

INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

by John Laughland

Kaczynski twins take over

The President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, has appointed his twin brother, Jaroslaw, Prime Minister. Poland is now governed by a strange diarchy of twin brothers who started life as child cinema stars. The Polish government is already viewed with deep suspicion by many liberals and leftists in Europe who dislike its social conservatism and nationalism. The appointment of Jaroslaw follows the resignation of the previous Prime Minister, Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, and it comes in spite of a promise by Jaroslaw Kaczynski (who is the leader of the governing Law and Justice Party) that he would not be Prime Minister if his brother were elected President. He had said that such a diarchy would be “completely unacceptable” to Polish society. The world’s globalist media seems to be furious at the departure of Marcinkiewicz. Many are saying that the appointment of Jaroslaw Kaczynski will be bad for ‘the markets’. The appointment follows a string of bad publicity after the Law and Justice Party decided to include in the government the anti-EU parties, the League of Polish Families and Self-Defence. [*Le Monde*, 10 July 2006]

It did not take long before the new Prime Minister was mired in controversy. In June, the German daily *Tageszeitung* published a caricature of Lech Kaczynski, the President, which annoyed the Prime Minister, Jaroslaw, so much that he has demanded that the German government take measures against the newspaper. The Prime Minister said that insulting a head of state was “a crime” and that whoever committed it needed to face the consequences. The cartoon had shown Lech as ‘a new Polish potato’. The Polish Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, poured oil on the flames by comparing the *Tageszeitung* to the Nazi paper, *Der Stürmer*. Jaroslaw Kaczynski told the Polish newspaper *Wprost* that it was up to the Germans to take a step to improve the deteriorating relations with Poland “because we have not insulted anybody.” He said that he thought the relations between the two countries had been seriously damaged. A three-way meeting between the heads of government of Poland, Germany and France in Weimar was cancelled by the Polish side at short notice after Warsaw protested at the ‘inappropriateness’ of the cartoons. The German government has said that it wants to maintain good relations with the new Prime Minister but says that it cannot apologise for the cartoons because that would infringe press freedom. However, concern is being expressed in some political circles in Germany at the nationalism and anti-Europeanism of the new Polish government. Matthias Wissman, the CDU Chairman of the Bundestag’s European affairs committee, said, “Germany will always have an outstretched hand towards Poland. But at some point the Polish government will have to understand that this is not a one-way street.” Wissman emphasised that without Germany, Poland would not have joined the EU at all. [*Handelsblatt*, 11 July 2006]

Giertych praises General Franco

Further controversy was generated when a prominent member of the League of Polish Families, Maciej Giertych, whose son Roman is the leader of the party and Deputy Prime Minister in the coalition government, said in the European Parliament that Europe needed more politicians like General Franco, Salazar and Eamonn de Valera. He said that Franco and the others had preserved traditional values and stopped the spread of communism in Western Europe. The remarks were made during the course of a debate in the European Parliament during which the former Spanish dictator was condemned by MEPs.

Giertych said, “We observe deep sorrow some attempts for a historical revisionism which tends to criticise all that is traditional and catholic while portray in a positive light all that is lay and socialist.” The ineffable Martin Schulz, the leader of the Socialist Party in the European Socialist Party, who is always attacking right-wingers, flew into a fury. “What we have just heard is Mr Franco’s ghost,” he shouted, “It was a fascist speech and such a statement has no place in the European Parliament.” Mr Schultz shouted, “You are Nazi” to some protesting Polish deputies. After the session, Schulz showed his dedication to free speech when he said, “We can still see people like that spread around Europe... We need to create strong international pressure to fight against such tendencies as we are definitely not going to tolerate them.” [Lucia Kubosova, *EU Observer*, 5 July 2006]

Spooky scandals

The replacement of the Prime Minister himself followed the unexpected replacement of his Finance Minister, sacked at the beginning of July following revelations that she had collaborated with the Communist secret police without declaring the fact as is legally required. This scandal was itself part of a wider problem, namely that incriminating information about Ministers is being released into the public domain by people who probably want to try to influence or blackmail Ministers. Experts on the Polish secret services say that the old networks remain economically powerful. According to reports, allegations are circulating on the internet about the Defence Minister, Radek Sikorski, but it is not clear exactly what the substance of these allegations is. [Reinhold Vetter, *Handelsblatt*, 3 July 2007]

These scandals have been unfolding at the same time as the Catholic Church has been shaken by similar revelations about priests collaborating with the Communist secret police. The scandal has centred on Father Michal Czajkowski, 72, a professor at the Catholic University in Warsaw and co-chairman of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews, who has been forced to admit that he was a secret police informer from 1960 to 1984. Czajkowski’s *mea culpa* follows his earlier strenuous denials that he ever collaborated. He informed especially on what was going on at the Catholic University in Lublin and in the diocese of Wroclaw. The influential daily, *Rzeczpospolita*, has said that a line should be drawn under the affair and that bygones should be bygones. The scandal has not been confined to Czajkowski, however; it is estimated that 10-15 per cent of Catholic priests were Communist informers. An earlier scandal involved a Dominican priest who was a close associate of Pope John Paul II. [Celia Chauffour, *Le Monde*, 14 July 2006]

Big Brother is watching you

Brussels has said that it is ‘observing’ the developing situation in Warsaw after the Self-Defence Party, which mainly represents the interests of Polish farmers, has said that it wants a re-negotiation of the coalition agreement or else it will not vote in the confidence motion in the Polish Parliament. Self-Defence wants the coalition agreement to state very clearly that the policies outlined in the agreement will indeed be implemented, and not just those of the majority Law and Justice Party. Hartmut Nassauer, the Chairman of the CDU-CSU group in the European Parliament, said that the EU would be keeping an eye on whether the new Polish government would respect the principles laid down by the EU. He said that the rule of law, democracy and the rights of minorities had to be respected, the implication being that these were

now under threat. Nassauer also said that Brussels would watch how Warsaw's attitude to the Constitution and the further development of the European Union developed. President Kaczynski has said that he does not think that the Constitution can ever be ratified. In mid-June, the European Parliament had called on heads of state and government to react to the political changes in Poland; MEPs said they were concerned at the increase in racism, intolerance and homophobia. The deputy leader of the Liberal group, Silvana Koch-Mehrin, said that the EU ought to think about using Article 7 of the Nice Treaty. This allows the EU to suspend a Member State's voting rights if democracy and human rights are not respected. The Article was included in the EU Treaty after Austria included the Freedom Party in its national government in 2000. [*Die Welt*, 13 July 2006]

Spooks in Bulgaria as well

A similar scandal to the one in Poland is also unfolding in Bulgaria. The President of Bulgaria, Georgi Parvanov, admitted that he collaborated with the state security services although he did not realise that he was doing so because he did not know who was reading his written reports. As in Poland too, the 'scandal of the files' has been shaking the political class for a while and one has to ask in both cases why this information (if it is true) is being revealed now. The scandal started when two journalists were revealed as agents, perhaps as a way of getting at the press or the result of a settling of accounts. [Rouja Lazarova, *Le Monde*, 17 July 2006]

Slovakia in the dog house again

European noses have been turned up at the new Slovak government as well. Following the victory of the SMER party led by Robert Fico, now Prime Minister, the Slovak government is now composed of a coalition between SMER, the HZDS led by former Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar and the right-wing Slovak National Party. This alliance has brought waves of condemnation from European Socialists. The Socialist group of the European Parliament, in a meeting in Strasbourg on 4 July, unanimously condemned its Social Democratic member, SMER, for allying with the populist HZDS and the extreme right SNP and demanded that SMER be suspended from the European Socialist Party and that it be barred from joining the Socialist International. Martin Schulz, the Chairman of the Socialist group in the European Parliament, said, "*The Slovak government coalition is unacceptable.*" Schulz denounced the Slovak National Party, led by Jan Slota, as "*an intolerant, ultranationalist, extreme right and racist party.*" For many years Slovakia was isolated by the *bien pensants* in the international community while it was governed by Vladimir Meciar, who was repeatedly attacked for not being democratic. International investors and financiers are now sounding very gloomy about Slovakia, since the new government has promised to abolish the flat tax introduced by its predecessor. Many are saying that it will not, as predicted, be able to adopt the euro in 2009. [Rafaële Rivais, *Le Monde*, 6 July 2006]

In a notable act of left-right harmony, the centre-right European People's Party has also expressed the same disapproval of the new Slovak government led by Fico as the supposedly enemy Socialists. Wilfrid Martens, the President of the EPP, said that the coalition between SMER, the HZDS and the SNP represented "*a setback for Europe.*" "*I am deeply concerned with the current political developments in Slovakia,*" Martens said. "*I am appalled that a party like the SNP, with its xenophobic views and hostility towards ethnic minorities will become a coalition partner in the new Slovak government.*" The same displeasure was voiced by Hans-Gert Poettering, the Chairman of the EPP parliamentary party in the European Parliament. He said, "*I am astonished that the most extreme xenophobic party is to be part of the*

next government. This development is not justified by any lack of suitable partners in the Slovak Parliament and it can only harm the real interests of Slovakia. It will certainly put at risk the substantial political, economic and social progress achieved under the leadership of Mikuláš Dzurinda." Martens welcomed the open letter sent by the European Socialists to Robert Fico. [3 July 2006, *epp-ed.org*] The spectre of ethnic discrimination against Slovakia's Hungarians and gypsies takes no account of the fact that Meciar's HZDS is especially popular among Slovakia's gypsy population. The Euro-grandees are also guilty of double standards, since there is no substantial discrimination against Hungarians in Slovakia, while there is massive and systemic discrimination against ethnic Russians in the Baltic states, especially Latvia. Although these EU states have refused even to give their numerous Russian inhabitants passports, and although they massively deny them cultural rights, for instance in education, the Baltic states are customarily held up as model of inter-ethnic tolerance.

Czech mate

The centre-right governing party in the Czech Republic, the Civic Democratic Party or ODS, has said that it will put on ice for the time being the plans to form a Eurosceptic grouping in the European Parliament with the British Conservatives. The leader of the parliamentary party, Jan Zahradil, has said that it will not join a new Eurosceptic group until after 2009. Zahradil said that the plan was being abandoned because it was important to complete negotiations on a national coalition government first. The implication is that the alliance with the Conservatives might make creating such a coalition more difficult. The ODS has in any case taken some steps away from Euroscepticism, the party leader Mirel Topolánek having decided not to appoint Jan Zahradil as Foreign Minister. Zahradil, a close ally of the Czech President, Václav Klaus, and a friend of the European Foundation, would have been a strongly Eurosceptic voice in Czech diplomacy if he had been given this job. [Lucia Kubosova, *EU Observer*, 11 July 2006]

Czechs introduce gay marriage

The Czech Republic has become the first former Communist country to pass a law legalising same-sex marriages. The law was passed only with great difficulty, following a veto by President Klaus. This is the fifth attempt to introduce the law and it was passed, following the President's veto, only when a seriously ill deputy was carried into the Parliament chamber to vote for it. The new law does not allow same-sex couples to adopt children but children from a heterosexual relationship may remain in the custody of a parent even if he or she has subsequently entered a homosexual partnership.

'Another Russia' holds Congress

The former world chess champion, Garry Kasparov, has inaugurated a conference of leading Russian oppositionists at a Moscow hotel. The meeting was disrupted by protests by youth groups who support President Putin. They put on the costumes of American Indians ('native Americans') in order to make their point that Kasparov wants to turn Russia into a colony of the US, reducing ordinary Russians to the state of native Americans. The conference was notable for the presence, as participants, of people from the extreme fringes of Russian politics, especially Red Young Vanguard and the National Bolshevik Party. For this reason, the main liberal parties in Russia, especially Yabloko and the Union of Rightist Forces, declined to participate in the conference. The meeting was attended by the US Assistant Secretary of State, Daniel Fried, and by the British and Canadian Ambassadors. The meeting has caused several people to comment on Kasparov's strongly pro-American sympathies. According to Leonid Ivashov, Vice President of

the Russian Academy of Geopolitical Sciences, *"It was long ago when the CIA established a network of non-commercial and non-governmental organisations. In addition, it funds over 400 scientific organisations too. I know many of our politicians and scientists of politics who would at first express Russia's state interests but then immediately change their points of view as soon as they start receiving money from Western funds, Carnegie or Soros funds, for example. Instead, they would start propagandising the US system, NATO, etc. In fact, they started lobbying American interests with a view to conquer Russian oil and gas resources."* In a similar vein, State Duma Deputy and historian Natalia Narochnitskaya has commented, *"Kasparov's behaviour is revolting. It is not about the opposition, it is about the promotion of US interests in Russia. The CIA has gone into the background as a public structure during the recent decade. However, the anti-Russian activities are being carried out through various foundations, institutes and councils under the guise of human rights protection."* Political scientist Sergei Markov commented, *"The fact that the conference 'Another Russia' is chaired by Kasparov shows that this event is not serious. He is a genius and a madman for me at one and the same time. Of course he is a genius in the game of chess and a madman in the game of politics. He directs his energy against Russia, being completely irrational as a politician. He was awarded for his Russophobic ideas in 1991. Kasparov is one of the most devoted supporters of the USA in the world. I do not think that he deliberately cooperates with the CIA. However, it is obvious that US special services use him."* [Andrei Scherbakov, www.pravda.ru, 12 July 2006]

MEPs support Khodorkovsky

More than 100 members of the European Parliament have signed an open letter to President Putin calling the jailed oligarch, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a 'political prisoner' and his trial 'a travesty of justice'. The letter was initiated by Vytautas Landsbergis, the former President of Lithuania, and it stressed that Khodorkovsky feared for his life. [www.lenta.ru, 13 July 2006] At about the same time, an organisation has been created called 'Association of the Victims of Yukos' (Yukos is the oil company Khodorkovsky headed) which alleges that hundreds of people were murdered by Yukos' security service in the form of contract killings. It has held demonstrations outside the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the occasion of a debate on Khodorkovsky's imprisonment.

Ukraine's political stalemate

In the three months since the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, the country has spectacularly failed to find a new government. The loser of the 2005 'Orange Revolution', Viktor Yanukovich, won those elections and ought to have been asked to form a government. President Yushchenko, however, gave the task to his orange allies who have since split into rival factions and are now bitter enemies. The vying for position between them has caused every attempt to create a government to collapse. Yushchenko has refused to appoint Yanukovich Prime Minister and Yulia Tymoshenko, the former Prime Minister, has led the disruption of parliamentary sessions to prevent the formation of a government from which she was excluded. Yushchenko justified his refusal to appoint Yanukovich by saying that his party had violated the Ukrainian Constitution. The situation is aggravated by the fact that deputies have refused to appoint judges to the constitutional court and so that body is not functioning either; it was this court which gave the victory to the 'orange' forces in early 2005. It is obvious that Yushchenko (and those foreigners who support him) are determined to prevent Yanukovich from becoming Prime Minister for foreign policy reasons. The President has stated, *"We will not stray from the path we have chosen. Ukraine is moving towards the European Union. The path we have chosen*

in foreign and domestic policy will remain unchanged." [Le Monde, 14 July 2006]

Bomb in Transdnistria

A bomb exploded on 6 July in a maxi-taxi in the Transdnistrian capital, Tiraspol, killing eight people and injuring about twenty. Transdnistria is a small strip of territory, which is legally part of Moldova (which aspires to join the EU). Transdnistria has in fact has been independent since 1990. Whereas other small territories around the world, such as Montenegro and Kosovo, are encouraged to secede from the larger states to which they belong, Transdnistria has always been encouraged by the international community to stay in Moldova and indeed to reintegrate itself politically with that state. The terrorist act comes at a time of worsening relations between Moldova and Russia, which has peacekeepers in Transdnistria, and conspiracy theories abound that the Moldovan government was somehow behind the attack. In mid-June, Transdnistrian authorities had arrested five Moldovan police officers who were taking photographs of buildings and, they said, *"engaged in subversive activities."* They were obliged to release them by Russia and the OSCE. [Reports, 6 July 2006]

Commenting on the attack, the special envoy of the Transdnistrian Parliament, Grigory Marakutsa, has said, *"Somebody outside Transdnistria does not like that a calm situation has been established in the republic for a long time. For 14 years of Russian peacekeeping mission in the Moldovan-Transdnistria conflict zone not a person died. Whenever Moldova raised the question of changing the peacekeeping format, this fact was the main counter argument from our side. However, someone did not like our argument. Somebody did not like that the Russian peacekeepers went on so well with their duties. The terrorist attack is just an attempt to discredit the Russian peacekeepers before the summit of the G8 in Saint Petersburg in order to raise the question of their withdrawal from the conflict zone, change the peacekeeping format and satisfy ambitions of the Moldovan party. In my opinion, a definite trace of the Moldovan special services can be seen in the terror act. Recently, state officials and members of Moldovan special services have become regular visitors to some countries where terrorist organizations are present, particularly, to Albania. Voronin [the president of Moldova] has met people who support terrorists in Chechnya and Al-Qaeda. According to our data, President of Moldova Vladimir Voronin and officials of Moldovan special services inclined members of terror organisations in various countries to carry out terror acts in Transdnistria. They seem to have succeeded in it."* [www.regnum.ru, 7 July 2006]

Macedonian Albanian parties shoot it out

The general elections in Macedonia, a country which hopes to join the EU in a few years, have been marred by a series of shoot-outs between members of the two rival ethnic Albanian parties in the country. In spite of this gang warfare, the judgement by the EU has been that Macedonia is well on the way to membership. The centre-right party VMRO-DPMNE will probably ally itself with the so-called Democratic Union for Integration, an ethnic Albanian party led by a former paramilitary rebel, Ali Ahmeti. [Christophe Châtelot, Le Monde, 7 July 2006]

Italian Minister sparks row

The leader of the right-wing Northern League party in Italy, Roberto Calderoli, has put a cat among the pigeons by attributing Italy's victory in the football world cup to the fact that all the players in the national team were ethnic Italians – *"people from Lombardy, Campania, Calabria, the Veneto"* – whereas France had fielded *"a team which has lost its identity by including negroes, Muslims and Communists."* He said the Italian victory was *"a victory for our identity."* The French government is

furious and the French Ambassador in Rome, Yves Aubin de la Messuzière, has written a formal letter of protest to the President of the Senate, Franco Marini. He said that Calderoli's statements "*could only nourish hatred*" and that France was proud of its team which consisted of "*sons of the country*." Calderoli had been a member of the Berlusconi government until last February when he resigned because he was pictured on TV wearing a T-Shirt with Mohammed caricatures; the resulting protests outside the Italian consulate in the Libyan city of Benghazi led to the deaths of eleven people. [*Handelsblatt*, 11 July 2006]

Italian spooks arrested

On 5 July 2006, the Italian police arrested two officers of Italian military intelligence, while a judge signed arrest warrants for four Americans, as part of the ongoing enquiry into the capture by the CIA in Milan in 2003 of a man suspected of terrorist activities. Marco Mancini, director of the 1st Division of SISMI, the Italian military intelligence agency, and another officer from the same agency, are accused of having collaborated in the capture of Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, an Egyptian imam also known as Abu Omar. Of the four Americans, three are CIA agents while one works at the US air base at Aviano in northern Italy. An Italian court had previously issued arrest warrants for 22 American agents in connection with the affair but this is the first time that Italian citizens have also been named. Although Abu Omar was suspected of links to Al-Qaeda, he alleges that he was tortured in Egypt following his capture in broad daylight in a Milan street. The judicial authorities believe that his capture violated Italian law, since he was not arrested but simply bundled into a van and taken out of the country; they also alleged that his kidnapping sabotaged an investigation into his activities which was bearing fruit. The affair has been in the newspapers for some time in Italy, and the previous Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, has strenuously denied that his government knew anything about the capture or that it organised it. Berlusconi says that he summoned the American Ambassador at the time to protest against the capture and to tell him that Italian sovereignty had to be respected. [6 July 2006]

Bush and Merkel

As a result of his visit to Germany, President Bush has agreed with the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, that the United States and Germany will "*cooperate in the management of global crises*" and that together they will seek a solution to the escalating conflict in the Middle East. They also agreed to cooperate on the Iranian nuclear question. Addressing a selected audience of citizens in the Chancellor's constituency, Bush said of his German hosts, "*We have common values and common interests. We can achieve a great deal when America and Germany stand side by side.*" [*Die Welt*, 14 July 2006]

Bush's visit took place under conditions of extremely high security, with manhole covers being sealed in the city of Stralsund and police going from house to house to check who the inhabitants were. All vehicles had to be removed from the city centre and no one was allowed to open their window. The port was closed. People were not allowed out into the street from 7 a.m. on the day of the visit, so that Bush could walk around the centre. The mayor of the town, a close ally of the Chancellor, compared the security measures to the 16th Century siege by Wallenstein's army. [*Die Welt*, 12 July 2006]

Commission wants to cut roaming costs

On 12 July, the European Commission published a proposal for a directive, the purpose of which is to reduce the costs of 'roaming' on mobile telephones. The proposal will limit the profit margin which telephone companies are allowed to make on roaming to 30 per cent. The Commission claims that some phone companies currently make a

profit margin of 400 per cent on calls received or made abroad. Roaming made €8.5 billion for the phone companies in 2005, 5.7 per cent of the sector's turnover and 15 per cent of its profits. The Commission says that its directive would save consumers some €7 billion while the companies say they will lose €4.3 billion in turnover. When the Commission first looked at the question in February, Commissar Viviane Reding said that the objective was to remove the difference in tariffs between national and international calls (within the EU) saying that this was contrary to the principles of the Single Market. However, the phone companies successfully lobbied other Commissars, especially Günter Verheugen, Jacques Barrot and Peter Mandelson, who communicated to Reding their fear that a flourishing European industry would be damaged if it was subject to too much regulation. [*Le Monde*, 11 July 2006]

Finland will ratify Constitution

The Prime Minister of Finland, Matti Vanhanen, whose country has taken over the presidency of the European Union, has said that it wants to "*keep the process alive*" by which the European Constitution will be ratified. On the one hand, Finland's will be something of a caretaker presidency until Germany takes over in January 2007; on the other hand, the country intends to become the 16th EU Member State to ratify the EU Constitution in October, and it also wants to continue the consultations initiated by Austria with a view to reaching agreement on a new treaty in 2008. Helsinki does not think that the present Constitution has any chance of being adopted but it also thinks a new Treaty will not be radically different from the present Constitution. The Finns therefore expect that enlargement will be the focal point of their presidency. They want to persuade Turkey to respect what they say are its obligations towards Cyprus, in particular that Turkey ratify the protocol extending the customs union to Cyprus, which would be almost equivalent to formal recognition. Mr Vanhanen has said, "*It is possible to suspend the negotiations,*" which is a clear threat to the Turkish government that this is what will happen if the protocol is not ratified. The EU is also trying to keep the door open to states in the Western Balkans, i.e. the former Yugoslavia, while both Romania and Bulgaria are to join the EU in 2007. [Philippe Ricard, *Le Monde*, 4 July 2006]

Cresson let off for favouritism

The European Court of Justice has found the former Commissar and former French Prime Minister, Edith Cresson, guilty of favouritism while she was a member of the European Commission but has decided that she should nonetheless continue to draw her pension. The revelation that Cresson had given a job in her *cabinet* to her 'close friend' was what led to the wholesale resignation of the Santer Commission in 1999. She came to symbolise the arrogance and corruption of Brussels. But the ECJ has also ruled that Madame Cresson does not need to suffer any penalty for having abused public money. "*The judgement itself constitutes an appropriate sanction,*" it ruled, saying that there was no reason to remove her pension or to impose any other financial penalty. Cresson's 'friend', a dentist, was 66 at the time when he was appointed a 'scientific visitor' in her *cabinet* and therefore above the age limit. There were already plenty of 'advisers' anyway. Moreover, although his job description involved scientific research, he in fact only ever advised Madame Cresson. There was therefore clear abuse of office. Edith Cresson, who was a member of the European Commission from January 1995 to September 1999 becomes the first senior official to be convicted in this way by the ECJ. Its failure to sanction her will doubtless only consolidate the culture of corruption in Brussels. [*Le Monde*, 11 July 2006]