

International Intelligence

Terrorism on rise; Pope prime target

"The Pope is believed to be the prime target of international terrorists . . . and in his first visit [in September] to America since 1979, he can expect a rough ride," writes Britain's *Daily Mail* referring to Jewish, homosexual, and other planned protests. "Even American Indians have got it in for the Pope."

All reports now point to a broad reactivation of terrorist networks in Europe.

- Ten American servicemen and a Greek driver were severely wounded near Athens Aug. 10, as a remote-controlled car-bomb exploded close to their passenger bus. The operation was claimed the following day by the "November 17" terrorist organization, which exploded bombs in Athens nightclubs patronized by U.S. servicemen last spring. It was the most serious direct attack against U.S. personnel in Europe in some time.

- Intelligence sources have warned that in the present climate of crisis in the Gulf, European-based Iranian and Libyan terrorist networks are expected to merge.

- Belfast was the center of one of the most violent demonstrations by the IRA in several months.

- In West Germany, the chief of the domestic secret service (Verfassungschutz), Mr. Böden, warned that the Red Army Faction terrorists have regrouped themselves to plan a fresh wave of attacks against high level U.S. military officers, top industrialists, and security personnel.

- In Spain, the Basque separatist ETA networks are extremely active against military and police targets with almost daily operations.

- In France, there is an alert after a Corsican terrorist attack against police killed one and wounded three others.

- In Geneva on Aug. 10, an Iranian Air Force pilot who had defected last February and was seeking political asylum, was executed by two men, the first such killing in Geneva by Iranian agents.

New round of Soviet exercises

The Soviet Navy held medium-sized exercises in the Norwegian and Barents Seas from Aug. 3-8, with almost no coverage in the Western press.

According to the Norwegian Defense Ministry, at least 12 major surface warships (6 cruisers, including 4 of the *Kresta* class, 5 destroyers, and 1 frigate), participated, plus an undisclosed number of submarines and supporting Navy aircraft.

At one point in the exercises, the ships were cruising 100 nautical miles off the coast of northern Norway.

The Soviet Defense Ministry has now scheduled maneuvers involving over 18,000 troops in the U.S.S.R.'s Carpathian Military District (headquartered in Lvov, in western Russia). These maneuvers, announced Aug. 10 by the Soviet Defense Ministry, will supposedly last two days (Aug. 20-21, hardly time for any serious exercises), and will have Western observers present for the first time.

Captive peoples to march in Lithuania

Demonstrations by Lithuanians and other Baltic peoples are planned for Aug. 23 in Vilnius, the capital of Soviet-occupied Lithuania, on the 48th anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, which handed the three Baltic Republics—Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia—to the Russians.

Under Stalin hundreds of thousands of citizens of the Baltic republics were murdered or deported to die in slave labor camps. Lithuanian exile spokesmen in Frankfurt, West Germany report that leaflets by Lithuanian activists to announce the demonstrations have been clandestinely circulating in Vilnius.

These spokesmen announced that

hundreds of Latvians and Estonians are also expected to participate, in solidarity with the Lithuanians. An anti-Russification demonstration of 5,000 occurred in the Latvian capital of Riga in June, and hundreds of Lithuanians participated.

The immediate demand of the Aug. 23 demonstration is for the erection in Vilnius of a monument to the Baltic victims of Stalin, the repudiation of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, and the recognition of the sovereignty of the three Baltic Republics. Added to the long list of grievances of the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Lithuanians against their Soviet oppressors has been Moscow's obstinate refusal to permit a Papal visit to Lithuania.

KGB employs war criminals

A Soviet war criminal is employed as an official of the KGB-connected Council for Religious Affairs in Lithuania, according to the *Baltic News*, a Catholic newsletter published in Australia, covering issues concerning the "captive nations" Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Said the report, Col. Petras Raslanas was one of the organizers of the infamous Rainiai Forest massacre on the night of June 24-25, 1941. Throughout the night, Soviet troops tortured, mutilated, and killed 73 Lithuanian "political" prisoners, many of them teenagers.

The perpetrators of the massacre, most of them still living inside the U.S.S.R., have never been brought to trial.

Iranian diplomats expelled from Berlin

The three powers occupying West Berlin—Britain, France, and the United States—have expelled 5 Iranian diplomats and declared

Briefly

● **A RANKING CUBAN** intelligence officer, Maj. Florentino Azpillaga, has defected to the United States, reported U.S. Radio Martí Aug. 9. Azpillaga crossed the border from Czechoslovakia into Austria June 6. Radio Martí said he will be able to identify 350 Cuban agents in a number of countries, but would give them time for a safe return to Cuba.

● **FRENCH PRESIDENT** François Mitterrand announced Aug. 10 that France would not expand its military support for Chad, and will not give Chad additional air protection against retaliatory Libyan air raids which hit Faya Largeau on Aug. 9 and Bardai on Aug. 10. Mitterrand reiterated the French position of favoring "international arbitration" to decide the fate of northern Chad's Aouzou strip, annexed by Libya in 1973, and just retaken by Chad.

● **ATTORNEY GENERAL** Ed Meese is visiting China for a legal conference Aug. 17-20. The Chinese government has asked for U.S. advice to revamp its legal system, according to a United News of India release July 21. Meese and 900 U.S. lawyers will help shape a new commercial code. The arrangement was set up by a group of private U.S. attorneys who have had "extensive dealings in China since 1980," said the Indian reporter.

● **ISRAELI HELICOPTER** gunships attacked the headquarters of pro-Iranian guerrillas connected with the terrorist Hezbollah in southern Lebanon for the first time. An Army spokesman said the helicopters returned safely to base after an attack half-a-mile from Tibnine, north of Bint Jbeil. The attack came hours after a Soviet-designed rocket landed in Israel and others fell in Israel's declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

15 Iranians *persona non grata*. The move is broadly being interpreted as a "slap in the face" of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who has pursued a decidedly pro-Iranian foreign policy, to the extreme of protecting Iranian terrorists and drug-runners on West German soil.

The Aug. 11 *Le Figaro* of France reports that the United States took the decision as a "preemptive move" against Iranian terrorism.

The three powers have asked the Soviet Union to also expel some 10 East Berlin-based Iranian diplomats who are now banned from entry into West Berlin. However, says *Le Figaro*, "Neither the East German government, nor H.D. Genscher" is expected to take any measures.

Indians wanted Israel out of Sri Lanka

The Indian government had wanted to include in the Sri Lankan Peace Accord a stipulation that the Israeli Interests Section in Colombo be shut down, a spokesman in the Israeli Foreign Ministry confirmed Aug. 10. The provision was not included, however.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene signed the accord in early August to end the bloody civil war pitting minority Tamils of Indian origin against Sri Lanka's native majority Sinhalese.

A report July 25 by the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corporation, said that the Israeli Interests Section, which is located in the U.S. embassy in Colombo, would be closed, and that Sri Lanka would stop sending soldiers to Pakistan for training.

The report was denied the next day, when the state-owned radio said that Jayewardene was referring to a statement by former Prime Minister Bandaranaike, that if her party were to come to power in Sri Lanka, these actions would be taken.

So. African mine strike fueled from abroad?

The strike of the South African National Union of Miners (NUM) is political in motivation, not a matter of wage or other economic demands, according to well-placed sources in Johannesburg. The strike came only six weeks after the Chamber of Mines granted wage increases of 17-23% to union members. All indications are that the issue is strategic minerals, and that the Soviet Union is directly involved.

The strike is the largest in South Africa's gold and coal-mining history, and sympathy strikes under the direction of the country's largest labor federation, the 721,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, are expected to spread.

While the official position of the government in Pretoria is that this is all a simple "labor dispute," privately, government circles say that the strike is a "political move, coming from the outside, aimed at the jugular—South Africa's mining economy."

They note the unusual timing, with a background of the Gulf crisis, and shaky financial markets where gold prices could be expected to increase in any case. Government gold and coal stocks are sufficient to withstand a complete shutdown of three to four weeks. As *EIR* goes to press, major mines are all still operating.

The danger, the sources say, is the spread of "sympathy" strikes to manganese and other strategic mineral mines, which do not have significant reserve stocks.

Reports in Johannesburg are that British miners' union chief Arthur Scargill, an avowed communist, is coaching the South African strikers. Scargill spent three weeks in July in Cuba, and received Libyan funds during the recent British mine strikes.

Notably, the Soviet media are giving wide coverage to the strike. Radio Moscow Aug. 11 played it up as a new round in the "liberation struggle," striking at the "giant" mining corporations.