## Ethnic feuding spawns open conflict as former Soviet periphery crumbles

## Bodies mark site of Karabakh massacre

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN AGDAM

SCATTERED amid the withered grass and bushes along a small valley and across the hillside beyond are the bodies of last Wednesday's massacre by Armenian forces of Azerbaijani refugees.

From that hill can be seen both the Armenian-controlled town of Askeran and the outskirts of the Azerbaijani military headquarters of Agdam. Those who died very nearly made it to the safety of their own lines.

We landed at this spot by helicopter yesterday afternoon as the last troops of the Commonwealth of Independent States began pulling out. They left unhindered by the warring factions as General Boris Gromov, who oversaw the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, flew to



Stepanakert to ease their departure.

A local truce was enforced to allow the Azerbaijanis to collect their dead and any refugees still hiding in the hills and forest. All the same, two attack helicopters circled continuously overhead, watching the nearby Armenian positions.

In all, 31 bodies could be counted at the scene. At least another 31 have been taken into Agdam over the past five days. These figures do not

## Moldavia factions flare into violence

FROM RON POPESKI IN MOSCOW

Moldavia's Romanianspeaking majority and eth- were killed. nic Russians flared into violence again yesterday, with three people shot dead in a confrontation between the police and Russianspeaking militiamen.

The interior ministry said that the head of a local militia was among those killed in a shoot-out near a textile mill in Dubossary, in the breakaway Dnestr minirepublic proclaimed by Russian-speakers. The town was the scene of fighting between police officers and

the militia last December in which at least five people

Moldavian authorities, who promote closer ties between their former Soviet republic and neighbouring Romania, blamed yesterday's incident on the Russian-speaking Dnestr region. Moldavia refuses to recognise its secession. It said that the incident was contrived by "the leaders of Dnestr's separatist forces backed by reactionary forces" to undermine Moldavia's plans to join the United Nations. (Reuter)

include civilians reported killed when the Armenians stormed the Azerbaijani town of Khodjaly on Tuesday night. The figures also do not include other as yet undiscovered bodies.

Zahid Jabarov, a survivor of the massacre, said he saw up to 200 people shot down at the point we visited, and refugees who came by different routes have also told of being shot at repeatedly and of leaving a trail of bodies along their path. Around the bodies we saw were scattered possessions, clothing and personal documents. The bodies themselves have been preserved by the bitter cold which killed others as they hid in the hills and forest after the massacre. All are the bodies of ordinary people, dressed in the poor, ugly clothing of workers.

Of the 31 we saw, only one policeman and two apparent national volunteers were wearing uniform. All the rest were civilians, including eight women and three small children. Two groups, apparently families, had fallen together, the children cradled in the women's arms.

Several of them, including one small girl, had terrible head injuries: only her face was left. Survivors have told how they saw Armenians shooting them point blank as they lay on the ground.

• New York: Eight former Soviet republics, including Armenia and Azerbaijan, were formally admitted to the United Nations yesterday, along with the tiny republic of San Marino. The new members, which also include Moldavia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, raise the membership of the world body to 175. (Reuter)



Daughter's grief: an Azerbaijani woman in Agdam mourning over the body of her father, one of the many victims of last Wednesday night's mass killing of civilians by Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh. Like many of those who died, he had been scalped

## Separatists step up struggle for motherland

FROM JASPER BECKER IN ALMA ATA

EXILED Uighur nationalists from the troubled province of Xinjiang, in China's far west, have vowed to launch a new struggle for independence from a base in the neighbouring republic of Kazakhstan.

"We will start a guerrilla war and seek international recognition for our cause," a spokesman for the Front for the Liberation of Uighurstan said in Alma Ata, the capital

of Kazakhstan. Last month pretext for further oppresup to six people died when several bombs exploded in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, in what appears to have been an action by Uighur extremists. The bombs were hidden on several buses and went off during Chinese new year festivities.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. Uighurs in Kazakhstan denied any involvement and said they had yet to obtain any weapons. They accused the Chinese of creating a

sion. "The bombs are a Chinese provocation," the spokesman said. "We are now very afraid of what will happen to our people in Xinjiang."

China has had difficulties in controlling the six million Uighurs in Xinjiang since it removed the independent government of the so-called "East Turkestan Republic" in 1949. Ethnic tensions between the Uighurs, a Turkicspeaking Muslim people, and Chinese immigrants

KAZAKHSTAN Alma Ata Urumqi TAJIKISTAN PAKISTAN

have sharpened in recent years. Peking has used troops to suppress several re-

volts in the region. About 250,000 Uighurs live in Kazakhstan and many

late 1950s. The Uighurs, who share a similar culture and language with the Uzbeks of what was formerly Soviet Central Asia, have been inspired by the independence achieved by the Central Asian republics. "We estimate there are one

fled across the border in the

million Uighurs in the former Soviet Union," Turgan Kazimovitch, the editor of an Uighur newspaper, said. "We now hope we can have our own state and join our relatives in our motherland."

## Ministers halt aid plan for republics

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers have turned down European Commission plans to assemble a Marshall Plan-style programme of help for the Commonwealth of Independent States, insisting that economic reform should not be confused by too many international bodies.

The ministers agreed to try to remove obstacles which are blocking the release of £875 million in credits to buy food and medicines, saying they would ask finance ministers to relax conditions for the loans. They otherwise reacted cautiously to a plea from Frans Andriessen, the EC foreign affairs commissioner, that unless the Community moved beyond emergency aid

### Germans reject new Europe

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

ALMOST three-quarters of all Germans now believe that their country cannot afford | pean states. When President further European union, ac- Nazarbayev asked how this cording to a Wickert Institute poll. The findings underline the way in which public opinion has been aroused against the dropping of the mark in favour of a common European currency and they show concern has grown about the cost of European integration since the Maastricht summit.

The anti-European feeling is particularly strong among the young. The Wickert poll showed that 87 per cent of those aged up to 30 felt that the cost of further European union would be too great, while 60 per cent in the 31 to 50 age group shared the same worry.

Bild, the popular daily paper which has been spearheading the campaign to save the mark, has now pointed out that EC taxes will cost every German 380.40 marks (£133.50) this year. The paper says proposals by Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, would raise an extra 10 per cent in each of the next five years. "Each German by then would be paying 570 marks; have they gone crazy?" it asks.

Such anti-EC sentiments are relatively new in Germany, but have greatly increased since unification.

to economic stabilisation, some governments in the commonwealth would not survive. Mr Andriessen has recently returned from visiting the four largest republics — Ukraine, Belorussia, Ka-

zakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Ministers agreed to leave help for the republics' economies in the hands of bodies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "There was no discussion of a separate or parallel EC initiative," Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said afterwards, "because I think that it is clear that the ball is in the IMF's court." He said the enemy of the Western aid programme was confusion: there were too few institutions able to cope in the commonwealth and too many in the West trying to help.

The meeting also agreed that the Community should start immediate trade and cooperation negotiations with the four largest republics. Kazakhstan, which shares a border with China, announced at the weekend that it would like to join the Community. During his visit, Mr Andriessen told President Nazarbayev that the Treaty of Rome restricted membership to Europroblem could be overcome, Mr Andriessen replied: "It seems to me difficult to

change the map." Mr Andriessen told yesterday's meeting that the food supply in the republics he had visited was "difficult but not disastrous" although political problems were "disquieting". Democracy had not yet taken root. "Despite elections, the old power structure remains in place in most states, albeit with new faces, party names

and programmes." Officials who had accompanied Mr Andriessen on his commonwealth trip said that the European Commission was worried that IMF help would operate too slowly to prevent political turmoil in the poorest states. The EC has promised bank credits worth £350 million to Russia and a further £875 million to be shared by all commonwealth states in the form of bank credits to buy food and medicines. The £350 million for Russia has only just been released after long wrangles over whether Russia should be required to obey normal rules for international

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## Delors attacks Hurd sums on Community budget

BY GEORGE BROCK

SUMS done by British ministers on the next European Community budget would not make the grade in a primary school, Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, said last night.

M Delors, stung by British attacks on his plans for a big increase in the budget for the 1990s, disagreed with an earlier claim by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that there was no need for the budget changes he advocat-The existing payments system would in any event provide Brussels with more money, Mr Hurd said.

M Delors said that Mr Hurd's sums did not add up. The calculation could be done by any schoolchild coming out of primary school. "We could give it to English schoolchildren as an exer-

cise," he said. Other reactions to the proposed 30 per cent increase in the EC's £46 billion a year budget varied from the lowkey to the sceptical. Germany, the largest contributor, gave no clue to its attitude at all. France was studiously non-commital.

Mr Hurd had challenged M Delors' argument that the five-year budget represented no more than the bill for

commitments which governments signed up for in the Maastricht treaty at the end

of last year. "Its not the price tag for Maastricht," he said. Mr Hurd said that M Delors was requesting rises in national contributions which would give Brussels about an extra £14 billion between now and 1997, but that £9 billion could be found without altering the budget.

Mr Hurd also asked why the Commission was budgeting to spend more on farm subsidies. "Most people, looking at the common agricul-



Delors: calculating the cost of the EC's plans

tural policy, would expect a decrease," he said.

In another EC dispute yesterday, agriculture ministers again failed to reach agreement on any rescue for the ailing world trade talks in Geneva, and the chances of a new agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade looked increasingly remote in Brussels last

Ministers were expected to reply today to detailed proposals Mr Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt secretary-general. Any reply would have been bound to display traces of internal division, but last night's talks failed to produce any agreement at all. A Portuguese spokesman said that a reply might be sent "in the next few days". After several hours of inconclusive talks, the ministers sent the matter back to a committee of officials and returned to debating the agriculture commissioner's internal proposals for a reform of the common agricultural policy, which costs £26

billion a year. This sequence of events strongly suggests that EC governments believe that the Gatt talks are dead or dying. Mr Dunkel has imposed an world trade agreement.

## Former Stasi chief comes to his senses

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN BERLIN

ERICH Mielke, East Germany's former head of state security who has apparently feigned senility for over a year to escape trial, has regained his senses in a sudden change

thought I was going mad, but I am not quite mad yet," he told the Berliner Zeitung newspaper and announced that he intends to defend himself against the charge of having shot dead two policemen in a communist street battle in 1931.

Herr Mielke's defence had hoped that the case would not proceed beyond the first few days, due to the time which has elapsed since the incident occurred, or that the court would be convinced of the former minister's unfitness for trial. Judge Theodor Seidel, however, has become impatient with the delaying tactics and insisted that the evidence must be heard.

That seems to have been the catalyst for Herr Mielke's revival. Yesterday, he appeared in court for the first time without his absurd porkpie leather hat and with his hair neatly combed. He spent last week's hearings moaning and mumbling in the bulletproof dock, but this time he remained silent and listened to the first reading of evidence from the Berlin police

records of 1931-3 with his eyes downcast. The prosecution is anxious not to base its case too heavily on the damning testament gathered by the Nazis after 1933 and possibly gained by torturing communist witnesses.

In his interview, Herr Mielke said that he had been "a simple functionary" in the 1930s and added: "I ran like a terrier from house to house doling out 50-pfennig brochures. One was called, 'How should you behave in court?" He was, he said, prepared to die for his party, but then corrected himself: "There was a party in those days."

Herr Mielke defended the record of his ministry which held files on 5.5 million East Germans and admitted that he feared their wrath more than the retribution of the courts. "There was peace and order then. People could walk on the streets — women as well. They will keep me in here for ever. Out there they would kill me."

He said that he had nothing to do with the mines and automatic shooting devices installed at the border. Asked what he felt about the 200 people, who had been killed as they tried to flee, he said: "As human beings I feel sorry for them, but they knew that Nuclear denial they were putting themselves

To the confusion of the public, the former minister, hitherto demonised as the worst of the regime's figures, cut a more convincing figure than many others of the former elite. He agreed that senior party functionaries had lived in far better circumstances than the working class they claimed to represent. His turnaround seems calculated as a distinctly uncomradely tactic to throw the spotlight of blame on to Erich Honecker, the former leader, whose extradition Bonn has demanded from Moscow where he is in hospital. Herr Mielke indicated that he would be prepared to give information on how

ble for. Yesterday, an arrest warrant was issued for Herr Mielke's former lawyers suspected of embezzling DM17 million (£5.9 million). Jürgen Wetzenstein-Ollenschläger had been one of Herr Mielke's three lawyers in his current murder trial, but left the case last week after allegations that he had jailed dissidents when he was a judge.

many of the atrocities Herr

Honecker had been responsi-

# minister

Rome: Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, had to be rescued by police wielding truncheons when left-wing demonstrators attacked him during the Venice carnival near his home on the Grand Canal (John Phillips

About 200 people, protesting at what they see as excessive commercialism during this year's carnival, confronted the minister as he walked to a lunch appointment at the Hotel Monaco. The crowd pelted Signor De Michelis with coins and throwaway cigarette lighters and spat at his four bodyguards. Some chanted "De Michelis is

obese, he will be hanged". Police charged the crowd and Signor De Michelis was able to run to the hotel as the protesters dispersed.

### Picasso stolen

Nice: A Picasso painting, Hidalgo with Doves, has been stolen from the Sophia-Antipolis business centre outside Antibes despite a complex security system. The painting is valued at more than £570,000. It was presented to the centre 12 years ago by the painter's widow, Jacqueline. (Reuter)

Moscow: Spokesmen here denied that any Russian scientists were working for Middle | Eastern countries on nuclearrelated projects. A German press report claimed Iraq had recruited 50 former Soviet nuclear scientists.

### Suicide foiled

Moscow: A man aged 32 doused himself with petrol and set himself alight in Red Square in despair over economic hardship, Tass said. He was in stable condition in hospital after police put out the flames. (Reuter)

### Greek passion

Brussels: About 2,000 ethnic Greeks, shouting "Macedonia is Greek", demonstrated outside a meeting of EC foreign ministers here in opposition to any EC move to recognise the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. (Reuter)

### Fast and lose

Amsterdam: A man caught driving his £100,000 Ferrari 348GTS at 150mph — twice the limit — may lose it under Dutch law giving authorities the right to confiscate and sell a car more than 44mph over the limit. (AP)

## Englishwoman's home is no castle

BY ANNE MCELVOY

ike it or not, I am to be Legentrified. The two letters from the Federal Office for the Administration of Assets leave no doubt about the inadequacies of my east Berlin abode.

The assets office informs me that the so-called double-glazed windows let in damp and dirt and that the front door is too insecure to count for insurance purposes — which had occurred to me after I discovered that it was possible to break in in 45 seconds using no more than a nail file. Nevertheless it is depressing to have it officially confirmed. The balcony, too, is apparently in need of structural strengthening to prevent it falling on some luckless passer-by's

Having sorted out the immediate business of unifying the two Germanies, Bonn has turned its attention to the condition of the

former East Germany's state housing stock that was formerly the privileged residence of correspondents and diplomats. This is not as altruistic as it sounds, since improved housing stock means higher rents from the former state housing sector and so more money for Bonn's rapidly dwindling

We were unceremoniously. handed over from the East's Office for the Provision of Services (which it didn't) to the West's asset administration office. The only noticeable difference is that the latter uses a more impenetrable vocabulary.

The Arnold Zweigstrasse, **A** named after a modestly talented but properly socialist German poet when it was: laid out in the early Seventies, is not an architectural triumph, consisting of identical grey multistorey blocks. It was definitely sec-

visitors East Germany had little interest in impressing. Since unification, most of the Third World diplomats and businessmen have moved out of my street, for which our lives are the poorer. The Cuban trade attaché opposite, whose main purpose in the old German Republic Democratic seemed to be the provision of loud and alcoholic dance parties for the rest of us, has left to be replaced by a dour west German insurance re-

presentative.

one cast an idle glance out of the window to spot the Laotian family from the sixth floor proudly promenading with their two terriers, the entire ensemble sporting chopstick contraptions to keep their hair in place, dogs included. Downstairs, the charming French-speaking Africans who kept eight

No longer, either, does

ond-tier accommodation for children in a three-room flat without the rest of us ever hearing a squeak from them have been replaced by a wine-importing company from Wolfenbüttel. New and old residents are, however, united in dismay at discovering that we are supposed to fund the orgy of door-renewing, window-replacing and balcony-reinforcing out of our own self-declared reaction-

Aary cell has decided that it would prefer to stay scruffy than finance the homeimprovement scheme, but it is fighting a losing battle against the desire of the bureaucrats to beautify us. We did ask, however, if those doughty survivors of communism and capitalism, the kitchen cockroaches, could be more effectively disposed of. Sorry, came the answer, that does not fall under home improvement.

Lieven, Anatol. "Bodies mark site of Karabakh massacre." Times, 3 Mar. 1992, p. 10. The Times Digital Archive, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/IF0501933314/TTDA?u=nypl&sid=TTDA&xid=23d988ea. Accessed 12 Oct. 2020.