

International Intelligence

Rabin: Iraq manipulating U.S.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin claimed Oct. 28 that the United States has been manipulated by Iraq into attacking Iran in the Persian Gulf. Rabin's comments, made at a press conference in Jerusalem for foreign journalists, was the first public criticism of U.S. policy in the Gulf by a senior Israeli official.

Rabin has been a leading figure in the faction in Israel which has been running arms to Iran since the 1979-80 period.

"None of those fleets that came to the Persian Gulf protect the Iranian right of free navigation, which is under attack by the Iraqis," said Rabin. "They protect only the right of navigation of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the oil princes on the western side of the Gulf that might be attacked by the Iranians in response to the Iraqi attacks."

Rabin added, "Iran today is a bitter enemy of Israel in its philosophy; I believe that as long as Khomeini is in power there is no hope for any change. But at the same time, allow me to say that for 28 of 37 years, Iran was a friend of Israel. If it could work for 28 years . . . why couldn't it work once this crazy idea of Shi'ite fundamentalism is gone."

Russian 'observatory' is weapons site

Photographs of the U.S.S.R.'s Nurek Laser Complex, taken by French satellites and released Oct. 22, show a sprawling mountain-top complex whose features strongly indicate that it is a weapons site, not meant for civilian observatory work.

The complex, located near the Soviet border with Afghanistan, is replete with roads, buildings, laboratories, and a battery of 10 domes to hold lasers and tracking telescopes. The site is surrounded by double fences and is linked by power lines to the 2,700-megawatt Nurek hydroelectric plant.

According to *New York Times* coverage, the photographs strongly suggest that the site is designed for weapons research, or is itself a prototype weapon.

Defense experts say that the main question is whether the lasers are there for research, or prove to be strong enough to damage space satellites and the rudimentary space-based weapons systems envisaged for the first phase of deployment of the American Strategic Defense Initiative.

Analysis of the photographs by the Swedish firm Space Media Network did not rule out the possibility that the lasers might be capable of destroying incoming ballistic missiles.

"It appears to be larger and more elaborate than any comparable facility in the West," said John E. Pike, head of space policy for the Federation of American Scientists. "Whether or not this facility will be capable of shooting down satellites, it most certainly is developing the kind of technology that would eventually be able to do so."

Peter D. Zimmerman, physicist with the Carnegie Endowment in Washington, stated, "It clearly has a military mission. The question is what that mission is."

In 1987, the Soviet Union has built at least two new ABM laser testing stations. The Nurek site is the latest.

The U.S. Air Force believes that the lasers are strong enough to knock out satellites up to 600 km above the Earth, and the complex could be used to test much more powerful laser ABM weapons. Hence its linkage to the Nurek hydroelectric station 30 km away. The Pentagon's annual report for 1987, *Soviet Military Power*, had mentioned the existence of only one such ABM laser testing facility, and that in Tadzhikistan.

Radicals take over on British left

British Mineworkers' communist leader Arthur Scargill has called for industrial action and "mass resistance to the machinery of the state," as the core of the policy of left-wing

socialists' in the next period. Speaking before the Conference of Socialist Economists and the Independent Socialist Society in Chesterfield the weekend of Oct. 24, Scargill attacked the British Labour Party leadership for a "strategy of class collaboration," and said socialists should "mobilize the British people" to take their campaigns "out into the streets and across the nation."

According to *The Independent* newspaper, the conference was dominated by "Socialist Workers Party hardliners." One such SWP leader, Paul Foot, also criticized the Labour Party leadership, saying, "We are not interested in taking office under capitalism, but subverting it." *The Independent* stresses that the mood at the event, was "glee at the stock market collapse."

"Events of the last week on the stock market are the most important political event since the Second World War," Labour Party radical parliamentarian Ken Livingstone told the conference Oct. 25. The inevitable economic crisis now unfolding, he said, would allow Britain to sever links with the United States, and, "within a year, monetarists will be almost impossible to elect." At the same conference, Labour parliamentarian Anthony Wedgwood Benn said that the radical left had been re-established as a "powerful force in British politics."

Strange doings at euthanasia conference

On Oct. 24, the "World Association for the Right to Die" drew some 200 Nazi-euthanasia advocates to its international congress in Paris. The subject was macabre, the participants were macabre—many prepared to boast of their exploits in killing patients—and the event was marked by a number of spooky incidents.

The meeting was first interrupted by a young man in the audience who shouted out that he had AIDS and wanted to protest the reluctance with which he had been allowed in the room. "I have AIDS and I have the right to stay among you." Just as everyone

was getting nervous, another spooky incident occurred.

A rosy-cheeked student went up to the podium, stood behind the panel of speakers, and threw something quite bloody, possibly a dead sheep's head, onto the speakers' dais. "Look what you did to my grandmother," he yelled at the speakers, each of whom had, indeed, killed many people.

Since there was no reaction at all, another young fellow began to throw eggs at the chief speaker. As he left the room, he ward off with stink-bomb spray all those in the audience who tried to grab him.

Outside the room, the literature table of an anti-euthanasia group had been kicked over by the AIDS-carrier. There, the young egg-thrower was finally pinned to the ground by at least 10 people, who took turns twisting his wrist, kneeling him in the stomach, and other exemplars of martial art. But to the dismay of the kicking, twisting crowd, a third young fellow suddenly appeared with eggs, one of which he promptly broke over the head of a woman who looked like the head of the French "Right to Die" movement, a certain Mrs. Caucanas.

As eggs splattered everywhere, the police arrived, and, as they rescued the young man who had been pinned to the ground, the other two escaped.

So, an international meeting for planning thousands of deaths had been seriously disrupted, the more so in that the conference was supposed to have been held in secret. A French member of the Chamber of Deputies had asked the health minister in parliament to deny the euthanasia advocates an official meeting room, following attacks on the euthanasia association in the newspaper *Nouvelle Solidarité*.

Moscow unleashes dogs against Peru's García

Before the financial crash in the West, Soviet news media were generally giving favorable coverage to the President of Peru, Alan García. After the financial crash in the

West, the reverse is occurring.

Pravda on Oct. 22 hailed the "growing strength" of the left opposition Liberal Party in Peru, moving toward "next year's elections" against García. "The ranks of the opposition forces are growing," and it is calling for a "United Front of Progressive Parties and Organizations" as a "counter to the dictatorial regime" of García.

Only a few weeks earlier, *Izvestia* had run a high-profile interview of García.

The new Soviet line typifies what Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche predicted in recent writings, which stressed Soviet escalation of "revolutionary movements" and destabilization operations in light of the perceived "weakness of capitalism" following recent stock market plunges.

Soviet-Iran military cooperation to grow

Soviet-Iranian military cooperation is expected to increase dramatically in the month of November, following an Oct. 15 visit to Moscow of Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh, and subsequent talks between Iranian Prime Minister Mir Housein Mousavi and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov in Damascus, Syria.

Vorontsov arrived in Damascus on Oct. 17, at the end of a regional tour that took him to Cairo, Egypt and Amman, Jordan. He reached Syria just as U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was arriving in the region.

One military deal between Iran and the Soviet Union now mooted is Soviet delivery of the modern version of the Scud missiles already in use by Iran.

Recent reports also say that Teheran was interested in buying old T-54 and T-55 tanks.

Meanwhile, economic cooperation went a step further with the ratification in Moscow of several joint projects, including "joint oil drilling" in the Caspian Sea, Soviet imports of 100,000 barrels of Iranian oil per day, and Soviet export of lubricating equipment.

Briefly

● **TURKEY** has begun to signal growing concern that an INF agreement will leave its conventional forces particularly exposed to superior Soviet forces. Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu recently stated that an agreement on eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe should be accompanied by "a similar agreement on conventional forces."

● **MARSHAL OGARKOV** has been awarded the highest order of the U.S.S.R., according to Soviet radio and TV. The Order of the October Revolution was awarded to Nikolai Ogarkov, the designated wartime commander of all Soviet forces directed against the West, on Oct. 30, his 70th birthday. The award was made by Andrei Gromyko, President of the U.S.S.R.

● **WARSAW PACT** foreign ministers, meeting in Prague, Czechoslovakia, "expressed hope" that an INF agreement could be signed "shortly," according to the Soviet news agency TASS. It is "necessary . . . to put on record an accord on the main provisions of the future agreements on strategic offensive arms and the non-deployment of weapons in outer space," said their communiqué.

● **MUAMMAR QADDAFI** now claims the Tremiti Islands off Sicily, and is threatening to kidnap Italians unless "colonial war reparations" are paid to Libya, says Italy's *Corriere della Sera*. The islands are inhabited by 4,000 Libyans.

● **SOVIET SCIENTISTS** Roald Sagdeev and Vitali Goldanski have objected to their own government's charges that the U.S. Pentagon created AIDS. "No expert worthy of the name has published such affirmations in our country. If anybody could have written this, it would have been journalists, not scientists," said Sagdeev.