

# International Intelligence

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## **British paper hits U.S. treatment of LaRouche**

Keith Botsford, a commentator for the London *Independent*, wrote in his "In America" column on Feb. 10 that the U.S. government is treating jailed political figure Lyndon LaRouche like a "non-person" for "political reasons." Titled, "Please Say Our Son Is Still Mad," the article discusses the case of Lewis du Pont Smith, the du Pont family heir whose parents had a judge declare him mentally incompetent, because he donated \$212,000 to LaRouche's political movement.

This is the first article to appear in the British press since LaRouche and six associates were jailed more than one year ago, to criticize the way the U.S. government has acted in the case.

Botsford wrote: "The U.S. Government's pursuit of Mr. LaRouche (for whom I hold no personal brief, apart from being a civil libertarian of the old type) has been so total as to suggest that for political reasons, it was necessary to make him into a non-person," by giving him a 15-year jail sentence on "conspiracy" charges.

As for Smith, "St. Francis of Assisi was fortunate not to live in Paoli, Pennsylvania [where Judge Lawrence Wood declared Smith incompetent]: not only did he give his money away, but he also talked to birds. . . . For all the ups and downs in Mr. Smith's career . . . those who have interviewed him say he tells his side of the story with 'clarity, anger and humor.' . . .

"It is his parents . . . who prefer a legally insane son to the loss of a fortune that is not theirs. Is that rational? . . . As for the young man in question, he says, at the stove, that 'anyone who can cook Gnocchi alla Gorgonzola can't be incompetent.' I agree."

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## **Tunisian leader is targeted in legal frameup**

A strange trial may take place on Feb. 27 in Tunisia. It will involve Ahmed Kedidi, a

former Tunisian parliamentarian, who had been from 1980 to 1986 a member of the Central Committee of the ruling Dastour party under President Habib Bourguiba, and who directed the party's daily newspaper *Al Amal*. Evidence points to the fact that the trial was initiated in November 1987 by Prime Minister Hedi Bakouh as a political vendetta, because of Kedidi's close relations with former Prime Minister Mohamed M'zali, who had a falling-out with President Bourguiba in July 1986. Both Kedidi and M'zali have been living in exile since that time.

The first indictment of Kedidi involved charges of corruption and misappropriation of state properties. They were dismissed by the magistrate; but Bakouh had the case reopened.

In 1985, Kedidi had been the target of a series of letter bombs, during a terror wave that led to the break of diplomatic relations between Tunisia and Libya. Later investigations also showed that Tunisian fundamentalist networks, associated with both Iran and Libya, had been involved. On July 6, 1986, a fundamentalist, Jalal Jebali, confessed that the campaign had been part of an assassination plot targeting then State Secretary for Security Zin el Abidin Ben Ali, today's President, and Kedidi.

As part of the negotiations held between Bakouh and the fundamentalists in 1987 and 1988 for a "national reconciliation," the fundamentalists asked for Kedidi's head. However, Bakouh was himself dismissed at the end of 1989 by President Ben Ali, shortly after he announced his refusal to legalize the fundamentalist opposition.

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## **South Korea looks to its own defense**

South Korean President Noh Tae Woo, stressing that the time has come for the country to defend itself entirely on its own, called on Feb. 7 for the "Koreanization" of defense, to prepare for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the news agency Yonhap reports.

"As we have seen in the partial readjust-

ment of U.S. forces stationed in Korea, the U.S. role has to be limited to providing help and we should defend our nation with our own blood and sweat," he said, during a briefing by Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun on defense programs for 1990.

Korean officials say the U.S. may either withdraw 2,000-3,000 members of the 2nd Infantry Division or reduce the number of non-combatants assigned to the division and other units stationed in Korea by the end of this year.

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## **Ukraine's Rukh denounces Pamyat anti-Semitism**

The Ukrainian national movement Rukh is warning that forces in Moscow are trying to organize pogroms against Ukraine's sizable Jewish community. The warning was delivered Feb. 11, when Rukh leader Anatoli Dotsenko addressed a crowd of 70,000 in Kiev, the largest demonstration ever held against anti-Semitism.

Dotsenko warned that "Moscow circles" and "conservative forces" are attempting to fuel "extreme nationalism" and "anti-Semitism," on Ukrainian territory, so as to try and create "fissures along national and religious lines" in Ukraine. Dotsenko denounced the Russian chauvinist organization Pamyat as exemplary of the forces he was referring to.

The demonstration was the first authorized demonstration of Rukh, which only on Feb. 9, after months of lobbying, was registered as a legal "informal association."

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## **Presidential elections factionalizing Taiwan**

The fight over the upcoming presidential elections is factionalizing the Republic of China (R.O.C.), including the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) party. The National Assembly will elect the President in March, and it is most likely that Lee Teng-hui, who became President in February 1988 after the death of Chiang Ching-kuo, the eldest son of

the late Chiang Kai-shek, will be reelected. The political fight now is over who will be nominated vice-president by the KMT.

National Assembly member Gen. Teng Chieh, a leader of the "mainland deputies" who were elected to the National Assembly before the communist takeover in 1949, and a close adviser to Chiang Kai-shek during World War II, has formed a group called the People's Democracy United Front. The group announced at a press conference at the beginning of February that they are supporting Gen. Wego Chiang, the sole surviving son of Chiang Kai-shek, for vice-president. President Lee has let it be known that he is considering nominating Mr. Lee, who is the secretary of the presidential office and a law scholar from the National University.

General Teng spelled out his criteria for the candidate. He must 1) have a wide knowledge of the military situation and science, 2) be well known both in and outside the R.O.C., 3) be recognized by the mainland Chinese, 4) be able to lead the R.O.C. back to the mainland. Under these criteria, General Teng said, only Wego Chiang is suitable.

## ***Soviet military welcomes Bush stand on troops***

In a Jan. 30 attack on Czechoslovak and Hungarian demands for the speedy withdrawal of Soviet troops from their territory, the Soviet military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* invoked Bush administration support for the Soviet refusal to hurry. Commentator Vasili Pustov wrote, "I for one am very worried by the impatience and haste displayed. . . . A unilateral withdrawal of troops . . . may lead to the disruption of military stability" and "threatens to harm the process of the Vienna talks" on conventional force reduction.

Pustov invoked the views of Bush administration arms adviser Edward Rowney, as in agreement with the Soviet notion that force moves should be determined by the superpowers, not smaller nations: "Rowny . . . expressed concern in connection with the unilateral withdrawal of Soviet troops

from East and Central Europe, now under discussion, declaring that this could lead to intensified political pressure for force reductions by the West. It would be better to effect the withdrawal of troops, he said, within the framework of the agreements now being negotiated between NATO and the Warsaw Pact."

## ***The Endara government's lynch mob 'justice'***

Pro-government mobs nearly set off a riot on Feb. 9 in Panama City, forcing U.S.-installed "President" Guillermo Endara and First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderón to personally intervene to cool the situation.

The incident took place in front of the Attorney General's office. As former legislator Rigoberto Paredes was leaving the building with his attorney after being brought in for questioning, a mob attacked them. Efforts by the police and the Attorney General to disperse the crowd failed, and finally, Endara and Arias Calderón had to calm them down.

This was the third such attempted lynching in one week, all of them provoked by the government itself. The policy of the regime is to hold officials of the former government in "preventive detention," and then to make appeals for anyone who has a grievance to file charges, "because otherwise we will have to let them go free." Once someone comes forward and files charges, the former officials are taken from their jail cells for questioning, and the government-controlled media announce the time and place of the interrogation, calling on their audience to show up to "demand justice."

Most of the Endara-controlled media slanted their coverage of the Paredes incident in favor of the lynch mob. "We must, as in the times of the Roman Circus, throw one Christian to the lions," said Panama's Radio Exitosa; this is necessary to satisfy "the people's cry for justice."

Paredes, who has been held without official charges since Dec. 25, 1989, was accused by an unknown woman of "stealing election tallies."

## ***Briefly***

● **DENG XIAOPING** is so senile he can barely recognize even his most groveling American friends, Chinese sources report. When National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger arrived in Beijing in December, Deng received them at the Great Hall of the People. But he had trouble remembering which U.S. President they represented. "I am happy to welcome the representatives of my old friend Jimmy Carter," he said in his speech.

● **ISRAELI HARDLINE** Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon announced on Feb. 12 that he was resigning in opposition to the "peace policy" of the government. Sharon will remain as Likud party chairman and member of parliament.

● **BORIS YELTSIN** told the Feb. 11 *Sunday Times* of London that the Soviet Union could face a Romanian-style revolution if the Communist Party does not reform itself more quickly. He said that people would take to the streets and a bloody revolution would follow, with the KGB secret police fighting to maintain the old order.

● **KWAZULU CHIEF** Mangosuthu Buthelezi made an impassioned plea for an end to economic sanctions against South Africa. Appearing on ABC News's "Nightline" on Feb. 8, Buthelezi said that the sanctions have done terrible damage to black South Africans, and that it was meaningless to talk about political agreements, unless the South African economy was given a chance to revive.

● **THE NEWSPAPER** of the patriotic resistance in Panama, *El Periódico*, appeared on the streets of Panama City on Feb. 7. The issue includes a statement by West German professor F.A. Baron von der Heydte on how the invasion was an atrocity against international law; the statement first appeared in *EIR* on Feb. 2.