

International Intelligence

'Bizarre cult' prompts teenage suicides

New Zealand, West Germany, and Yugoslavia are among the nations experiencing a wave of teenage suicides linked to a satanic rock cult.

Under the headline, "Teenage Suicides Dash New Zealand Illusions," the *Times* of London reported Sept. 26 on a "surge of teenage suicides," most connected with the "bizarre cult" of listeners to the British heavy metal/punk rock group "Gothic."

Suicide has become the "second-biggest killer of New Zealanders aged between 15 and 24," reports the *Times*.

The rash of suicides has come among young people who dress in the "distinctive black and white garb of the Gothic cult." They paint their faces white, and wear black clothes.

The music of Gothic is "despondent" and "obsessed by death."

Furthermore, youth who get involved in this play "role-playing board games," one of which "supposedly originated in the 14th century."

The *Times* points out that the problem of youth demoralization is being "aggravated by growing unemployment and economic pressures." Unemployment in New Zealand is "running at a record high of 9 percent."

Over the past year, in West Germany, too, especially in the economically collapsing Ruhr region, teenage cults called "Gruf-tis" have sprung up, from the German word for "grave," and they match the description from New Zealand.

Youth dress in punkish style, with black clothes and white paint on their faces, explaining their appearance by saying they have "given their soul to Satan." Suicides linked to this cult have been reported. Similar phenonema, on a lesser scale, are reported in the northern part of West Germany, in West Berlin, and, recently, also in East Berlin.

Yugoslavia's economically depressed Zagreb region also reports a rash of teenage

suicides, almost 20 per week, committed by youth who are dressing in black, wearing white make-up on their faces, and sleeping in coffins! In many cases, they would leave notes explaining their suicide, "The Lord of Darkness called me up."

Syria talks tough on Lebanon

Syria will oppose any schemes to partition Lebanon into sectarian enclaves, according to Syrian Vice President Zuheir Masharqa. His remarks were made to Syrian students in Warsaw, Poland, where he is on an official visit.

"Syria confronted and will continue to confront all conspiratorial schemes aimed at partitioning Lebanon into sectarian cantons," he told the students.

"Syria's position toward Lebanon is firm," he continued. "It will continue to shoulder its nationalist responsibilities toward the brotherly country of Lebanon."

Syria is the main power-broker there, with 20,000 troops on Lebanese territory. But its attempt to impose a puppet president when the term of Amin Gemayel expired Sept. 23 was rejected by well armed Christian forces.

Currently, there are two rival governments, a Muslim-led caretaker cabinet led by Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss and a Christian Maronite interim government led by Gen. Michel Aoun. Syria has given its support to Hoss.

Momentum for a military confrontation is now building. Local observers report that Syria is expected to impose an economic blockade of East Beirut and the Christian region. The first confrontation among rival militias was feared for the end of September, when the existence of two governments could endanger the payment of regular wages to the army and government functionaries.

Meanwhile, both the PLO and Iraq are said to be stepping up their aid of the Lebanese Christian forces.

Gilbert takes heavy toll in Mexico

Hurricane Gilbert, the most violent hurricane of this century, wrought havoc in Mexico.

In Yucatán, 400,000 were left homeless; 100% of Yucatán's grain and citrus fruit harvests were destroyed, and 2,000 boats were wrecked; the salt industry, second-largest in the country, was wiped out; 20% of the roads were damaged; 80% of the fishing industry, which employed 80,000, was affected; 65,000 buildings were seriously damaged.

In Quintana Roo state, 35,000 were left homeless, 47 are dead or missing, 50% of the fishing fleet was destroyed, and more than 40 communities suffered serious damage.

Farther north, 25,000 people are isolated in Nuevo León state, with 30,000 left homeless; 1.2 million have no clean drinking water and are suffering food shortages.

In Tamaulipas State, 10,000 were left homeless.

Witness absolves SAS in killing terrorists

An ongoing inquest in Gibraltar into the killing by elite British Special Air Service (SAS) troops of three IRA terrorists earlier this year has heard a witness against the SAS reverse his story.

The witness has admitted that he completely fabricated his earlier story that an SAS soldier repeatedly shot an IRA terrorist while standing with his foot on his throat.

Spanish bank clerk Kenneth Asquez had told this tale in an interview with a British Thames Television interviewer, for the Thames TV-exposé, "Death on the Rock," which created a sensation with its anti-SAS "revelations."

But at the inquest Sept. 24, Asquez said he had told this story because he was being

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continually pestered by one of the producers of the show to say it, and because he had been offered money in return!

After the TV documentary was aired, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher branded it trial by television.

Soviets propose Asian ministers meeting

Soviet Ambassador to the Philippines Oleg Sokolov has called for a meeting of regional foreign ministers to discuss Moscow's offer to close a garrison in Vietnam if U.S. forces pull out of the Philippines.

Sokolov told reporters in Manila the week of Sept. 19 that the offer should "warrant a meeting of the foreign ministers of countries in the region to create a mechanism addressing the security situation" in Southeast Asia. He said Gorbachov's proposal could be further discussed in negotiations "not necessarily confined to the U.S. and the Soviet Union," but which include "other countries in the region."

Sokolov said the naval facilities the Soviets enjoy at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam were as important to the Soviets as Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station are to the United States, "if not more so."

Vietnam predictably endorsed Gorbachov's proposal. But Philippines President Corazon Aquino does not seem likely to endorse the meeting proposed by Sokolov. She earlier stated that the military bases were a matter for the two superpowers to decide.

Superpowers ready to sacrifice Savimbi

"Superpowers Ready to Sacrifice Savimbi," headlined London's *Daily Telegraph* Sept. 24, in a story datelined Lisbon.

Any "peace" in Angola, writes the paper, "may be at the expense of Jonas Savimbi, leader of the anti-Marxist Unita movement. . . . There is every sign that his erst-

while Western backers are prepared to 'dump' him in exchange for guarantees that the 50,000-strong Cuban task force in Angola will be withdrawn on a fixed timescale. . . . Cries of alarm in Jamba, Unita's southeastern Angolan base, are being echoed in Lisbon, Washington, and Johannesburg. Dr. Savimbi is facing the harsh reality of being sacrificed in the interest of an entente between the United States and the Soviet Union."

The *Telegraph* is now confirming warnings about a conspiracy against Savimbi, which had earlier been exclusively reported in *Executive Intelligence Review*. A deal worked out between the State Department's Chester Crocker and Angolan, Cuban, South African, and Soviet negotiators is accompanied, say intelligence sources, by a plot to kill Savimbi.

East-West foundation opens in Moscow

The first "philanthropic" foundation in the Soviet Union has begun its activities from a headquarters in Moscow. The International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity is funded by wealthy U.S. financiers, including Armand Hammer and the Rockefeller family. The board includes leaders from 18 countries and it has been endorsed by Mikhail Gorbachov.

The governing board of the foundation leaves little doubt that the new institution is slated to be a joint think tank for the administration of global crisis management and power-sharing arrangements between the oligarchies of East and West.

Board members include: David Hamburg, president of the Carnegie Endowment; Jerome Wiesner, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; former U.S. Defense Secretary and Lucis (Lucifer) Trust figure Robert S. McNamara; Notre Dame University president Fr. Theodore Hesburgh; and Yevgeni Velikhov, Gorbachov's top science adviser.

● **SOUTH AFRICA** must seal its borders against guerrillas and end apartheid to survive the worst revolutionary onslaught of its history, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in Johannesburg. Vlok also told government supporters at an election rally in Pretoria: "If we want to survive the revolutionary onslaught then we must rid ourselves of this [apartheid] cause, this excuse. . . . We must take this stick from the enemy's hands."

● **THE SOVIET UNION** has been forced to modify strict anti-alcohol laws. Under eased regulations, beer, wine, and champagne will be readily available, while vodka will remain difficult to obtain.

● **ISRAELI** Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Czech counterpart, Bohuslav Chnoupek, held the first open talks between their two countries in 21 years the week of Sept. 26.

● **HELMUT SCHMIDT**, former West German Chancellor and head of the malthusian Inter-Action Council of Former World Leaders, arrived in China Sept. 25 for meetings with Deng Xiao-ping, Zhao Ziyang, and, as one of his aides put it, "fifty-year-olds who will be China's leaders in the future."

● **THE CIA** is behind an attack in London's *Financial Times* on Italy's Fiat for selling missile technologies to Argentina and Egypt, say well-placed London sources. "It is well known in the City of London that Alan Friedman," the Milan correspondent who authored the Sept. 24 article, "is a CIA man." Friedman wrote, "The U.S. and Soviet Union will on Monday hold high level talks in Washington to discuss the Argentine-Egyptian missile as well as the proliferation of other systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons."