

“Scud” and “Frog” missiles—and a preliminary pair of the advanced MiG-29 jetfighters, primarily for training and testing.

During October, the Syrian army held two sets of large-scale maneuvers. In the first week of October, there were the largest-ever naval maneuvers off the coast of Latakia, attended and closely monitored by a Soviet team. Following the high-level visit on Oct. 19 of Colonel-General Pankin, Chief of Staff of the Soviet Air Force, the Syrian Air Force began another series of maneuvers in the northern region. According to intelligence reports, these maneuvers aimed at testing the coordination between the air force and the anti-aircraft artillery units which have responsibility for the new ground-to-ground missiles.

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*While some Western countries believe they can play their “Iran” or “Syrian” card, Damascus and Teheran have become experts at playing “Western cards.”*

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The persons directing and planning such maneuvers have been the very same as those involved in deploying international terrorism. Indeed, Air Force intelligence commander Maj.-Gen. Mohammed al-Khouli, whose role in running the planned terrorist atrocity of last April was conclusively proven in the recent Hindawi trial in London, was appointed in recent months as the acting chairman of the National Security Council, chaired by President Assad. A close associate of Assad, Khouli is the hierarchical chief of Maj.-Gen. Subhi Haddad, the Air Force Chief of Staff.

Moreover, his position of command at the NSC puts Khouli above such figures as Vice-President Rifaat al Assad or Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas. The NSC is also the body which controls the deployment of the entire Syrian army, and the national police in times of war. It controls not only the paramilitary “Defense,” “Struggle,” and “Republican” guards in Damascus, but also the six Command areas of the Syrian army, the Special Units, the Coordinating Staff dealing with the administration, logistic, research, and local military intelligence, as well as the two corps headquarters of the armies deployed in the Golan Heights and in Lebanon.

This very coordinated and centralized hierarchy leaves no room for personal initiative. Under the control of Khouli’s NSC, the Coordinating Staff of the army has gone quite far, according to Israeli reports, in equipping Syria’s missiles with chemical warheads. The threat is taken very seriously by the Israelis, who completed on Oct. 31 their first large-scale maneuvers on the Golan Heights, equipped to fight a chemical war.

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## Interview: S. C. Birla

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# ‘An unprecedented violation of rights’

*The following statement by S. C. Birla, an advocate in the Indian Supreme Court, is being distributed to lawyers, judges, and concerned citizens, with the recommendation to send telegrams to the Reagan administration, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee.*

On Oct. 6, 1986, U.S. federal marshals, Virginia State troopers, and other law-enforcement personnel raided the offices in Leesburg, Virginia, and Boston, Massachusetts, of several organizations associated with Mr. Lyndon H. LaRouche, an American political figure and economist known for certain views on the need for a new economic order and progress of underdeveloped countries, especially countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The Oct. 6 incident was unprecedented in the history of American administration in respect of enforcement of law, as the number of armed troopers and complement of helicopters and armored personnel carriers, etc., were those generally used to crush rebellions, not against people who believe in human rights and civil rights and who very much abide by American laws. The action of U.S. authorities was very much vindictive and aimed to finish dissent by using *might*.

On that day, the two offices associated with Mr. LaRouche were ransacked and sealed, while several tons of documents were removed by the authorities. All work in the offices was stopped.

It is evident that the privacy of the democratic organization has been violated. We understand that in criminal jurisprudence seizure or search is done when we expect that something contraband or illegal is to be found, and it is not used for depriving the democratic rights of the people who are functioning democratically. The grand jury system in the United States is to protect the citizens’ rights, and should not be used to persecute and harass individuals and organizations functioning within their democratic rights.

We feel that the United States, which is the torch bearer of liberty, should not become a place where civil rights are violated as was done in the incident of Oct. 6 in Leesburg, Virginia.

In India, lawyers stand for a rule of law, constitutional guarantee for the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, etc., which we have borrowed from the American Constitution. We are shocked to know and read about the vindictive, ruthless action of Oct. 6. We support

all freedom-loving and civil-rights supporters of the United States in their call to condemn the U.S. administration's action. Indian lawyers and judges are with the people of the United States who at last will protect the tradition of liberty and civil rights established by Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, and other founding fathers of the United States.

*On Nov. 5, 1986, Mr. Birla granted the following interview to EIR's Susan Maitra in New Delhi.*

**EIR:** You, Mr. Birla, have endorsed the commissioning of an international inquiry on the raids that took place in Leesburg, Virginia. What more do you think can be done now?

**Birla:** After commissioning an international inquiry with respect to the incident on Oct. 6, 1986, a regular sitting inquiry commission is urgently required to go into the details of the incident. Public opinion should be mobilized against the violation of human rights and for the rule of law.

**EIR:** You are a lawyer in India, a developing nation. Historically, both in the United States and in India, lawyers have played a key role in social reform and justice. What do you think is significant in the role that Indian lawyers are playing now?

**Birla:** Lawyers in India have always remained in the forefront of the freedom movement, and have always been in the leadership of different social and political organizations working for social reform. Lawyers have been very vocal following Independence, utilizing the forum of the courts to seek justice against the violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution of India, and the class of lawyers has always identified itself with the people of the world for a similar cause.

**EIR:** The United States is on the other side of the globe from India. What do you think is the significance of your endorsement and protest against various violations that have been committed against Mr. LaRouche and associated organizations?

**Birla:** The significance of the commission's endorsement by Indian lawyers and intelligentsia and our expression against the various violations, is that it makes the people of Asia come in behind the cause of people in the United States and Latin America.

**EIR:** What has been the response among Indian lawyers to the human rights violations in the United States in the LaRouche case?

**Birla:** The incident of Oct. 6 in Leesburg was widely reported in the world press, though not in newspapers in India. Lawyers who were informed about it and read about the incident were very much shocked. The lawyers have expressed their solidarity with the lawyers and intelligentsia of other countries who have endorsed the call for a commission of international inquiry.

## Investigation of U.S. human rights violations

*EIR* is pleased to present an interview with S. C. Birla of India. He is one of the prominent jurists who have joined an "International Commission to Investigate Soviet-Style Human Rights Violations Inside the United States," announced on Oct. 29 at press conferences in Washington, D.C. and in 27 other cities around the world.

The Commission's formation was prompted by recent U.S. government actions against the political movement around Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., but it has a broad mandate to investigate all such abuses carried out against potential political opponents of the government.

Interviews with other members of the Commission, which has actively begun its investigation, will appear in forthcoming issues.

**EIR:** Political victimization was apparently the plan behind this raid. What do you believe is the way to fight such injustice?

**Birla:** As far as victimization by authorities is concerned, we here in India have had much experience before Independence with this problem, and it can be fought out by taking people into the fold of broader organizations. The press, public meetings, conferences, and seminars, and so forth are popular ways for securing justice.

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