

International Intelligence

Britain severs diplomatic relations with Syria

Great Britain broke diplomatic relations with Syria on Oct. 24, after the Syrian ambassador, Loutof Allah Haydar, was implicated in an attempt to blow up an Israeli airliner, in the trial of the terrorist Nezar Hindawi in London. The announcement came shortly after a guilty verdict had been handed down in the trial.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe announced to Parliament that the Syrian ambassador had been told to close down his embassy and leave the country with his staff. Howe also announced that the British embassy in Damascus would close.

Nezar Hindawi and was sentenced to 45 years in prison. The bomb attempt involved having Hindawi's pregnant girlfriend carry explosives onto an El Al Boeing 747.

Hindawi testified that he went to the Syrian embassy after the failure of the April 17 plot. He told the court that he met there with the Syrian ambassador and was given refuge by embassy staff.

Britain expelled three Syrian attachés last May after the embassy refused to waive diplomatic immunity so that police could question them about the bombing attempt. Syria denies any involvement in the crime.

Police testified that Hindawi had confessed that Ambassador Haydar had greeted him warmly and said that Hindawi had done "good things." Hindawi later withdrew the testimony.

Pope seen as backing anti-terror measures

Pope John Paul II's trip to France Oct. 4-7 was seen in Paris as an expression of support for the anti-terrorist policy of the French government. France is now the only country the Pope has visited three times.

From the first day of his visit, the Pope condemned terrorism and appealed for a one-day general truce. Premier Jacques Chirac

commented: "When the Pope says something, it is always very important, essential. . . . When the Pope evoked a certain number of values touching upon especially the family, hundreds of thousands of youth were carried away with enthusiasm, and this has to be recognized."

The weekly *Nouvel Observateur*, on the eve of the papal visit, published a poll showing a shift in political tendencies among Catholic voters, particularly practicing Catholics. This poll showed that a large majority preferred Chirac over every other potential presidential candidate, a change reflecting the rejection of the extreme right by that electorate. *Nouvel Observateur* even wrote of "Chirac-ization of practicing Catholics."

Machel's death remains a mystery

President Reagan extended American condolences to the government and people of Mozambique Oct. 21, on the death of President Samora Machel in a mysterious airplane crash.

"President Machel led his people with courage and unflinching determination in the long struggle for Mozambique's independence and non-alignment," said the President's message. "His agreement to the Nkomati Accord with South Africa was a courageous milestone in the effort of all the peoples of southern Africa to live together in mutual security and good will."

The South African government, which gave the first report of the crash of Machel's Soviet-made plane in the mountains about 200 miles west of Johannesburg, gave no reason for the crash. Maputo air traffic control lost contact with the aircraft 15 minutes before it was due to land in the capital the evening of Oct. 20. But the airplane, flown by a Soviet pilot who was one of the few survivors, appears to have been flying in a southwesterly direction toward South Africa.

Though a Marxist, President Machel was an important element in U.S. policy in

southern Africa, a U.S. official said, noting that the peace pact the President of Mozambique signed with South Africa was seized on by Washington as proof that its policy of opposing sanctions and working on a broad front to bring peace to the region was the right one.

Invited to the White House in September of last year, Machel won respect from Reagan during their talks, the official said.

Shamir vows takeover of 'Biblical lands'

Yitzhak Shamir, in presenting his new government to the Israeli parliament Oct. 19, vowed to promote Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. He said in a policy speech that Jewish settlement throughout the "Biblical Land of Israel"—including Arab lands captured in the 1967 war—was a supreme Zionist value. "We will not discriminate between one part of the country and another," he said. "Just as there is one people of Israel, so there is one land of Israel."

On Oct. 21, his first day as prime minister, Shamir, who replaced Shimon Peres, visited the Jewish settlement of Kokhav Yair in the West Bank, urging Jews to settle all of the "Biblical Land of Israel." He earlier told a group of youth in the coastal town of Herzliya that one of Israel's main goals was to make room for new Jewish immigrants by settling all land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Kohl meets Reagan, praises the SDI

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, after meeting with President Reagan and other officials in Washington Oct. 22, told a press conference: "The Strategic Defense Initiative is an important asset for future cooperation" between the United States and Germany.

"In my talks with the American offi-

Briefly

cial," said Kohl, "I pointed out that now is the time for us to make public what we know about the Soviet strategic defense program." This must be done to counter "the fantastic propaganda campaign now going on in Europe, where they are speaking exclusively of the American SDI program and never mentioning what the Soviets are doing."

An *EIR* correspondent had asked him about the Soviet program. He replied that he was "in full agreement with what you say. The Soviets have been working for a long time. . . . Kosygin mentioned the Soviet program for the first time, and that was a long time ago. . . . We now have a specific problem, which I made clear to my American friends, that the new group of Soviet leaders are excellent professionals in public relations. We saw this in their visits to Bonn . . . with well-dressed ladies. . . . The Soviets are spreading massive disinformation, which I don't mind, but this is a new situation that has to be taken into account in both Bonn and Washington."

NATO ministers back U.S. line at conference

NATO defense ministers meeting in Glenaeles, Scotland, Oct. 20 endorsed the U.S. line at the Reykjavik summit, but quickly cautioned that this did not mean an endorsement of President Reagan's apparent willingness to leave Europe without nuclear weapons.

The British and West Germans, in particular, after backing the President fully on his refusal to compromise the Strategic Defense Initiative, warned that it was vital to address the threat from Soviet short-range missiles, sources in their governments said. British Defense Secretary George Younger told the meeting that the allies should not allow a wrong impression to grow that the defense of Europe was possible without nuclear weapons.

"The transition to a world without nuclear weapons will be protracted, difficult, and dangerous," Younger said.

German defense spokesman Lothar Ruehl warned that the vast superiority of Warsaw Pact conventional forces must be taken into account in the event of a U.S.-Soviet agreement on Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF).

Younger added that negotiations on INF reductions should aim to reach parity with Soviet short-range missiles.

Pope John Paul stops anti-SDI document

Pope John Paul II is putting a stop to the publication of a document drawn up by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences which attacks the American Strategic Defense Initiative, according to Italy's *La Stampa*.

The Pope, says the newspaper, wants no such publication to see the light of day under Vatican imprimatur until such time as Washington and Moscow come to an agreement on strategic defense.

The document of the Soviet-influenced Pontifical Academy was given to the Pope last year. In the interim, the Soviet government let it be known it wanted the document published, through President Andrei Gromyko, who met with the Pope earlier this year.

Turin conference features Italy's role in the SDI

The Fusion Energy Foundation and the Schiller Institute co-sponsored a conference in Turin, Italy on Oct. 14, on "The Role of Italy in the SDI and the Moon-Mars Projects."

The meeting was attended by about 120 people, including eight retired generals; three active-duty colonels; numerous politicians; scientists and technicians working for Italian firms on projects related to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative; students and engineers from the area; a camera crew from a regional television station; and a journalist from the daily *La Stampa*.

● **THE WEST GERMAN** government has rejected a proposal by Willy Brandt's Social Democrats and the ruling East German Socialist Unity Party that Europe be made a nuclear-free zone. The proposal was raised at a joint press in Bonn Oct. 21. The government not only rebuffed the proposal, but accused the SPD of conducting its own "parallel foreign policy."

● **SOVIET SPOKESMAN** Genady Gerasimov declared Oct. 22 that Moscow will allow research and testing of strategic defense systems—but only "in the laboratory." Just what this means, however, is another question: "As to the specific interpretation as to what we mean under 'laboratory testing,' our experts do not yet agree; but anyway, any interpretation of testing in the laboratory must exclude any testing in outer space."

● **"EVERYONE HERE** knows who wants to be special negotiator" on arms control with the Soviet Union, said Brad Roberts of Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies. "His name begins with 'H' and ends with 'r.'" But, said Roberts, no matter how much Kissinger wants to become special negotiator, "I don't think it's likely at this point that the administration will set up such a position. I think the President is pretty satisfied with the way things are functioning now."

● **RAJIV GANDHI** named seven new ministers to his cabinet Oct. 22 in a sweeping reshuffle nine days before his second anniversary in office.

● **PRESIDENT AQUINO** of the Philippines announced a reconciliation Oct. 22 with outspoken Defense Minister Juan Enrile, and in her toughest anti-communist speech since assuming power, said she will soon set a deadline for an end to peace talks with rebels that Enrile opposes.