attempting to portray the current conflict as a rising up of

"the people" against an unfair government, whereas the ringleaders are the same old British-controlled oligarchs who have nothing but contempt for "the people." And the smaller producers who have jumped into soybean production, find themselves in an unholy alliance with the oligarchs they have always hated.

International Aid Arriving in Myanmar

While the British and U.S. press and government officials rant about the Myanmar government's responsibility for the cyclone disaster and delays in getting aid into the country from overseas, the facts on the ground are that aid is pouring in. Joel Charney of Refugees International told National Public Radio (NPR) on May 6: "There are ten UN agencies working in Myanmar, and 48 relief and humanitarian groups already in place. Outsiders underestimate the number of agencies there, and the scope of their programs. There is international work going on now in almost all of the country. This is not North Korea."

The problems are monumental, both because of the lack of infrastructure to begin with, and the devastation of transportation and communications in much of the affected area in the Irrawaddy Delta. Significant food and emergency supplies were stockpiled in the country, which began to be distributed immediately, while the resupply effort began on day one from Thailand, China, and India.

President George Bush (whose wife was rumored to be blaming Hurricane Katrina on the "brutal Burmese dictators") was making pledges of aid, but demanding that Myanmar allow U.S. military damage assessment teams into the country first. However, the State Department on May 8 acknowledged that the U.S. can use UN assessment reports.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner called for the UN Security Council to invoke Myanmar's "responsibility to protect" its citizens, by sending aid without the government's permission.

Briefly

VLADIMIR PUTIN, in his first speech as Prime Minister of Russia on May 8, said that "the first order of business" will be stabilizing the food market. Putin acknowledged that the "difficult situation" in global finance, and especially the "steep climb of world food prices" since last year, are hitting Russia's markets and its citizens' welfare.

SERGEY SHAMBA, Foreign Minister of the unrecognized republic of Abkhazia, a breakaway autonomous region of Georgia, told the Russian daily *Izvestia* that Abkhazia is ready to let Russia take it under military control, in exchange for a security guarantee. The interview was published on May 6. The Kremlin said it had received no formal request for any such measure.

THE EGYPTIAN daily *Al-Ahram* published an op-ed on April 21, by Abdul-Adhim Hammad, which hailed Lyndon and Helga LaRouche's call to counter the disastrous effects of globalization. He noted the efforts of the LaRouches to create a New Bretton Woods system, and to control speculation. Each government must ensure the protection of its own markets, Hammad concluded.

FRENCH Environment Minister Jean Louis Borloo on May 7 presented the government with a decree authorizing the creation of an agency called France Nuclear International. The agency will "provide French expertise to all foreign countries wanting to develop civilian nuclear power and to help them prepare the launching of civilian nuclear power in their countries."

CHINA'S GUANGXI region, gateway to Southeast Asia, is going to begin or complete construction of over 2,000 km of railways, as part of a comprehensive transport network between its neighboring provinces in China and the ASEAN nations, Guangxi Chairman Ma Biao announced on May 6. The region will invest some 260 billion yuan (\$37.1 billion) by 2012.