

# International Intelligence

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## ***Mbeki Dumped To Wreck South Africa***

South African President Thabo Mbeki was asked to resign by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party, according to South African media accounts on the morning of Sept. 20. *EIR* has been informed that he will formally tender his resignation Sept. 23. No details about who will replace Mbeki, considered the architect of modern South Africa, for the remaining six months of his second term as President, have yet to be announced.

*EIR* reported early this year that the targetting of Kenya for destabilization, and the effort to turn the Presidential succession in Zimbabwe into a chaotic regime-change scenario, by the City of London-based financial cartel, were leading to their primary target, South Africa, the economic powerhouse of Africa. The brutal and rapid overthrow of Mbeki will be a loss for all of Africa, as Mbeki has consistently intervened to sabotage London's destabilization operations throughout Africa.

On Sept. 15, the national working committee of the ANC passed a resolution seeking Mbeki's speedy resignation. On Sept. 20, the ANC's National Executive Committee passed the resolution. The pretext for the action was a Sept. 12 ruling by High Court Judge Chris Nicholson, who unsubstantiated assertion that it appeared that Mbeki may have colluded with prosecutors against Jacob Zuma, a former deputy president who was fired for his involvement in a corruption scandal. Zuma succeeded Mbeki as president of the ANC last December.

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## ***ADB: Produce More Food Now, or Face Disaster***

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), as part of its annual Asian Development Outlook for 2008, has issued a stark warning that food production is so far behind the needed levels, that all of Asia is "just one

supply shock away from another grain price spike." The report notes that rice prices tripled from \$400/ton in January to over \$1,200, and have fallen back only to \$730, and are not likely to fall further, but instead, could spike again, if there are not dramatic increases in output.

The ADB report says the primary cause of the 2008 food crisis is that "population and income growth have far outpaced productivity growth as measured by rice yields per hectare." While accurate, this leaves out the political, willful cause of the collapse of production: the World Trade Organization's enforcement of the globalization policy of replacing reliance on production with a dependence upon "free trade."

ADB chief economist Ifzal Ali hinted at the need for parity pricing, without using the term: "Governments have to invest in public goods that support agricultural productivity growth, and allow clear market price signals to pass through to producers and consumers alike. Only a robust supply response by Asia's farmers can bring down prices to comfortable levels again."

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## ***Livni Must Now Form New Israeli Ruling Coalition***

Having beaten hardliner Shaul Mofaz, Defense Minister under former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, for leadership of the Kadmina Party, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni must now form a new coalition government, a task that will not be easy. If Livni fails to assemble a new coalition, new elections will have to be held. In new elections, she would be challenged by hardliner Likudnik Benjamin Netanyahu. Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak, according to Ynet, wants a unity government with the Likud to be formed, while Likud chairman Netanyahu is calling for new elections, which he believes he would win.

Unlike Netanyahu, Livni is believed to support peace negotiations with Syria as well as the Palestinians.

Livni's election could prove to be a Pyrrhic victory, since she won by a majority of just 431 votes, about 1%.

Until a new government is formed, Ehud Olmert remains as caretaker prime minister. He resigned this month in the midst of a prolonged corruption scandal.

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## ***Ex-Chancellor Schröder Pans Anti-Russia Policy***

In the keynote address to the opening reception for the German-Russian Industry Conference in Dresden Sept. 16, Gerhard Schröder stressed how crucial good cooperation between Germany and Russia is, not only for those two nations, but for all of Europe and the rest of the world.

Schröder, the CDU leader who was chancellor from 1998 to 2005, said that the lesson of the 20th Century is that mistrust and hostility in Germany against Russia has always led to war, and that must never be allowed to occur again. Therefore, it must not be tolerated by Germany that Europe is taken hostage by anti-Russia sentiments in some European countries (a clear reference to Poland and Britain), and that military aid to Georgia and encouragement of the present leadership there, for example by the American government, is not what should be granted. Nor should the U.S. missile defense system that is perceived as a threat by Russia be stationed in Europe.

Schröder said that he was sorry to be attacking the U.S.A., but U.S. policy towards Russia is still under the influence of Cold War paradigms, and there has been a policy of arrogance and disrespect toward Russia from the point of collapse of the Soviet Union until today. But today, and especially since 1999 (in a clear reference to then-Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts), Russia has regained strength, it is a strategic partner for Europe, and it deserves respect for its position as a great power and for its dignity—which is what is unfortunately being denied to Russia by "some Western states."

Schröder noted that, so far, Russia is

mainly a supplier of raw materials and energy to Europe and the world, which it will remain for some time. But, he said, Russia should increasingly become a producer of high-tech industrial goods, and Germany and Europe should help Russia in building a strong industrial sector.

For Germany, the main orientation must be to contribute to the project outlined by President Dmitri Medvedev: education, research, innovation, and infrastructure. German industry can do a lot in this area, he said.

### ***Fascist Lisbon Treaty Postponed Until 2010***

The European Union's Brussels commission has decided to bury the fascist Lisbon Treaty until 2010. Luxembourg Prime Minister and senior head of state of the EU, Jean Claude Juncker, recently said publicly what other officials are saying behind the scenes: "I would say that the treaty will be applied towards Jan. 1, 2010.... To have it in application in June 2009, the treaty would have to be ratified by all countries before February. It is not realistic," he added in statements to the press.

Imperial plans to turn Europe into a fascist marcher lord against Russia were stymied this past June when Ireland, in the only plebiscite on the treaty, resoundingly voted against it. To be adopted, the treaty must be ratified by all EU nations, either by parliament or popular vote. Ever since the Irish vote, the British-directed imperialists have been trying to get Ireland to "revote" on the treaty before the next European elections in June 2009.

According to *Le Monde*, the EU is now divided into two groupings: 1) France and Germany, which want to force the issue; and 2) Britain, Poland, Sweden, and the Czech Republic, which think it "wiser not to precipitate the issue."

"It is a question of respect for Ireland," said Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Cecilia Malmstroem to *Le Monde*. "We have all decided to give time to the Irish."

### ***Past Georgian Defense Min. Calls for Regime Change***

Contradicting British propaganda that Russia was the aggressor in the case of South Ossetia, according to Reuters, Georgia President Mikheil Saakashvili's defense minister from 2004 to 2006, Irakly Okruashvili, gave a Sept. 14 interview in Paris, in which he said that Saakashvili had long planned a military strike against South Ossetia. Okruashvili said he and Saakashvili worked together on military plans to invade South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Okruashvili said, "Saakashvili must be held accountable and resign. If he steps down, he shouldn't be prosecuted. But if he doesn't, it will lead to criminal charges against him."

"Abkhazia was our strategic priority, but we drew up military plans in 2005 for taking both Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well," Okruashvili said. "The original plans called for a two-pronged operation entering South Ossetia, taking Tskhinvali, the Roki Tunnel and Java. Saakashvili's offensive only aimed at taking Tskhinvali, because he thought the U.S. would block a Russian reaction through diplomatic channels. But when the U.S. reaction turned out to be non-existent, Saakashvili then moved troops toward the Roki tunnel, only to be outmaneuvered by the Russians. After 2006, we didn't have the possibility for success by military means ... the Russians had repositioned and improved their military infrastructure in the North Caucasus, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia—and obviously they did it for us."

Okruashvili, 34, fled to Europe in 2006 after imprisonment in Georgia, where he faced corruption charges, which he said were intended to punish him for criticizing Saakashvili. In March, a Georgian court sentenced him to 11 years in prison in absentia, but he was granted asylum in France, where this month, a court rejected Tbilisi's extradition request.

## ***Briefly***

**THE LATEST IAEA** report on Iran, still under seal, reportedly says that Iran has not diverted nuclear material from its civilian program to military purposes. According to the Iranian English-language service PressTV, the International Atomic Energy Agency report says all nuclear material remains under IAEA "containment and surveillance." True to form, Western media contradicted PressTV.

**IN A SEPT. 13** press conference at the end of the Ecofin summit, Italian Economy Minister Giulio Tremonti reported that the Ecofin Council of European Union Finance, Economic, and Budget Ministers, has decided to set up a committee to study his proposal to use the European Investment Bank as the instrument for a public investment policy in Europe.

**GOLDMAN SACHS** investment bank is "the modern equivalent of the notorious Knights Templars founded in the 14th Century—all powerful in every country," a London financial analyst said Sept. 19. Acknowledging that investment banks are being taken down, he said Goldman Sachs is "not going to go quietly." It could well be something like, "we go, and we take everything with us," the analyst said.

**THE UKRAINIAN** "Orange Coalition" has collapsed as a result of an underlying dispute between the two major parties over differences with regard to Russia. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and the opposition Party of the Regions blocked a measure that would have condemned the Russian "aggression" against Georgia. The parties have until mid-October to pull together a workable coalition.

**NAZI GEORGE SOROS** along with a gaggle of his Open Society activists, staged a demonstration in Brussels Sept. 16 against Italy, protesting what he called "ethnic profiling."