

# International Intelligence

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## Middle East

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### *Anglo-Americans set Begin's ouster*

Over the last week, a round of strongly worded editorials appeared in the press outlets of the City of London and Washington calling for the removal of Israel's hardline Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The influential London *Daily Telegraph* May 6 editorialized that it will take "someone with courage to overthrow the government of Begin." That someone is current Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, who along with the opposition Labor Party leader, Shimon Peres, are now openly challenging Begin's government.

Just prior to his recent visit to Washington, Weizman publicly stated that he was considering leaving Begin's government and forming either a new Center Party or a coalition with Peres. Weizman, a close confidant of Egyptian President Sadat, is a key asset of London in forging a NATO-linked Middle East Treaty Organization. In a press conference in Washington this week, Carrington laid out a plan whereby Europe, under British leadership, would present a new Middle East initiative following the deadline for Camp David talks on Palestinian autonomy on May 26. The British calculate that Mideast initiative, largely cosmetic in its content, could be used to woo the moderate Arab leadership, notably the Saudis, into accepting the METO plan.

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## Latin America

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### *Colombia legalizes personal pot dose*

May 8 (NSIPS)—The Colombian Supreme Court has just announced its decision to legalize the possession of a "personal dose" of marijuana, up to and

including 28 grams of the drug. In addition, the court has declared that if a person charged with possession of a larger quantity can prove that his family or friends are users of the drug, he or she will be permitted to divide the larger quantity into several totally legal "personal doses." The Court decision revives a 1976 decree to legalize personal drug usage which had been overturned as illegal by the Colombian State Council.

The Court decision was hailed by financier Ernesto Samper Pizano, Colombia's leading advocate of drug legalization, while others expressed deep concern that the measure would prove a stimulus to the already widespread drug trafficking that plagues Colombia. One legal expert in the country warned that now "a family of ten persons could easily come and go with a substantial quantity of marijuana or hashish, very possibly demonstrating with doctored medical evidence that they are all addicted due to serious illnesses."

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## Asia

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### *Ominous signs of military tensions*

The Soviet Union is reported to have deployed nuclear missile carrying submarines into the South China Sea and is reinforcing its garrison on the four small islands north of Japan's Hokkaido Island. The moves come amidst growing military tensions throughout the east and Southeast Asian region.

In an unusually candid press conference on May 7, Soviet Ambassador to Japan, Dimitri S. Polyansky, said that the Soviet Union was strengthening its military forces in the Far East to deal with the United States presence on Japanese territory, the strengthening of the United States-Japanese alliance and what he termed the instability of the Korean peninsula and Indochina. Speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Club, the Ambassador told journalists the reinforcement of troops

on the four northern Islands "should not be considered in isolation from the military and political situation in that area." He warned the Japanese not to choose the path of confrontation against the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Ambassador's concerns appeared confirmed by recent statements by Chinese leaders. Chinese Communist Party Chairman Hua Guofeng called on the Japanese to choose the path of rearmament to help prevent the Soviet Union "from dominating the world." Hua, who is scheduled to arrive in Japan at the end of May, told a visiting Japanese, "A sovereign state should have sufficient defense capabilities" and that China supported "Japan's efforts to strengthen its defenses." Hua hinted at possible renewal of war with Vietnam when he told a group of Japanese journalists last month that China still reserves the "right to punish Vietnam again" if their "provocations" require such a move.

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### *British experts warn on 'China card'*

Two of Great Britain's foremost experts on security affairs, Sir Neil Cameron and Lord Chalfont, warned this week that the Western powers might have to drop the China card option if world war is to be averted.

Speaking before the Royal Society of the Arts April 30, Marshal of the Air Force Sir Neil Cameron warned that the Western nations might have to lessen their ties to China. The Soviets will not tolerate a "quadruple entente" developing among the United States and Western Europe, and Japan and China.

Sir Neil's comments contrast sharply with his previous views on the Western Alliance and China. Sir Neil, as the Tory Defence Secretary two years ago, made international headlines during a tour of China's military facilities by calling for a "NATO-China alliance against the Soviet hegemonists."

Sir Neil was joined by another prominent defense expert and former Tory

defense minister and defense affairs correspondent for the *London Times*, Lord Chalfont. Speaking before the German-British Friendship Society in Munich, he warned of the great danger of war due to Soviet interventionism and the incalculability of the world strategic situation. Lord Chalfont admitted that the Soviets at this moment have the strategic advantage, and warned that at all costs the West should not give China offensive weapons that pose a threat to the Soviet Union. Nothing should be done to make the Soviets feel they are being encircled, Chalfont warned.

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## Europe

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### *London embassy siege staged*

Both Iranian and Iraqi sources report that the siege of the Iranian Embassy in London by alleged Arabs of Iranian nationality was in fact completely orchestrated by British intelligence. The reason for the incident which ended this week when British SAS commandos stormed the embassy and killed the terrorists, was to create the pretext for a thaw of British-Iranian relations.

The same sources indicate that Iranian Prime Minister Abolhassan Bani-Sadr knew in advance of the raid and was in constant contact with London. Britain calculated that by bringing Iran back into Teheran's good graces, it could mediate between Iran and the U.S. for the release of the American hostages.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, following the taking of the embassy by the British commandos, told the British Parliament: "I think we had best consider how we can turn this superb operation to the best advantage for the American hostages. I believe the way the operation was carried out in this country will have an effect on the future position with regard to Britain."

Iran's Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, however, has nixed any such British mediation.

London hopes that the affair will strengthen the flagging political power of President Bani-Sadr and that he can be used to steer Iran towards participation in a Middle East Treaty Organization, to be allied to NATO.

The British and the Iranians have also coordinated a propaganda campaign to implicate Iran's rival neighbor, Iraq, in the Embassy affair. Iraq is covertly supporting the growing military resistance to the Islamic regime of Ayatollah Khomeini.

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### *Zia visits China, launches border skirmishes with India*

China's Chairman Hua Guofeng granted visiting Pakistan dictator Zia ul-Haq increased military and economic aid, and publicly admitted that China was actively supplying Pakistan-based Islamic rebels in Afghanistan. Diplomatic sources report that Zia and the Chinese will discuss what further aid can be given to the rebels. Thus, Zbigniew Brzezinski's dream of an "arc of crisis" alliance between Islamic fundamentalism and Chinese hegemonism against the U.S.S.R. received an important boost.

Emboldened by simultaneous support from Washington and Peking, Zia intensified border skirmishes with India in the disputed territory of Kashmir, according to both the Indian and British press. The London *Daily Telegraph* reports that since March, Pakistani soldiers have repeatedly entered the cease-fire zone in Kashmir and fired upon Indian soldiers.

Now, according to the *Telegraph*, not only are Pakistani troops building up along the Kashmir border, but China is conducting a troop buildup in Sinkiang Province, which also borders Kashmir.

## Briefly

● **PLO CHIEF** Yasser Arafat yesterday threw cold water on a plan being floated by British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington to "supplement" the United Nations Resolution 242 with a statement favoring Palestinian self-determination as part of a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Arafat, speaking in Beirut, stated that the Palestinian people, despite a revision, would still be treated as refugees.

● **SOUTH KOREA's** Hyundai Construction Corp. became the latest target of the series of corruption scandals in Saudi Arabia. Rumors, reported here last December, came true as Hyundai was banned from operating in Saudi Arabia for two years and fined \$90 million for alleged bribery. Over the years Hyundai had risen quickly to the top ranks of world construction companies due in large part to its Saudi operations. If the U.S. Justice Department has anything to say about it, more firms will follow in Hyundai's wake.

● **LOPEZ PORTILLO**, President of Mexico, made a fool of his West German interviewers for *Der Spiegel* magazine, who repeatedly asked provocative questions designed to throw the Mexican leader in a bad light. The high point of the interview, published in *Der Spiegel* this week, came when he answered a question implying the possibility that Mexico could industrialize successfully. Who will produce Mexico's food if, as he stated, 80 percent of the population is living in cities by the end of the century? In the United States, he replied, only one percent of the population lives on the farm. "It is a mistake to overload the countryside with a labor force ... simply mechanize your agriculture!"