

International Intelligence

Brazilian monsignor hits sterilization campaign

Monsignor Moreir Neves of Brazil, a member of the Pontifical Council on the Family, charged in an interview published in the Italian daily *Avvenire* on Aug. 6 that 25 million Brazilian women between the ages of 18 and 45 (45% of the total) have been sterilized.

Sterilization is illegal in Brazil, explains Neves, but there is a massive campaign financed from abroad to sustain it. "Examples include the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF, an international agency for demographic control) and the U.S. Ford Foundation. There are many foreign organizations which finance the sterilizations. There are also internal channels. . . . Three years ago in my diocese, on the occasion of the election campaign, some candidates who were medical doctors got votes by sterilizing poor women."

Avvenire also quoted Brazilian Sen. Darcy Ribeiro that the pro-sterilization campaign is also financed "by some religious sects of North American origin." The anti-abortion association Pro Vida of Brasilia says that at least 20 foreign organizations finance sterilization campaigns. From 1985 to 1989, the U.S. Association for Voluntary Sterilization spent \$48 million, while the U.S. Agency for International Development, issues \$7 million a year for family planning in Brazil.

Christians in mass exodus from Mideast

More than half the Christians in the Middle East have left since the 1960s, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on Aug. 10. According to Salim Khalilieh, executive director of the Middle East Council of Churches in Amman, Jordan, the number of Christians on both sides of the Jordan River has fallen from 400,000 to 170,000 in the past 30 years.

"I give Christianity 10 to 15 years in Jordan and the West Bank, no more," Anglican Bishop Elia Khouri grieved.

Rev. Douglas DeCharme, an official of the Middle East Council of Churches in Cyprus, told the newspaper, "The issue is not emigration. The issue is the lack of peace. The issue is the lack of justice. Emigration is just the focal point."

KGB wants intelligence link with Germany

Soviet intelligence chief Vladimir Kryuchkov made a public offer for KGB cooperation with Germany's BND foreign intelligence service, in an exclusive interview with the private SAT-1 television station broadcast in Germany on Aug. 7.

Kryuchkov said this was the first time he was making such an offer, and that there were many fields of potential close cooperation and exchange of information on matters of mutual interest between the foreign intelligence agencies of the Soviet Union and Germany.

BND vice president Paul Münstermann was quoted by German media saying that the BND would appreciate cooperation in the fight against terrorism and drug-traffic-ficking. Münstermann said, however, that an official offer for cooperation has not been presented by Moscow yet.

Beijing prepares purge in universities

The Chinese communists are preparing a Cultural Revolution-style purge in the universities, according to a report that appeared in the *South China Morning Post* on Aug. 6. The P.R.C.'s Public Security Ministry has launched an "anti-peaceful evolution campaign" on the campuses, which have been regarded as a stronghold of "bourgeois thinking."

Minister of Public Security Toa Siqu vowed to conduct a "persevering struggle" against "anti-revolutionary forces" and "bourgeois-liberal teachers" who "failed to defend the socialist course" and "instilled western capitalist ideas in the young students." He claimed that a large portion of

the young and middle-aged teachers in the universities were under such hostile influences. He reported that a recent tour of the Soviet Union demonstrated that three types of people were destroying socialism there: young and middle-aged intellectuals, senior cadres who had been purged under Stalin or Brezhnev, and "hooligans."

Germany repudiates Turkish attack on Iraq

The German Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish ambassador to Bonn on Aug. 9 to receive a formal note of protest against Turkey's air strikes on northern Iraq in the pursuit of alleged "Kurdish terrorists." Senior Turkish government officials had justified the move by statements that there is a vacuum in northern Iraq that has to be filled, and that whatever is going on there is none of Baghdad's business.

The loss of civilian lives during the Turkish air attacks and the disrespect shown for Iraqi territory are incompatible not only with the rules of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the German statement said, but also with the "very principles on which the NATO alliance is built."

Turkey's ambassador was also warned that Turkey's conduct on the Kurdish issue in eastern Anatolia is counterproductive as far as future Turkish membership in the European Community is concerned.

As for the U.S. position, an anonymous senior official of the State Department was quoted in the European press on Aug. 9 saying that Washington welcomes the Turkish operation, as it was aimed at eliminating a "grave terrorist threat to the stability of the region."

Red Cross: U.S. violated the Geneva Convention

The United States and its "coalition" allies are in apparent gross violation of the Geneva Convention, in withholding the Iraqi death toll from the International Red Cross, wrote

the London *Independent* Aug. 5. "In contravention of Article 17 of the Geneva Convention, allied and Arab coalition forces have failed to provide even the vaguest Iraqi death toll. The American military authorities have given to the International Committee of the Red Cross neither the names of the tens of thousands of enemy dead nor the location of mass graves in which they were buried. What the true figure is—and why the allies have failed to disclose it—remains one of the most disturbing mysteries of the Gulf war."

Article 17 mandates that measures be taken to assure that bodies of the dead are accounted for.

A western diplomat told the *Independent's* journalist Robert Fisk: "The Red Cross are bloody angry, and I don't blame them. What's really puzzling is that the Americans know where a lot of mass graves are and must have files on how many Iraqis they buried in each grave. They are hiding the figures."

Informed speculation in the region, says Fisk, is that either the stated number of dead was vastly exaggerated, to hype up the war "victory," or grossly understated. As for the latter possibility, "they're worried the Arabs would be disgusted at the slaughter of a quarter of a million fellow Arabs."

PLO sets conditions for peace conference

The Palestine Liberation Organization delivered the following conditions to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Aug. 2, regarding the upcoming Mideast peace talks:

1) The aim of the conference will be the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories;

2) Recognition of the legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is the right to self-determination;

3) Palestinian participation at the conference will be in accordance with the decision of the PLO;

4) Rejection of the exclusion of Jerusalem as an issue;

5) Immediate halt of settlement activities within the Occupied Territories, especially Jerusalem.

Pope seen as preventing Muslim-Christian war

Pope John Paul II's opposition to the Gulf war and expanding diplomacy toward the Islamic world has been the main factor preventing a generalized global religious war between Muslims and Christians, wrote London *Times* religious affairs writer Clifford Longley on Aug. 10.

"Politically, the war produced some unlikely alliances between Muslims and the West. Paradoxically, it marked a great step forward in friendship between Islam and Rome. Medieval popes used to send out crusaders. This year, Pope John Paul II used the war to build new bridges. Much to the irritation of the West, he was a trenchant critic of the alliance against Iraq, and his words were much reported by the Arab media. He never failed to express his respect for and understanding of Muslims.

"Consequently, since the war ended, Islamic feelings towards the Vatican have warmed spectacularly. A long statement of appreciation was delivered to the Pope in March on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which represents 42 Muslim states. Since then, joint charitable works have been launched wherever interests and presences coincide."

Noting that the Pope is conducting "strategic diplomacy toward the Islamic world" of the sort that was earlier conducted by the Vatican toward eastern Europe and the Kremlin, Longley emphasized that the Pope "does indeed have an awesome responsibility. There are 900 million Catholics in the world, and 400 million other Christians who in varying degrees look to him for leadership; and there are about 1,000 million Muslims. He could not start an anti-Muslim crusade in the West, but he could create a climate in which one became possible. World peace may even depend on his not doing so."

● **CHINA** announced during a summit meeting between Prime Minister Li Peng and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at the beginning of August, that it would sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. China was the last major nuclear power to hold off from signing the treaty, since France agreed to sign in July.

● **THE SAUDI** government has arranged for the Abu Nidal terrorist group to set up an office in Saudi Arabia, according to an Aug. 9 report in the *Los Angeles Times*. The newspaper cites U.S. intelligence sources who said that the group was brought in last March "as a slap at PLO leader Yasser Arafat." The Saudi office of Abu Nidal is reportedly a place for "somebody to go . . . to give money."

● **TURKEY'S** foreign minister said on Aug. 7 that Istanbul would be the ideal site of a Mideast peace conference, and that the United States agreed. Safa Giray, who has delivered one bellicose statement after another justifying Turkey's military operation into northern Iraq, revealed this detail of recent talks with James Baker and George Bush. Arab participants at the ongoing Islamic Council meeting in Istanbul were surprised about Giray's remarks.

● **CUBA AND CHINA** will establish full diplomatic relations later this year. Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin will be the first Chinese leader to visit Cuba since Castro's takeover, following his visits to Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela in the fall. Fidel Castro will visit China at an unspecified date.

● **SOVIET** Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Kozyrev visited Pakistan Aug. 12 to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. Afghan mujaheddin rebel forces reportedly control all the rural areas along the border with Soviet Tadzhikistan.