

# International Intelligence

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## ***KGB and British pool intelligence***

Great Britain's secret intelligence service, MI-6, has developed "an unprecedented link-up with the Soviet KGB" in the Afghan war zone, according to the Nov. 12 *Mail on Sunday*. The operation reportedly involves MI-6 passing information to the Russians on Soviet prisoners still alive in the hands of the Afghan resistance fighters.

A key player in this game is the U.K.'s Lord Bethell, who has recently been on a prisoners of war "mercy mission," shuttling between Moscow, Kabul, and the headquarters of the Afghan government-in-exile in Peshawar, Pakistan. At a private meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, Bethell was told by Soviet ambassador to Pakistan Vladimir Yakunin: "We are very grateful to our friends in British intelligence for the most precise information we have received on the subject of our missing prisoners of war."

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## ***Santos can't run for Brazil's President***

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal unanimously ruled on Nov. 9 that Brazilian television network owner Silvio Santos was running for President of Brazil on an improperly registered party, and was therefore in violation of rules requiring television and radio directors seeking public office to quit their jobs six months before the elections.

Santos, who was listed by Gallup polls as the front-runner to win the Nov. 15 elections, had made himself popular among Brazil's desperate poor as the labile host of all-day Sunday programming on his network. His candidacy was seen here as an attempt to discredit and destroy the country's democratic process. His candidacy was launched by the "palace guard" of current President Jose Sarney, specifically by Augusto Marzagão, international vice president of Mexico's Satanic Televisa network, who mysteriously became Sarney's private secretary a few months ago. Marzagão is part of Brazil's Gnostic circles.

Brazilian political commentators suspect that Santos may use his Sunday show to get the 25% of voters who were reportedly intending to vote for him, to vote instead for Afif Domingos, the only candidate committed to full payment of Brazil's foreign debt. Two years ago, *EIR* caused a great stir by reporting on Afif Domingo's having been funded and trained by the National Endowment for Democracy to promote changing Brazilian political structures.

Afif Domingo's support comes mostly from economic liberals. If Santos can get 5-10% of the poor to vote for Afif Domingos Nov. 15, Afif Domingos could make it into the Dec. 17 run-off between the top two candidates. Fernando Collor de Melo, who has won support of frustrated Brazilians by harping on corruption and waste in Sarney's regime, is expected to be one of the two finalists.

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## ***'Dump Thatcher' momentum builds***

The British are now "undergoing a sea change" in their attitude toward Mrs. Thatcher remaining in office, and many Conservatives believe she will be a liability to further electoral successes the longer she stays in office, writes Conservative Party Member of Parliament Richard Shepherd in the London *Guardian* Nov. 14. "Polls would seem to indicate that the Prime Minister's standing with the electorate is significantly worse than that of the government or party." Shepherd argues that a new, post-Thatcher government "could more easily respond to the call for attention to national infrastructure, education, and training and manufacturing investment—areas that are also essential for national regeneration."

The *Independent* reported Nov. 13 that Thatcher might get the support of fewer than 60% of the Conservative members of parliament in a leadership contest next month, should somebody rise to challenge her leadership. This could so severely damage her credibility, the paper writes, "She might be forced out of Number 10 Downing Street." The *Independent* stressed that even parlia-

mentarians who would support her, would do so only on a "probationary" basis, giving her 12 months while they see what happens to the British economy.

"Thatcher is no longer invincible," U.S. Eastern Establishment figure Robert Bowie told *EIR* on Nov. 14. Western Europe, he said, led by a Franco-German combination, would go it alone on such issues as European economic union, the development of a policy toward Eastern Europe, and German reunification. "Thatcher," he said, "is on the downslide. Either Labour will win the next election under Kinnock, or else the Tories will cut her loose, promoting Heseltine, Lawson, or possibly Howe."

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## ***Iran bolsters Syrian terrorists***

U.S. officials report that increasing numbers of aircraft are being flown from Iran into Syria, bringing in weapons, food, and other supplies, which are then trucked across the border and distributed to Shi'ite terrorist groups in Lebanon.

The flights are seen by U.S. officials as graphic evidence that Iran's support for terrorism has not lessened, and that Teheran has greatly expanded its ties to Palestinian radicals such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, the Syrian-based group that intelligence officials believe carried out the bombing of PanAm 103 over Scotland in December 1988.

"They haven't changed their spots," an administration official said. "The true nature of the regime, its use of violence overseas, remains the same. The networks are all still there, and they are still supporting them," according to a *New York Times* report.

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## ***Aoun foils assassination attempt***

An assassination plot against Lebanese Prime Minister Gen. Michel Aoun was

foiled on Nov. 5, according to the Nov. 9 edition of the *New Lebanese American Journal*. The paper reported that Aoun charged that the United States had previous knowledge of the plot. "The Americans announced it before it took place," Aoun said, "and it seemed something went wrong, and thank God it failed." No more details on the incident are provided.

Meanwhile, René Moawad, the pro-Syrian puppet President who is challenging General Aoun's constitutional rule, appointed his own "prime minister," Sunni Muslim Selim Hoss. Foreign diplomats, including an Iraqi envoy, have effectively given recognition of his election as head of state, according to Reuters. There are also reports that U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy will soon return to Lebanon to present his credentials to Moawad.

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## ***U.K. assures China, no Hong Kong reforms***

Great Britain has given the People's Republic of China secret assurances that there will be no substantial reform of the Hong Kong political system before 1997, the *Guardian* reported Nov. 14.

The British Foreign Office denied the charge the next day.

The *Guardian* report was from a "reliable source," who said that Britain gave Beijing its unpublished commitment not to increase self-government in Hong Kong before it is handed over to China, and promised Hong Kong would be limited to a precise number of elected Legislative Councilors. Britain has been stalling on the demands from the Hong Kong Chinese to accelerate the establishment of full democracy, and officials are declaring it would not be wise to introduce reforms which Beijing would rescind.

In 1991, for the first time, 10 of the 56 Hong Kong Council members will be directly elected. The Basic Law, which will be Hong Kong's mini-constitution after 1997, is being finalized by Beijing, and will only provide for "universal suffrage" some time next century.

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## ***Mexico's credit is drying up***

Japan's Export-Import bank, which had been expected to provide \$2.5 billion that was supposed to guarantee Mexico's zero-coupon bonds backing up its debt reduction scheme, along with a year or two of interest on those bonds, has announced that it will only provide \$1.9 billion, and that only \$1 billion of that will really be available. The rest is being held back waiting for "co-financing" counterpart funds from the World Bank.

A top banker told the *New York Times* that either Mexico will have to come up with the extra guarantee money from its own fast-dwindling reserves, or else the banks will have to settle for less guarantee money. The former option is out of the question, since Mexico is already dipping heavily into its reserves just to pay interest due on its foreign debt. Moreover, so-called "new money" from the banks is estimated to be no more than \$4.5 billion over the next five years, rather than the \$10-15 billion counted on by Mexico when it made the debt deal with the banks last summer.

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## ***Colombian Conservative backs drug legalization***

Lloreda Caicedo, the candidate of the Social Conservative party of Colombia for next spring's presidential election, has called for "decriminalizing" drug consumption and trafficking. He told the daily *La Prensa* that "the term legalization is out of fashion. The term decriminalization . . . is used now, because legalization appears to authorize something that is not good. On the other hand, decriminalization means taking away the character of a violation against the penal code from production, distribution, or consumption of something that isn't good, but that it is preferable to treat it within a system of controls and not of prohibition."

Caicedo also equivocated on extraditing drug traffickers, calling extradition "a necessary evil."

# *Briefly*

● **GEN. MANUEL NORIEGA** was named coordinator of Panama's new Legislative Assembly on Nov. 9. The assembly will have key powers on national security and international treaties, and be empowered to "recommend steps to be taken in the face of aggression by the U.S. or its allies," according to a government statement.

● **EL ESPECTADOR**, Colombia's outspoken anti-drug-mafia daily paper, will receive \$2.5 million from a group of U.S. and Canadian newspaper publishers, in order to rebuild its printing plant, which was partially destroyed two months ago by a bomb planted by the drug mafia.

● **ALFREDO CRISTIANI**, the President of El Salvador, was not at home when the Soviet-backed terrorist group Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front staged an armed attack on his residence. Fighting between government troops and leftist rebels continued in the days following.

● **MARGARET THATCHER**, the British Prime Minister, will fly to the U.S. to meet with President Bush at Camp David on Thanksgiving Day Nov. 23. The visit was scheduled prior to the announcement of the Malta summit, but not prior to the private planning for the meeting, officials reported.

● **ESTONIA**, the northernmost of the Baltic republics under Soviet occupation, will soon set up its own currency, reports Reuters.

● **PANAMA** broke up a drug ring by providing information to the U.S., via Interpol, leading to the seizure of 1,450 pounds of cocaine and the arrest of 17 Panamanians in Miami. "We continue to be members of Interpol and . . . continue functioning worldwide in the repression of crimes, in this case drugs," said Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz.