

International Intelligence

Israel gives Jews Palestinian land

The Israeli government is giving away West Bank land to Jewish settlers for free, in an effort to encourage settlement, the Israeli Defense Ministry admitted on July 26. The program, previously secret, was exposed in the Israeli daily *Davar*. The total amount of land given away under the program is not known.

Since 1967, Israel has seized direct control of 52% of the land on the West Bank, and 49% of the land in Gaza. Since 1967, more than 100,000 Jews have moved into the territories; the Israeli government plans to house some 500,000 more over the next five years. The West Bank Palestinian population is 1.7 million. The government seized 1,577 acres of Palestinian land in 1988; 18,224 acres in 1989; and 18,732 in 1990. More than 20,000 acres have already been confiscated in 1991. Even where land is purchased by Jews, rather than given to them, Jewish settlers receive other benefits, such as state mortgages with low interest payments.

Italy turns down euthanasia proposal

The Environmental Committee of the European Parliament has approved, on the initiative of the French former physician Leon Schwartzberg, a document which provides not only for the interruption of treatment of so-called terminal diseases, but also for an active intervention of the doctor to bring death to a patient who asks for it.

Schwartzberg was suspended from the French medical association, but was then elected as a Socialist Party deputy to the European Parliament.

The proposal is intended for debate in the European Parliament and then adoption by member countries.

The first decisive rejection came from Italy, which, with a document approved by the National Bioethics Committee, rejected the resolution of the Environmental Committee. According to Prof. Corrado Manni,

chairman of the Medical Faculty of Italy's Catholic University and a member of the committee, the resolution contains two unacceptable assumptions. One is that "cortex death" is irreversible, whereas in fact this has never been ascertained. The committee maintains that death has to be identified with total brain death.

Second, the document states that the doctor "must" help the sick person who asks to die, which presupposes an actual obligation to help murder him. According to Professor Manni, this is unacceptable, because you can never ask a doctor to help a person to die.

An Italian epigone of Schwartzberg, Giorgio Conciani, said on Italian television that he had helped people to die by giving them heavy doses of analgesics, but also recommends opiates. "I find that a heroin overdose is a lot more civilized than forcing someone to shoot himself with a pistol."

Slovakian leader moots breakup of federation

Slovakian Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky, in an interview with the French daily *Libération* published on July 24, suggested that the Czech and Slovak Federated Republic (C.S.F.R.) may not survive in its present form. "We want to enter the European Community as a completely sovereign state," he said.

Carnogursky, however, went out of his way to distance himself from radical Slovak nationalists: "My position is more progressive, more European. I am no ally of the Slovak nationalists. I would like to be an ally of the nations which are fighting for their national identity in the framework of the future Europe."

The interview shows Carnogursky's conviction that a process of Slovakia separating to achieve some form of independence is unstoppable. He discounts polls showing that only 16% of Slovaks now favor independence, saying that this is not a rejection of secession, but "the fear of an insecure majority" over the risks: "To demand inde-

pendence means to enter unknown territory. The Slovaks don't have the courage to take this step. They are afraid of acts of violence like they see today in Yugoslavia."

The shift toward a policy of secession which Carnogursky's statement reflects, is a result of the fact that the austerity policies of Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus have hit the republic of Slovakia especially hard. The official unemployment rate has passed 6%, in contrast to the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, where the rate is 2.6%.

Soviet generals see national 'disaster'

Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Gen. Boris Gromov and Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Gen. Valentin Varennikov are among 12 signers of a document entitled "A Word to the People," published on July 24 in the Russian newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* and the Armed Forces daily *Krasnaya Zvezda*. It invokes the role of Soviet patriots and the Armed Forces in preventing the "betrayal" of the U.S.S.R. to foreigners and the destruction of the country.

Their statement denounces Soviet party leaders who "rush into the enemy's camp, treacherously betraying and demanding the gallows for their former comrades. . . . How did it happen that we put in power those who do not love the country, who enslave themselves to foreign patrons, and seek advice and blessing from across the seas?"

The signers warn: "A huge unprecedented disaster has occurred. The motherland, the country, our great power—passed down to us for preservation by history, nature, and our great ancestors—is dying, falling apart, and sinking into darkness and nothingness."

Calling for the creation of a "popular patriotic movement for the salvation of the fatherland," the signers state: "We are convinced that the warriors of the Army and Navy, true to their sacred duty, will not permit a fratricidal war or the destruction of the fatherland, but will come forward as the guarantors of security and the bulwarks of

all healthy forces of society. . . . There are statesmen among the Russian people who are ready to lead the country into a sovereign future without humiliation."

Other signers include Great Russian writers Yuri Bondarev and Valentin Rasputin, Soyuz bloc leader Yuri Blokhin, and Peasants Union head Vasily Starodubtsev.

Islamic Jihad threatens Germany with terrorism

The Islamic Jihad guerrilla group in Beirut has threatened Germany with terrorist attacks, if the German authorities do not come up with "convincing information on the status of the Hamadi brothers."

The two Hamadi brothers are jailed in Germany, serving sentences on various counts of terrorism. One of the brothers was mysteriously stabbed in jail by another Arab inmate at the end of July, apparently in a staged incident carried out to provide a pretext for Islamic Jihad to resume phony charges against the German authorities of alleged torture and human rights violations against the Hamadis.

The group, which claims to hold two Germans hostages in or near Beirut, threatened to kill the two in retaliation for the "tortures" the Hamadis were "suffering in German jails."

The threat appears within a pattern, in recent weeks, of escalating acts of "leftist" terrorism against German representations throughout the Mediterranean—primarily in Greece and Turkey, but also in Spain and (French) Corsica.

Aga Khan: Sanctions will strengthen Saddam

A starving Iraqi population will rally behind the regime rather than attempt to overthrow it, insisted U.N. Commissioner Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and his French assistant Dr. Thierry Brun, in interviews with *Le Monde* published July 25. The two had recently returned from a visit to Iraq.

"The policy of sanctions is in the process of creating a sentiment of solidarity with the regime rather than the opposite," stated Aga Khan, while Dr. Brun goes further: "Famished, the Iraqi people would help Saddam Hussein. According to what I have seen on site, the Iraqi people hold the West responsible for its misery and would regroup around the regime."

The Tunisian ambassador to Unesco, Hamadi Essid, in an interview with the French daily *Libération* of July 25, underlined the danger of starvation as a result of the U.N. embargo. "What concerns us, is avoiding famine among the Iraqi people," he said. Stressing that the embargo as it is now applied "conforms neither to the spirit nor to the letter of the United Nations resolution," he added: "It must not be, that some day, people will find themselves deploring hundreds of thousands of deaths in Iraq caused by an embargo that was badly or excessively interpreted. We must avoid a situation in which they say, five years from now, 'I didn't know.' Everybody must know."

Arafat: No peace without the PLO

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, in an interview with the London *Independent* published on July 23, warned that no real peace is possible in the Middle East, without the Palestinians being involved.

The United States is trying to arrange "other Camp Davids," Arafat charged, but while denying even the right of self-determination to the Palestinians. "Unbelievable! Unbelievable!" But, Arafat warned, "We are not dealing with phantoms. No one can push us around, since we are the most important element in the whole Middle East equation."

The PLO leader added that little attention is being paid to the "real situation of starvation" among Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. "The Americans parachuted food to the Kurds, but what about for Gaza, where there is starvation and no one helps?"

● **GENES** of Brazil's Yanomami Indians will be frozen and stored in the new Human Genetic Museum in London, reported the Brazilian newspaper *O Globo* on July 23. The museum is said to be involved in an effort to catalogue blood samples of at least 500 extinct peoples. The genes of the Yanomamis have been chosen to inaugurate the museum because of the rapidity with which they are becoming extinct, according to Sir Walter Bodmer of the Human Genome Organization.

● **MUAMMAR QADDAFI** has warned that Spain's military bases are a threat to Libya, and that he may retaliate with terrorism. He said that should Spain or Italy serve as "platforms for an attack against Libya," they will be hit, without regard for women or children. He demanded that the military bases be closed.

● **PAKISTAN'S** Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg warned his troops in Sialkot near the Kashmir border on July 21, that "events are fast changing in the region and shadows of war have started appearing."

● **SOVIET ADMIRAL** Konstantin Makarov, naval chief of staff, told *Sovetskaya Rossiya* newspaper on July 27 that the Soviet Union faces a threat from Western naval forces that more than offsets gains from arms reduction treaties. The threat by cruise missiles has almost doubled with "massive deployment" of sea-based cruise missiles, he said, adding that arms reduction has not been extended to the high seas.

● **SPAIN** has agreed to close two-thirds of all Civil Guard centers in the Basque provinces, and half of all national police headquarters, by the summer of 1992. Madrid has effectively acknowledged defeat in the battle against the Basque terrorists. On July 25, two attacks on Civil Guard installations in the Basque town of Irun injured 16 people.