

International Intelligence

Interpol demands funds for war on drugs

"It is the start of any strategy, of war strategy, to match resources with resources. If the other side has 'X' billions of dollars, then our side should have the same," commented Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall in an interview with the Aug. 12 issue of *Middle East Insider* on how to wage the war on drugs.

Kendall made his comments while reflecting on the last Vienna international conference, which reported that monies from the drug trade were at least \$500 billion.

Kendall underlined that on the issue of drug money-laundering, "There is still a long way to go. . . . The banking community still needs to be educated. . . . With the banks, there is no problem if you talk about fraud, counterfeit currencies, etc. When you start getting into the way they open accounts, it becomes a more tricky issue."

Regarding narco-terrorism, Kendall announced that Interpol is just now opening an intelligence and monitoring unit to watch the drug trafficking which is coming out of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, and the new drug routes which have been created, such as the direct Brazil-Syrian cocaine connection. Brazil is also an important outpost for the Spanish ETA terrorists, and he expects that the Irish Republican Army will soon establish a similar presence.

Cambodians take hard line against Khmer Rouge

The delegation from the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh to the international conference on the Cambodian conflict in Paris has called for total eradication of the Khmer Rouge from every aspect of Cambodian life, according to Aug. 14 press accounts. The demand apparently surprised all the other participants at the conference.

The head of the delegation, Nor Nam Hong, said, "The future Constitution of

Cambodia should include a clause opposing the return of the genocidal regime and preventing its influence in the political, economic, cultural and social life of the country. Not only should the military organization of the Pol Potists be dismantled, but even the political organization of Khmer Rouge should be considered illegal and must be dissolved."

He demanded that the Khmer Rouge's arms and ammunition be confiscated, that the people responsible for the genocide be brought to trial and punished, and that an end should be put to their control of civilian refugee camps.

In response, the Khmer Rouge has attempted to enmire the conference in a war of semantics over its genocidal policies, by demanding that all references to "genocide" be struck from all conference texts, and by insisting that Vietnamese civilians in Cambodia be viewed as "colonizers." "Around these two themes, they have launched an absurd and indecent semantic battle," Sok An, Cambodian Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, said in a telephone interview. "They are blocking the work of the commissions."

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and the resistance, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, remain deadlocked on all major points. Their clash centers on whether the real enemy comes from the ranks of Sihanouk resistance—namely the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge—or from Hun Sen's backer, the Vietnamese. Sihanouk maintains that the Khmer Rouge are less dangerous as allies than as enemies.

West Germans study 20% troop cut

West German Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg commissioned a study for a 20% cut in the troop strength of the national army, to be completed by 1995, according to Aug. 13 press accounts.

The study will be overseen by Adm. Dieter Wellershoff, the inspector-general of the armed forces. Stoltenberg recently said that in the context of East-West talks on conventional troop cuts in Europe, the Bun-

deswehr, West Germany's army, could be reduced by 10%, eventually 20%. The newly commissioned study indicates he decided for the 20% cut, which would cut Bundeswehr's troop strength from its current 495,000 level to only 400,000 men. It was furthermore decided not to increase the length of military service for draftees from the current 15 months, to 18 months by 1992 to make up for the effects of zero population growth.

The opposition Social Democrats presented their scenarios for defense cuts as part of their "Progress 90" platform for the December 1990 national elections.

In one scenario, assuming a one-third cut in troop strength over the next eight to ten years for budget austerity reasons, the new Bundeswehr of 360,000-370,000 men will no longer be equipped with heavy armor, and most of the manpower will be professionals and semi-professional cadre, the rest filled up by reservists.

Under the second scenario, in the context of East-West troop cuts in Europe, the Bundeswehr could be reduced to 50% of its current strength.

The Social Democrats' third scenario is that of Adm. Elmar Schmähling, the head of the Bundeswehr Operational Research Center, who proposed an army of largely professionals, with a total strength of only 200,000.

Ramstein mayor rejects attack on American base

The Mayor of Ramstein, West Germany, Julius Divivier, a conservative Christian Democrat, banned a tribunal set up by leftists, Greens, and Communist groups from the municipality, on grounds that "we don't want tribunals of a fascistoid character here at which Greenies and Commies usurp the role of prosecutors against the U.S. troops."

The annual Ramstein Air Base air show, traditionally the biggest of all in West Germany, usually draws an audience of between 300,000 and 500,000 people. As the anniversary of the Aug. 28, 1988 air incident at Ramstein Air Base that killed 70

civilians and three Italian pilots nears, a heated controversy has emerged over the future of air shows, the air base, and U.S. forces.

A "pro"-rally of several thousand Germans, organized by the Young Christian Democrats together with pro-Air Base groups, was scheduled for Aug. 19.

Divivier said that although he saw a point in discussing the scope of U.S. Air Force presence, he objected to diatribes against the "American allies which have been in a close and friendly relationship with the population here for several decades."

On Aug. 18, NATO yielded to the low-level flight hysteria by pledging that in next month's seven-nation flying exercise over West Germany, it will keep low-level and night flying to a minimum. The exercise, termed "Cold Fire 89," will also be conducted in such a way as to keep noise levels at a minimum.

Kremlin moves to tighten centralized control

The Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party issued a document on "nationalities policy" on Aug. 17, which represents a tightening of Moscow's central control over most important sectors of Soviet life, even if it is portrayed, both in the U.S.S.R. and in much of the Western press, as a concession to regional "autonomy."

The document is the official platform for the long-postponed Central Committee plenum on the nationalities problem.

Even in terms of Soviet constitutional law itself, the document is a regression from formally recognized rights of the republics. Article 72 of the Soviet Constitution recognizes the right of the 15 republics to secede from the U.S.S.R. But the Politburo document never even mentions Article 72. It accuses "nationalist elements" of exploiting economic and social difficulties to heighten tensions. Republics may have the right to make autonomous laws, but these can be abolished, if found to be detrimental to the union.

The document upholds the right of the

national government to "protect minorities," and insists on "strengthening federal control over defense, foreign affairs, and internal security."

While it recognizes the right of ownership of land and resources by the republics, it insists that "the union of the U.S.S.R. must *strengthen its right to define the use of these resources*, taking into account general inter-republican interests and the interests of the defense and security of the country."

Tribes are pawns in Afghan talks

The United States and the Soviet Union are both playing to the utmost the tribal-ethnic card in Afghanistan to find a settlement of the civil war which has ravaged the country since the Soviet Union withdrew its occupation forces early this year. According to the Aug. 12 London *Independent*, it has been made known now that members of the Islamic radical leader Hekmatyar held a series of negotiations in Kabul in July with members of the hardliner Khalq faction of the government. However, as the paper points out, 80% or more of the Khalqis are from the Ghilzai Pathan tribe, to which Hekmatyar and his group belongs.

Negotiations involved talks about a potential Khalq-sponsored military coup against Afghanistan's Soviet-sponsored Prime Minister Najibullah. At the same time, Najibullah, who is of the Parsham faction of the government, held talks with the group of Gaylani, of the Hezbi Islami. Both primarily belong to the Durrani Pathan tribe. Yet, a common denominator between both is their desire to keep the Tajiks and Hazaras out of any coalition in Kabul.

The Soviets have an obvious interest in preventing any Tajiks from reaching a position of power in Kabul, as their influence could spill over into Soviet Tajikistan. The Hekmatyar-Khalq negotiations are important, because Hekmatyar has been the recipient of up to 80% of U.S. military aid to the anti-Soviet resistance Mujahideen groups, even though now it is said that Washington has become lukewarm toward him.

Briefly

● **BEIJING'S** massacre was good for trade, said Jerome Cohen, a partner in the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison, the legal firm that represents Henry A. Kissinger, in a *Journal of Commerce* interview Aug. 12.

● **AN AL FATAH** congress in Tunis endorsed PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's recent peace moves, including his statements recognizing Israel's right to exist, on Aug. 11. In response, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the statement was "meaningless" and mere "damage control."

● **MUJAHEDDIN** Fisabilillah, a secretive fundamentalist group, has threatened to assassinate the Pope on his October Indonesia tour, authorities reported Aug. 11. Letters sent to Indonesian and Church authorities promised a "bloodbath" if the scheduled October visit occurs.

● **NATO'S** Autumn Reforger maneuvers have been canceled this year for environmental reasons, according to NATO sources quoted by Reuter Aug. 11. The annual "Return of Forces to Germany" (ReForGer) maneuver was canceled in 1988 for the first time ever, for budgetary reasons.

● **SOVIET FOREIGN** Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Secretary of State James Baker will meet in Wyoming Sept. 19-20. The meeting place was ostensibly chosen because it is the home state of Defense Secretary Richard Cheney.

● **HENRY KISSINGER**, Elizabeth Taylor, three Rockefellers, Donald Trump, Baron Heinrich von Thyssen-Bornemisza, Rupert Murdoch, Gianni Agnelli, leading Republican Party luminaries, Mark Thatcher, and Katharine Graham were among the 900-1,000 guests who were in Tangier, Morocco on Aug. 19, for the 70th birthday celebration of Malcolm Forbes. The event reportedly cost at least \$3 million.