

# International Intelligence

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## **Salvador police arrest 72 in raids**

Police in San Salvador April 19 arrested 72 people, including many women and children, in raids on the offices of a refugee organization, a women's association, and a union, which the military called guerrilla hideouts.

The raids followed the assassination of Attorney General Roberto Alvarado.

Defense Minister Gen. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova said the military had information that the groups raided were linked to the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas, who are believed responsible for the assassination.

Alvarado died when a bomb was placed on his car as it waited at a traffic light.

The day of the raids, Salvadoran politicians and military officials met to discuss tougher laws and the possibility of imposing a state of siege to combat guerrilla violence.

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## **Soviet troops used poison gas in Georgia**

Soviet troops used poison gas in Georgia, government sources there and in Moscow are now admitting.

The first reports came from the Center for Democracy in the U.S.S.R., which cited nationalist opposition sources in the capital of Tblisi, Georgia. It said that when drunken Russian troops waded into demonstrators there on April 9, "42 people from among the hunger strikers and demonstrators were killed, 42 were missing, and over 500 seriously wounded." Of the demonstrators murdered, "Twenty were women (two over 60 years old and one girl, 11 years old). They were all clubbed to death" by Russian troops employing the trench warfare spade used by paratroopers.

Moreover, the report states, "There is evidence that the troops used some type of poisonous gas in routing the demonstrators outside the House of Government. Minister of Health Menagarishvili admitted on Geor-

gian television . . . that clear symptoms of toxic poisoning were discovered in the bodies of the dead and among the wounded. All of the corpses had distended stomachs. Demonstrators claim that they were literally paralyzed and even left unconscious by the gas."

Menagarishvili was also quoted by the Georgian Communist Party newspaper *Zarya Vostoka* as saying people were still coming in to seek treatment for poisoning.

On April 22, Reuters quoted Deputy Health Minister Irakli Pagava saying that 21 children at one school had symptoms of mild gas poisoning and that laboratories were running tests on them.

Both the government newspaper *Izvestia* in Moscow and a group of experts have confirmed the admissions.

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## **Vietnam has not withdrawn troops**

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach met in Moscow April 23, and called for an international conference on Kampuchea to be held before Vietnamese troops complete their pullout "in September." But the call rang hollow.

Instead of preparing for a September troop withdrawal, Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea opposite Thailand's Chanthaburi-Trat Province are gearing up for a dry season offensive, according to the claim of Thai Capt. Bandit Bunyapruet, intelligence chief of the provincial defense force. He appeared at a press conference in Thailand only a day before the Shevardnadze-Thach meeting.

Captain Bandit claimed that Vietnam has not withdrawn 50,000 troops as announced, but only 20,000, most of whom were wounded or crippled. Even these, he said, were replaced by fresh troops from Vietnam.

An attempt was made to hide this, he continued. The replacements were immediately "merged" with regular Kampuchean units, through a simple change of uniform.

Lending credence to his claims of a

planned Vietnam-Cambodian offensive is the fact that a day before, bombardment by Kampuchean government forces drove more than 10,000 refugees and guerrillas out of Khmer Rouge refugee camps on the Thai border. It was described as the heaviest shelling at the frontier for four years. Bombardment started on the eve of a visit to the area by the Thai foreign minister.

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## **Soviets announce new AIDS measure**

Soviet foreign ministry officials announced April 24, that all foreigners living in the Soviet Union who leave the country for more than one month must submit to a test for AIDS upon their return.

Gennady Gerasimov, foreign ministry spokesman, said that a 1987 decree to this effect by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet that has been only loosely enforced, will now be strictly enforced.

Exceptions will only be made for foreigners who have documents proving that they have been tested abroad within the previous month. Anyone testing positive will not be readmitted to the country.

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## **Rome seminar held on LaRouche case**

About 20 persons, including a leading Roman lawyer and an Italian Senator, attended a seminar in Rome, Italy sponsored by the Schiller Institute April 20, on the legal case of Lyndon LaRouche, jailed with six associates in the United States on "conspiracy" charges.

The attendance included a senior representative of the Prime Minister's office. All participants expressed their growing concern that the United States was becoming a fascist police state—with the LaRouche case an key indication.

An opening presentation on the American "secret government" by the Schiller Institute's Italian president, Fiorella Operto, was followed by a statement from Mrs. Cece,

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a leading lawyer in Rome and head of the European Liberal Christian Movement, who reported that after reviewing all documents in the case, she could only conclude that the government made no mistakes, but clearly set out to persecute and frame LaRouche. She will soon tour the United States to speak out on the human rights violations against LaRouche and associates, she announced.

Then former Senator Vincenzo Carollo, who recently came to the United States to look into the case himself, reported that LaRouche was the victim of powerful forces in the United States who are committed to the forceful elimination of their opponents. This "occult power," he said, he believed decided to go after LaRouche from the moment that the former presidential candidate identified the major banks as conduits for drug-money laundering.

### **Greenpeace had targeted USS Iowa battleship**

*EIR's* April 21 edition (Vol. 16, No. 17), warned that the battleship *USS Iowa* had been targeted for sabotage by Soviet assets in Europe, centering on the international Greenpeace organization.

On April 19, the battleship's No. 2 gun turret exploded, killing 47 sailors, in waters north of Puerto Rico.

*EIR*, in the article, "Russian Sub Disaster Triggers Greenpeace" by William Engdahl (page 32), had reported:

"Leftist Danish journalist Jürgen Dragsdahl, writing a lead editorial in the daily *Information* of April 12, picked up the Greenpeace cudgels. Dragsdahl, who often writes anti-NATO pieces and has longstanding ties to left-wing groups such as Washington's Institute for Policy Studies, used the Soviet sub incident to demand support for Greenpeace's Nuclear Free Seas campaign. Noting the recent U.S. announcement that the battleship *USS Iowa*, equipped with nuclear-tipped cruise missiles, will join the June NATO naval maneuvers in the Baltic, Dragsdahl calls on Greenpeace to organize operations against the ship. Several days before the Soviet submarine incident, *Information* had co-sponsored a meeting in Co-

penhagen of various leftist and "peace" groups. West German "maverick" Admiral Schmaeling attended and denounced the planned presence of the *USS Iowa* in Danish waters."

Subsequent *EIR* questioning of a U.S. State Department spokesman, as to whether sabotage was being considered as a possible cause of the *Iowa* tragedy, was met with a terse, "No comment."

### **Lower-Saxony situation spells trouble for Kohl**

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl could face trouble if rumors prove true that one of his party's deputies in the state of Lower Saxony is about to defect to a small right-wing, pro-Soviet party, the Republikaner.

Rumors have it that the Republikaner leaders are engaged in secret backdoor negotiations with at least one member of the state's governing Christian Democrat-Free Democrat coalition, CDU deputy Kurt Vajen, who may join their party.

Kohl's Christian Democrats, with the Free Democrats, hold only a one vote majority in the state. Hence, the defection would mean a successful no-confidence vote from Social Democrats and Greens, and early new elections, which the opposition parties would likely win.

In that event, the Social Democrats would gain a majority of 23 in the Bundesrat (the chamber of states), making the Chancellor dependent on the opposition for any and all legislation.

Notably, the Soviet Communist Party paper *Pravda* April 26 characterized the Republikaner party as "highly dangerous for Chancellor Kohl." It said that the Republikaners' rise as a "conservative" party—many believe with covert Soviet backing—has created a real challenge to Kohl's Christian Democrats, who are losing their constituencies to the new party, costing them majorities in recent elections.

The Republikaner party and its chairman, Franz Schönhuber, have been outspoken in favor of a pro-Soviet "neutralization" of West Germany.

● **CHINESE STUDENT** protests are an "extremely bad omen" for leaders in Beijing, and could signal "a change in power," said the chief government spokesman for the Republic of China (Taiwan) government on April 29.

● **THAILAND** expelled 97 Burmese students who stormed and robbed a religious procession in the border town of Mae Sot. Of four Burmese students arrested, one was Aung Naing, former secretary of the All-Burma Democratic Student Front. Other students were taken by bus to Kanchanaburi province and repatriated to areas of Burma under control of ethnic guerrillas.

● **COLOMBIAN** secret police are investigating reports that Israeli and British mercenaries are operating entire schools to train assassins for the drug mafia there. It is known that five Israelis spent 45 days in Colombia in early 1988, and trained 50 assassins. They were followed by 11 British mercenaries.

● **SOVIET** Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is expected to offer Secretary of State Baker a bargain when he visits Moscow in May: a Soviet cutback in aid to Nicaragua, in return for a U.S. cutback in aid to Afghan freedom fighters.

● **PRIME MINISTER** Margaret Thatcher expressed "great concern" over reported arms deals between the South African government and extremists in Northern Ireland. She raised the issue during talks at 10 Downing Street with South Africa's finance minister.

● **YASSER ARAFAT**, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization, will pay his first official visit to France in early May for talks with President François Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas announced April 23.