

International Intelligence

Euthanasia advocate murders German woman

A sympathizer of the "German Society for Humane Death," an organization that advocates euthanasia, killed a young paralyzed woman in Karlsruhe, West Germany on Dec. 27. The murderer, who gave the woman, named Daniela, a cupful of calcium cyanide, disappeared afterward. Henning Atrott, the president of the society, acknowledged knowing her identity, but refused to tell police.

The case of Daniela first came into the public eye when the notorious euthanasia practitioner, Dr. Julius Hackethal, announced his intention to administer a poison treatment to her. After a public outcry, a local court forbade Hackethal to kill Daniela.

Hackethal now denies that he had anything to do with the killing: "But I must say, that now that I've heard that she was poisoned with calcium cyanide, I have a bad conscience, because I could certainly have helped her better than that." Calcium cyanide, he said, is an "incredibly tormenting poison."

Atrott stated that he, too, was not involved directly in the poisoning: "I can't order mercy killing. But if this case hadn't been resolved as it has been, I would have helped her on my own." He added that Daniela had become a member of his organization. "Within the scope of her membership, she found the kind of death she wished."

The murderer who administered the cyanide was said to be a woman from Switzerland. The Karlsruhe District Attorney's office has announced that if the woman is found, a decision will have to be made, whether this is a case of "killing on request," which is a crime, or "assistance to suicide," which is not a crime under West German law.

In an interview with the radio station Deutschlandfunk, Dr. Odenbach, the head of the Federal Board of Physicians, condemned the "mercy killing," saying, "We cannot do this. The patient would no longer

have any security from being killed, if any little gap is opened in this direction. Especially here in West Germany, we have to be very careful, because of the history of euthanasia."

Top drug chief freed in Colombia

One of the chiefs of the international cocaine trade, Jorge Luis Ochoa, walked out of a top-security jail in Bogotá the night of Dec. 30, with "legal" release orders in his pocket. The release, signed by criminal judge Andres Montañez, was granted even though Ochoa still had time to serve on a 22-month sentence for illegally importing fighting bulls.

Although Ochoa is at the top of the United States's most-wanted list, the Colombian government rejected a U.S. extradition petition against Ochoa, because of last June's decision by the Colombian Supreme Court to overturn a 1979 U.S.-Colombia extradition treaty.

Colombian Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra said the judge's release order was "completely unprecedented," and that Montañez would be investigated. Unconfirmed reports from Colombia are that roadblocks have been set up throughout the country to try to recapture the drug criminal.

Low Murtra described the drug trafficker's release as a major blow to the war on drugs. Indeed, the credibility of Colombia's institutions—from the courts to the executive—may have been shredded beyond repair by the handling of the Ochoa affair. Even before Ochoa's escape, rumors were circulating that the Barco government was feeling out the possibility of negotiations with Ochoa's Medellín Cartel.

At least one columnist has characterized the "dialogue" approach as, in reality, "a very simple proposal: sell the country [to the mob] and share the profits. . . . There are those who see the large amount of money the drug traffickers have as a factor for amnesty and pardon for their crimes." The columnist asked sarcastically if the government "has already begun to extradite Colombian

judges, so that they won't bother the drug traffickers." Given the performance of Judge Montañez, that would appear unnecessary.

Singapore shuts down World Council of Churches

The government of Singapore has ordered the dissolution of the Christian Conference of Asia, the regional headquarters of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches. The day of the order, Dec. 30, the Home Ministry issued a statement accusing the council of using Singapore as a staging ground to organize pro-communist "liberation movements" throughout Asia.

Five foreign executives of the allegedly religious body were given two weeks to leave the country.

Christian Conference of Asia personnel are said to have been behind a "Christian-Marxist" plot to topple the government in early 1987, and are also closely involved with the radical opposition in South Korea. The World Council of Churches and allied agencies are also reported to have poured tens of millions of dollars into the Philippines' National Democratic Front, the political arm of the New People's Army guerrillas.

The Indonesian Council of Churches recently withdrew from the World Council of Churches because of the latter's support for pro-Soviet "liberation struggles" throughout the region.

New evidence of arms links to slay victim

Striking new evidence was reported by Swiss Television and Germany's TV Channel 2 Dec. 29 that Uwe Barschel, the minister-president of Schleswig-Holstein found dead in a Swiss hotel last fall, was a victim of factional warfare among international arms-dealers.

Initial police and press reports said that Barschel was a victim of a heart attack or had committed suicide. But a number of

Briefly

other figures tied into arms sales to Iran, not least among them Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme, were murdered or had suspicious "heart attacks" in the same period.

New evidence in the Barschel case now suggests that the heart attack may have been induced by injection of an untraceable poison. A secret autopsy report by the Geneva police showed that Barschel had suffered a wound to his right forehead caused by a hard object. A blood spot on his left elbow suggested he had received some sort of an injection.

The autopsy also proved that three of the five substances found in the dead Barschel's stomach were taken only hours before his death. These three included Pyrithyldion, a strong sleeping pill taken off Western markets five years ago, but still produced in East Germany under the name Benedorm.

Barschel may have first been hit on the forehead, then drugged and put to sleep, and given an injection causing immediate cardiac arrest. The corpse was then put into the hotel-room bathtub, to make it appear a suicide.

Pope to unveil new encyclical

Pope John Paul II plans to make public an already written encyclical, his seventh, in early 1988, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio*, "On the Development of Peoples." The Pope intends to catalyze "concrete commitments of international cooperation for a fraternal entente of nations," he announced before the College of Cardinals and the Roman Curia.

John Paul also said that he wanted to combine this "fraternal entente" with "authentic development, according to the plan of God."

He identified *Populorum Progressio* as a "milestone in the contemporary life of the Church." The Pope indicated that he not only wants to reinforce the continued relevance of Paul VI's encyclical, but also to discuss new themes and to respond to new

problems that are today presented to the conscience of man.

"The new encyclical seeks to follow the themes of *Populorum Progressio*, as its ideal continuation and implementation."

Gulf nations form mutual defense pact

The leaders of the six Persian Gulf oil states comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to collectively fend off any spillover of the Iran-Iraq war, in the form of a mutual defense pact, UPI reported Dec. 29. The pact "was discussed, submitted, and approved," said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al Faisal.

The accord reportedly set out broad parameters for future security cooperation between Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, according to other newspaper accounts. Discussions during the session were believed to have centered on plans to standardize weapons, tactics, and strategies for defending their coastlines, offshore oil installations, and tankers against Iranian attack.

Another decision taken at the meeting was to invite Egypt's President Mubarak to tour the member countries. The decision reflected the growing worry of the Gulf countries that they can only rely on Egypt—not the United States—to come to their aid in case of Iranian attack.

Saudi King Fahd opened the Gulf states summit meeting Dec. 26 by warning Iran that prolonging its war with Iraq could force other countries in the region to seek outside help to end the war. "The war is not limited to Iran and Iraq but has extended to other Gulf states. We fear that it will spread further and the matter will become more difficult," Fahd said. "Every country could find itself obliged to defend itself and get help from other countries, and it would have the right to do so."

Fahd called Iranian conditions to end the war "unreasonable," adding, "I don't think these unreasonable conditions could be accepted by anybody."

● **THE SOVIET** Central Committee will hold a plenum in mid-January, according to the Russian publication *Socialist Industry*. The plenum is expected to consolidate the leading positions of "neo-Stalinist" figures Yegor Ligachov and KGB boss Chebrikov.

● **THE CRACKDOWN** by France's Gaullist government against Iranian arms sales by French firms took a new turn at the end of December when Jean François Dubos, adviser to Defense Minister Charles Hernu in the previous Socialist government, was officially charged with illegal arms smuggling.

● **THE PLO** executive meeting in Tunis at the end of December resolved to create a Palestinian government-in-exile, according to a statement Christmas day by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. He announced that such a government would mean the creation of an "independent Palestinian state on any part of liberated territory." Mideast sources report that Cairo is likely to be the headquarters of the exile government.

● **AUSTRIAN** Interior Minister Karl Blecha, in an interview published Dec. 24 in *Die Presse*, called for President Kurt Waldheim to resign early in 1988, over continuing allegations that he has a Nazi past. Blecha is deputy chairman of the Socialist Party, and his comments are an indication that the coalition government under Waldheim could be heading for a split.

● **THE POPE** has named a Palestinian Patriarch of Jerusalem. Rev. Michel Sabbah, president of Bethlehem University, will replace Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, an Italian, who is retiring at the age of 77. Sabbah will be the first man born in the Holy Land to become Patriarch of Jerusalem.