

# International Intelligence

## Canada releases frozen funds for Iraqi relief

The Toronto *Globe and Mail* reported on May 24 that the Canadian government has agreed to allow Iraq to recover one-third of its frozen financial assets in Canada, in order to purchase food and medicine for use in Iraq by Global Ed-Med Supplies, a Canadian relief organization.

"Dr. Eric Hoskins, a Canadian physician and member of Canadian Ed-Med Supplies, said the unfrozen Iraqi funds will provide enough infant formula for 50,000 children for three months and will ease the high death rate among Iraqi children."

Correspondent Ross Howard also reports on the efforts of Toronto Liberal MP Dennis Mills, whose recent private proposal that Iraqi oil be swapped for Libyan cash, to be used to purchase food and medicine from Canadian companies, was turned down by Canadian External Affairs. "Mr. Mills said he was meeting this weekend with a U.S. businessman who claims to have a third country willing to take Iraqi oil and deposit the payment in a Canadian bank, where it can be used to purchase Canadian food for Iraq relief. Mr. Mills said he has received assurances from Iraq that Iraq is willing to receive payment for its oil in the form of Canadian food. He did not say how the sale of Iraqi oil would comply with the U.N. embargo."

## Servants charge Saudi royal family with abuse

The *Houston Chronicle* reported on May 21 that two women servants escaped from the Houston residence of Prince Saad Bin Abdul-Aziz al-Saud, at the Ritz-Carlton Houston, and claimed that the royal family took their passports, physically and mentally abused them, would not let them go outside the residence, and often did not pay them. Local deputy constables who were working as bodyguards for the royal family helped the women escape after viewing the mistreatment they received.

The women, from Sri Lanka and the Philippines, are being helped by local authorities who are hiding them while they try to retrieve their passports. A Houston attorney who has taken their case said, "I intend to help these people to get free of this slavery. . . . The biggest problem is our State Department seems to want to help the Saudi government."

According to the article, "The State Department notified the Saudi Embassy . . . the Prince was involved in an incident in Houston, but did not notify the Sri Lankan or Philippine embassies their citizens were hiding without passports."

The day after the *Houston Chronicle's* story appeared, the Immigration and Naturalization Service began procedures to deport the women. An INS spokesman acknowledged that the passports had been in the agency's custody for some time, after they had been turned in by the Saudis.

Harris County (Houston) deputy constable Ronnie Smith, who was fired after he refused an order by Princess Noora to kidnap the escaped servants and return them to the royal family's residence, says he was shot at and received a death threat after giving information about the royal family's activities to the *Chronicle*.

## Republikaner head hails Mussolini Fascism

Franz Schönhuber, the chairman of Germany's small Republikaner party (REP), portrayed Mussolini's Fascism as positive, in an interview with the Berlin daily *Tageszeitung* published May 19. Insisting that there "is a difference between Fascism and National Socialism," he said that "Fascism was not racist. The founder of the fascists was a Jew; Mussolini had Jewish girlfriends."

The statements come in the midst of an international media campaign for "fascism with a democratic face."

While the German national socialists committed genocide, Mussolini didn't: "He banned some mafia bosses on an island, but never terrorized whole sections of the population."

Mussolini's 1926-30 employment program helped to shield Italy against the effects of the Great Depression, Schönhuber said, because it was based on "cooperatives" and "always oriented toward a corporatist state." By contrast, the employment programs of the Nazis were "inhuman in the most profound degree."

Schönhuber said that he himself orients to the Strasser wing of the Nazi party, which his father belonged to, because it "reflected the anti-capitalist sentiment of the German people." Aligning with the lower classes, he would not even object to "committed communists" of the former East German Socialist Unity Party working with his Republikaners.

## Increased protest vote in Berlin city elections

The Berlin municipal elections on May 24 were a vote of no-confidence against the established parties (Christian Democrats, Free Democrats, and Social Democrats), and showed an increased protest vote. This continued the trend of the April 5 elections, which resulted in heavy losses for the two bigger parties—Christian and Social Democrats—in the states of Schleswig-Holstein and Baden-Württemberg.

More than the actual losses for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)—4% in the eastern districts of the city; and the Social Democratic Party (SPD)—5% in the western districts, the low voter turnout was indicative of the lack of confidence in the government. In the eastern districts, 13% fewer voters went to the polls, as compared to the last elections; in the west, 16% fewer. Total voter participation in all of Berlin was down to 61.5%, which is low by German standards.

As the CDU and SPD are governing Berlin in a grand coalition, the voter absenteeism also bears on the situation in Bonn, because Berlin is largely dependent on policy decisions made by the Bonn cabinet and parliament.

Also noteworthy is the consolidated constituency of the ex-communist PDS, which got more than 30% in five eastern

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districts of the city, and the Greens, which got more than 20% in three western districts. The right-wing Republikaner party (REP) gained, receiving 8% in all of Berlin, and more than 10% in five western districts. The three "non-established" parties—PDS, Greens, and REP—together got more than a third of the total vote in the city.

### ***Israel launches terror against Palestinians***

The Israeli Defense Forces and security services are conducting "terror against terror" operations in Gaza and the West Bank. IDF hit squads, dressed as Palestinians, are conducting shoot-to-kill raids against Palestinians. One such squad killed three Arabs in Gaza whom they claimed were fugitives from a radical Islamic group. The operations are carried out on a "shoot first, ask questions later" basis.

The *Jerusalem Post* on May 20 reported another such incident, where 13 IDF soldiers, masked and disguised as activists from the Hamas Palestinian resistance group, marched, fully armed, through the Rafiah refugee camp, with the aim of provoking clashes and shootouts that would liquidate Palestinians whom the authorities claim to be members of radical groups. Several residents were wounded in the ensuing shootout.

These operations are coordinated from the office of the Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen. Ehud Barak.

### ***Shining Path brutes boosted on U.S. TV***

The Public Broadcasting Service's MacNeil/Lehrer news broadcast ran a 15-minute segment on May 27 on Peru's fight against the narco-terrorist Shining Path, denouncing President Alberto Fujimori as a "dictator." The PBS report admitted that Fujimori had the support of most of Peru's people for his crackdown against terrorism, and bemoaned the fact that his supporters were mostly among the poor—whom PBS conceded were the victims of Shining Path's brutality.

Much of the news feature was quite frank about Shining Path's methods and goals: The report showed how Shining Path had taken over in the coca-growing region of the Upper Huallaga Valley, and funded itself through cocaine sales. The guerrillas are now aiming to terrorize farmers off the land, in order to cut the capital of Lima off from its food supply. One farmer who has remained, Carlos Fukuda, was interviewed. Fukuda said that the guerrillas had attacked his farm over a dozen times; it is now surrounded by 12-foot-high concrete walls, and concrete guard towers.

Mayor Pascuala Rosado of the shantytown of Huancayo told the interviewers that Shining Path has especially targeted the women's cooperative soup kitchens, because their alleviation of the suffering of the poor "suppresses the revolutionary rage of the people."

### ***Did Red Chinese beat elderly bishop to death?***

The Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire* the week of May 18 published a picture of the corpse of 85-year-old Chinese Bishop Peter Joseph Fan Xueyan, who died the previous month. The photograph, which was smuggled out of China by an underground Christian group, showed bruises on his face and a broken leg. A spokesman for the government-controlled Chinese Patriotic Association denied that Bishop Fan had been tortured.

However, the Beijing government announced on May 22 that three elderly Roman Catholic priests had been released from jail, under a regulation that allows clemency to be granted to prisoners over the age of 70. One of them, Msgr. Francis Wang Yijun, apparently has spent all or most of the last 35 years in prison.

Also released was Bishop Peter Liu Guandong of Yixian diocese in Hebei province, and Rev. Jin Dechen, who had served a 15-year sentence that ended in 1973 and was sentenced to another 15 years in 1982, reportedly for his opposition to abortion and birth control.

● **RUSSIAN POLICE** arrested four Palestinian students in St. Petersburg at the end of May. They were said to be planning terrorist attacks against western diplomats, according to reports in the newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*. The arrests followed the bombing of the St. Petersburg railroad station on May 21, which left one person dead and nine wounded.

● **EL SALVADOR'S** leftist rebels from the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front launched a political party on May 23, following 12 years of civil war. Presidential and legislative elections are slated for 1994.

● **INDONESIA** and Singapore are considering coordinated naval patrols to combat a rise in pirate attacks on commercial vessels, the two sides said in a joint communiqué on May 21. "The rising rate of sea robberies is a concern and measures are being discussed between the two countries to solve the problem."

● **HENRY KISSINGER** paid a visit to the editorial board of the daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in Munich on May 18. On May 25, he was the guest at an event of the Atlantic Bridge group in Hamburg. Keynoting the conference were former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

● **TRADITIONAL** left-wing terrorism is coming to an end, but new right-wing terrorism is emerging, and with it, the threat also of violent clashes between right-wing and left-wing extremists in Germany, German Interior Minister Werner Hackmann declared May 18.

● **INDIAN POLICE** have charged V. Prabhakaran, head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, with ordering the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991. The suspect has not yet been apprehended.