

International Intelligence

News media caused hit against U.S. agent

U.S. intelligence sources have angrily confirmed that the assassination of a West Berlin-based U.S. intelligence operative, Mohammed Ashur, on May 22, was a direct result of leaks by the U.S. news media.

Ashur was part of a network of on-the-ground agents in Europe who were responsible for much of the information utilized for the U.S. raid on Libya April 14-15. To protect this network, the U.S. government had falsely reported that its sources of information were satellite and electronic intercepts. However, media leaks of details pertaining to the raid, allowed the East German intelligence service, the Stasi, to pinpoint Ashur's role. He was then assassinated.

Three other operatives, who had assignments similar to Ashur, are now missing and presumed dead or kidnapped.

Is Moscow seeking a new Berlin crisis?

On May 25, East German border guards at Checkpoint Charlie between West and East Berlin denied entry to diplomats from the United States, Britain, and France who refused to show passports. The unprecedented restriction could be the beginning of a new Berlin crisis.

Throughout the postwar era, diplomats of the four occupying powers—U.S.A., Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R.—have only been required to show I.D. papers, not passports, as Berlin is a city under Four-Power administration; the inner city border does not constitute a state border.

So far, the East Germans have applied the restriction only to diplomats. No such actions have been taken against Allied military personnel.

The action came as Moscow launched attacks on the West German state of unprecedented ferocity, and may be the first taste of the "new diplomacy" expected to follow Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachov's re-

call of all Soviet ambassadors from abroad for consultations.

The governments of the United States, Britain, and France today filed official protests with East Germany. Spokesmen from the three allied embassies in Bonn announced that "counter-measures of some sort" would be undertaken, but denied, for the time being, any intention to break diplomatic relations or recall ambassadors. The provocation was placed on the agenda of spring meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Canada.

A West German source characterized the move as "a clear indication by Gorbachov to Reagan that he can play the Berlin card. We will see more of this."

Assassination attempt on Peruvian party chief

Three workers for Peru's ruling APRA party were assassinated May 26 in a failed attempt on the party's national organization secretary, Alberto Kitasono. The intended victim is a close friend of President Alan García.

In the attack, four terrorists dressed as schoolchildren threw explosives at Kitasono's party, and then advanced on them, opening fire with machine-guns at close range. Kitasono, a karate expert, grabbed the gun of one of the terrorists and held her as his shield. Three other assassins escaped on foot.

For years, Peru has been plagued by guerrilla terrorism by a gang of narco-terrorists called *Sendero Luminoso* (Shining Path), but this was the first act of selective terrorism against a national APRA party official. Emphasizing the seriousness of this new escalation in a statement issued after the atrocity, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, head of the international Schiller Institute, stated:

"The existence of Sendero Luminoso depends upon a support apparatus centered in the nations of Europe. The governments of Europe must act now to shut down this support apparatus. This is necessary to save the institutions of the Republic of Peru. This is necessary to save the institutions of democracy and civilization from bestial, irra-

tionalist narco-terrorism. If Europe acts promptly to solve its side of the problem, Peruvian authorities will promptly solve theirs."

García's policy of limited debt payments to the forces of usury in North America and Europe represented by the International Monetary Fund has made his government a target for early destabilization, and, as this attack might indicate, civil war.

Botha asks law to put blacks in government

Legislation to create a multi-racial National Council, providing South African blacks participation in government for the first time, was presented to South Africa's parliament on May 22, by Minister of Constitutional Development Chris Heunis. The council, first proposed by President Pieter Botha in January of this year, "should be viewed as a starting point for power-sharing and the beginning of a government of greater national unity. The aim is to provide an instrument and process through which a new constitution can be arrived at," he said.

In the interim, the council "can serve to provide black communities with the opportunity to participate in the process of government on the executive level." It would be made up of 10 black urban leaders, a number of cabinet members and members of parliament, and 10 others chosen for their leadership abilities. All members would be appointed by the State President.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the million-member Inkatha social movement, called the legislation "the kind of statement that the world is waiting to hear," but emphasized that power-sharing must include leaders of the independent tribal homelands as well.

As news of the legislation spread, police clashed with white extremists who invaded a hall in the Transvaal town of Pietersburg, forcing Foreign Minister Pik Botha to cancel a scheduled appearance there. An estimated 3,000 members of the fascist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (Afrikaner Resis-

Briefly

tance Movement) of self-avowed Hitler-admirer Eugene TerreBlanche, forced their way into the hall, waving their swastika-banners.

Botha commented, "It is no setback. Of course we will go ahead with our reform initiatives."

When Chirac is in Tunisia, Rouleau won't be

French Premier Jacques Chirac does not want to meet with French Ambassador Eric Rouleau in Tunisia. Rouleau, involved in plotting the destabilisation of the Tunisian government and exposed for same in *EIR* and France's *Nouvelle Solidarité* newspaper, was recalled to Paris for "consultations" during Chirac's official visit to Tunisia at the end of May.

The French daily *Liberation* comments that Chirac did not want to meet Rouleau during his visit, and that Rouleau had been the "target of a hostile campaign" in the Tunisian press which published an article from the "confidential extreme right-wing newsletter *Nouvelle Solidarité* accusing Socialist leaders of organising a plot against Tunisia's President Habib Bourguiba. Rouleau was the coordinator."

Chirac declared upon arrival in Tunis: "If Tunisia needs French aid, we will give it immediately. If Tunisia is the target of aggression, from no matter what quarter, she will find France at her side."

Propose Central American federation

Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo stated on May 24 that the Presidents of Central America who began meeting in Esquipula, Guatemala on that day "have the intention of creating a Federation of Central America's Republics."

Cerezo, who has been criticized by some Ibero-American leaders for seeking to by-

pass the "Contadora Group" process seeking a regional peace settlement in the region, said, "We don't want to supplant any other institution or any other effort."

News wires said that the meeting was convened to discuss not just the Central American conflict, but also a Central American common market and a Central American parliament.

Israel launches probe of Shin Beth chief

Israel's "inner" security cabinet has taken the unprecedented measure of instructing the Israeli police to open up an investigation of the head of Shin Beth, Israel's domestic counterintelligence agency, Avraham Shalom. At issue is Shalom's behavior in an April 1984 incident in which two Palestinian hijackers of a bus were shot by Israeli police.

The investigation was requested by Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir, who overrode objections from Police Chief Chaim Bar-Lev, who argued that pursuit of the case would threaten Israel's security.

Zamir said that what is known to the public about the April 1984 case "in no way describes the gravity of the facts or the great danger to the foundations of law and democracy in Israel." He is charging that Shin Beth's behavior in the affair threatens Israel's democratic decision-making processes.

The strongest opposition to the investigation has come from Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon, according to the *Times* of London. He said Israel's government needed absolute freedom of action in combating terrorism, and could not be dictated to by officials. "In this instance, it is not a matter of the survival of law and democracy, but one of danger to the very survival of Israel," he said.

Press reports from Israel indicate there was a very stormy debate in the "inner Cabinet," composed of 10 ministers, on May 25. Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai, and Finance Minister Moshe Nissim, strongly opposed Zamir's demand for an investigation.

● **MIKHAIL GORBACHOV** can't be pushed around," said Armand Hammer, who has had close ties to Moscow since 1921. "He is the best Soviet leader since Lenin." Hammer, who recently returned from a meeting with the Soviet party chief, told a news conference that he doesn't know if a second summit between the United States and the Soviet Union is possible.

● **THE SOVIETS** plan to build up their embassy in Madrid to make it their biggest in Europe within two years, the Spanish weekly *El Tiempo* reports. There are indications the matter was discussed between the Soviet leadership and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who was in Moscow May 19-23.

● **A BRITISH HIGH COURT** judge in Leicester has reinstated charges against three Sikhs that they plotted to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. They were freed May 22 on a technicality. The three Sikhs were immediately rearrested as their defense lawyer, Ivan Geffen, protested the decision as "a political conspiracy between the government of this country and the government of India." The prosecution was obtained under a Voluntary Bill of Indictment, almost unheard of in British justice, bypassing the committal hearing to send them directly to trial. Reportedly, they were only "released" to allow undercover agents to testify without identifying themselves.

● **TWENTY WARRANTS** will be issued by magistrates in Rome against persons now believed responsible for the terrorist attack on the Rome airport in which 17 innocents died last February. Among those who may be named is El Kouri, the deputy-chief of the Syrian Air Force, and "Abu Nidal," the Syrian-based terrorist leader.