

International Intelligence

Bust Medellín drug cartel transport network

U.S. Customs Service authorities announced on Nov. 5 the capture of members of a criminal organization which is charged with smuggling cocaine and marijuana for the Medellín Cartel, headed by "jet set" financiers Pablo Escobar Gaviria and Jorge Luis Ochoa, and the brothers Fabio and Juan David, together with Rafael Cardona Salazar.

The organization is accused of smuggling at least 60,000 pounds of cocaine in the past four years. It had been working for the Medellín Cartel since 1982.

The indictment names 30 persons, including Michael Munday and James Coley, who had direct dealings with the Medellín Cartel leaders. Also named is Palm Beach Gran Prix racing promoter Lloyd Frink. Only the latter two are under arrest. Munday made a bold escape in September 1986 at Lakeland Airport, when agents surrounded a hangar and tried to detain him. Munday aimed a flare gun at 55-gallon gasoline tanks stored near a plane loaded with cocaine, which allowed him to escape.

According to the indictment, the drug-trafficking organization possessed highly sophisticated equipment for evading law enforcement, utilizing for example infrared "lighthouse radios" to sink cocaine cargos in the sea, and later using rapid launches to recover the cargo and smuggle it into North American territory.

They had set up an observation station to watch the patrol boats of the Customs and Coast Guard, and had a sophisticated radio communications network, keeping in constant touch with their airplanes, boats, and contacts in the Bahamas and Colombia.

The cocaine cargos came from Colombia in airplanes, under the cover of tourist flights, dropping the drug cargos in the waters of the Bahamas. The track which led to the arrests was that the group contracted for the construction of "infrared lighthouse signals," with the same contractor who makes them for the Customs Service.

The arrests could be a harsh blow to the

drug mafia, but once again the heads of the Medellín Cartel are walking away free, since the extradition treaty between Colombia and the United States has been annulled (see article, page 6).

Peru asks U.N. to fight drugs and terrorism

The government of Peru on Nov. 2 presented United Nations Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar with a proposed "Plan Sierra," to promote agricultural development in regions plagued by terrorism and the drug trade, and to achieve the prosperity of peasant communities.

Peruvian Agriculture Minister Remigio Morales Bermúdez, who proposed the plan, told reporters that its objective is "pacification through agricultural development." "Development of the agricultural communities and their economic integration is the new name for peace," he said, paraphrasing the famous encyclical of Pope Paul VI. "The Shining Path [Sendero Luminoso narco-terrorists] is today stronger in the coastal cities than in the Andean Trapezoid," he said, since the peasants there "have accepted the formula of development and rejection of violence."

The plan calls for \$450 million in investments from the international community, over the next five years, to fight narco-terrorism.

Chirac discusses PLO in state visit to Israel

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac made a state visit to Israel Nov. 1-3, the first ever by a French head of government. Before leaving, he told the French Jewish monthly *L'Arche*, "The Palestine Liberation Organization is a reality that cannot be ignored. For years Europe, including France, has maintained this, recommending that the PLO be brought into the peace negotiations."

In a meeting with Chirac on Nov. 1, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made

what the *Jerusalem Post* Nov. 2 called "a seemingly conciliatory gesture," when he indicated interest in negotiating with Palestinians who "recognize Israel and renounce terrorism." Shamir described his meeting with Chirac as "more than friendly, almost intimate."

Middle Eastern sources report that Shamir and a certain policy bloc in the Herut-Likud Party, linked to former Prime Minister Menachem Begin and opposed to Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, are in the midst of a policy shift, toward greater openness for discussion with elements in the PLO.

KGB 'evidence' disputed in Demjanjuk trial

Expert witnesses testifying at the trial in Israel of John Demjanjuk dispute the government's charge that he is "Ivan the Terrible," the brutal guard of the Nazi Treblinka concentration camp, maintaining that the evidence against him, which comes from Soviet sources, is fraudulent.

Demjanjuk, a naturalized U.S. citizen and autoworker from Cleveland, was sent to stand trial in Israel, as a result of collaboration among the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) and Soviet and Israeli authorities.

On Nov. 3, Count Tolstoy, head of the British-based Association for a Free Russia, said that the "identity card" provided by the Soviets "would excite the gravest suspicion in any fair-minded historian's mind." The Soviet official who provided the document, he said, Alexander Rudenko, was trained in document forgeries under Stalin. The Soviets, he said, refused to give the U.S. authorities sufficient time to examine the "identity card," and refused to give it to Israel until Armand Hammer intervened.

When defense counsel asked Tolstoy if he thought Hammer were involved in a plot against Demjanjuk, the judge refused to allow the question: "We will not allow a trial to be conducted against anyone but the accused."

The week before, a defector from the

KGB, Avraham Shifrin, was called as a defense witness. "Most of the KGB's work is based on forgeries," he said. The KGB and the Soviet authorities had a vast array of operations against Ukrainians, he said, and they harbor extreme animosity against the Ukrainians. Shifrin's testimony was belittled, not only by prosecution counsel, but also by the judge.

250,000 Argentines may be AIDS-infected by 1991

The Argentine publication *Somos* reported on Oct. 28 that the World Health Organization estimates that there will be a quarter of a million Argentines infected with the AIDS virus by 1991. The report has created a storm of controversy, as the WHO's office in Buenos Aires appears to doubt the story's veracity, and Argentina's health ministry says the figures are exaggerated. Dr. María Elena Estévez of the National Academy of Medicine considers them accurate.

Moreover, there is no agreement as to how many cases there are and how many people are infected. WHO's figures are low, with only 78 cases, while the health ministry reports 122 cases of AIDS. Dr. Estévez reports estimates of 200 cases of AIDS, 2,000 cases of AIDS-Related Complex, and 20,000 people infected with the virus throughout the country.

Olof Palme's murder linked to Irangate

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme "was murdered because he knew about, and wanted to investigate, Sweden's weapons and gunpowder deals with Iran. That I've gotten from two reliable sources," former Iranian President Abolhassan Banisadr told the Swedish daily *Aftonbladet* Nov. 3. Banisadr said that one of the sources is Iranian, the other European. "Both say that Palme was killed as a direct result of his knowledge of the arms deals between Sweden and Iran."

Banisadr added that he does not know *who* killed Palme, just *why*. Banisadr has not yet been questioned by the Swedish police, who, however, express their interest in doing so.

In a related development, a scramble is on in Sweden to keep the lid on the scandal that arose over charges that Joel Haukka, an operative involved in the investigation of the Palme assassination, is an agent of the Soviet KGB. Haukka, who is of Estonian origin, is known for pushing the discredited line that Lyndon LaRouche's associates in Sweden were responsible for the murder.

Swedish State Prosecutor Ola Brogrem was summoned recently to a secret conference at the foreign ministry, whose purpose was to protect Haukka from prosecution, according to reliable sources inside the Swedish establishment. Among those present was the ministry's number-two man, Pierre Schori. According to these reports, the prosecutor was ordered to drop the investigation.

Bishop condemns 'free condom' plan in Peru

Monsignor Alfredo Noriega, president of the Commission for the Family of the Peruvian Episcopate, denounced "Operation Condom," the anti-AIDS program organized by Dr. Gotardo Agüero of the health ministry.

Speaking at the First Peruvian Congress of Natural Family Planning at the end of October, Monsignor Noriega rejected the proposal to dispense condoms to high school students, prostitutes, and slum-dwellers, to control the spread of AIDS.

Dr. Agüero, president of the Peruvian AIDS Commission, defended the government's program on Nov. 2, saying that "the condom is the only scientific weapon that we have up to now." Operation Condom will begin with the free distribution of 100,000 condoms to the prostitutes of Callao. Agüero dismissed the Church's opposition: "We aren't interested in the opinion of the Church. It is science that can help us overcome this terrible scourge."

Briefly

● **RAISA GORBACHOVA'S** Soviet Culture Foundation came under attack from *Pravda* on Oct. 17. The failure of the authorities to do enough to honor Russia's history and culture has led to illegal activities by "extreme nationalist organizations," *Pravda* charged. The article singled out the All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historic and Cultural Monuments and the Soviet Culture Foundation.

● **KIM PHILBY**, the master spy, has agreed to appear in a television documentary on his life, breaking years of public silence about his 24 years in the U.S.S.R., a Latvian television spokesman reports, according to a UPI dispatch from Moscow.

● **ARIEL SHARON**, Israel's trade and industry minister, is under investigation by the justice ministry for illegally channeling money and contracts to political allies. Yisrael Katz, Sharon's assistant, reportedly told authorities that Sharon had him give some of Sharon's friends licenses to import steel.

● **THE GERMAN REFUGEES'** magazine *Der Südostdeutsche* in its October issue reviews *The Power of Reason, 1988* the autobiography of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. According to the review, the book "gives clear proof his manifold scientific talent, above all in the field of economic science. But also in music, arts and philosophy, the ingenious politician is an unusual expert."

● **EDGAR BRONFMAN**, president of the World Jewish Congress, and WJC General Secretary Israel Singer traveled to Cuba early this fall, and met with Fidel Castro for five to six hours, the *Jerusalem Post* reported Oct. 29. Castro had reportedly requested the meeting. There are rumors the Bronfman crowd is playing a role in Central America peace negotiations.