

# International Intelligence

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## ***Withdraw from U.N., Malaysian figure urges***

Kassim Ahmad, an author, the former chairman of the Malaysian People's Socialist Party, and now with the ruling UMNO party in Malaysia, called on Muslim and Third World nations to withdraw from the United Nations, in a telegram to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed on Aug. 23.

In a statement released later in the day, Kassim Ahmad said the text of his telegram read: "Congratulations for requesting a special session of the U.N. General Assembly to discuss Bosnia. The Anglo-Americans whose aims are the destabilization of continental Europe and the wiping out of a Muslim state in Europe are behind the Serbian atrocities. The U.N. can no longer be relied upon. The Muslim nations have been deceived by [President] Bush. Why do we continue to let Iraq face the lawlessness of the Anglo-Saxon neo-imperialists alone? Where are our principles? I call upon Muslim and Third World nations to withdraw from the U.N. and form another more equitable and just world body."

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## ***Colombia releases Panamanian officer***

The Colombian government of President César Gaviria on Aug. 26 released from prison Maj. Edgardo López Grimaldo, after holding him as a political hostage for 61 days in Bogotá's forbidding "La Picota" jail. López Grimaldo, chief press officer of the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) under Gen. Manuel Noriega, was set free following an international campaign against his imprisonment.

López Grimaldo was arrested by Colombia's security police (DAS) at the behest of the U.S.-installed Panamanian government of Guillermo Endara, which wanted to prosecute him on purely political charges. The case was seen as another attempt to apply the Thornburgh Doctrine, under which the United States claims the right to kidnap foreign nationals anywhere in the world and subject them to U.S. judicial pro-

cedures. Had Colombia handed López over to Panama as requested, he would most likely have been immediately remanded to the United States to testify against Noriega, who faces another federal trial in Tampa, Florida.

Following the Dec. 20, 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, López was granted political asylum by Peru, and later went to live in Ecuador. López was picked up by DAS agents on a visit to apply for a visa. "Clearly, they were following him," said his attorney, who believes that the plan was to ship López to Panama quickly and silently, although Colombia's Constitution forbids "the extradition of foreigners for political or ideological crimes."

Although he was never charged with breaking any Colombian law, he was placed in the maximum-security wing of La Picota with some of the most dangerous drug traffickers and other criminals. Gaviria's government refused to provide him with adequate medical care or to release him, despite the fact that he suffers from a life-threatening condition, acute arterial hypertension. Even after a court in Panama dropped all charges and quashed the arrest warrant against him on July 22—effectively annulling the extradition request—it was more than another month before he was let go.

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## ***Somali clan protests U.N. troop deployment***

The United Somali Congress, led by Mohammed Aidid, reportedly the most powerful clan militia, is opposed to a U.N. plan to send 3,000 troops to Somalia, purportedly to guard food shipments, the Aug. 30 *New York Times* reported. The U.N. Security Council voted for the additional troops, in addition to 500 troops already deployed, on Aug. 29.

The militia said that money and resources for rebuilding the country's police force should be sent, instead of troops. The group accused the U.N. of intending to occupy the country with the intent of recognizing rival leader Ali Mahdi's claim to be President. Other clans have already ridiculed the force, noting that food is only stolen when

it is scarce, and if the U.N. really wanted to prevent starvation and fighting over food, it would "flood the country with food."

In his July 1 report to the U.N. Security Council, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali argued that the U.N. should designate a single resident officer, an ambassador with full diplomatic powers, in each target country, who would control all programs. Somalia is seen as a test case for the reintroduction of U.N. trusteeships over former, briefly independent colonies.

The director general of the Save the Children Fund, Nicholas Hinton, demanded a U.N. czar for Somalia in remarks in London Aug. 29. "The U.N. in terms of its life after the Cold War is a shambles," Hinton claimed. "What is lacking is any coordinated planning . . . if you look at Somalia, what you see is an ill-equipped, ill-informed, and uncoordinated response." He called for the U.N. to "confer authority and leadership on one U.N. agency over all the U.N. agencies working there."

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## ***Second mass grave discovered in Mongolia***

A second mass grave of Buddhist monks executed during a Stalinist reign of terror in the late 1930s has been discovered in Mongolia, Reuters reported Aug. 26.

Munkhdalain Rinchin, historian to Mongolia's President, said in a recent interview that the second mass grave had been found on a mountainside in June just a few kilometers from the first, discovered in 1991. He said he had supervised the exhumation this summer of about 1,000 skeletons from the two graves. Each skeleton bore a single .22 calibre bullet hole in the back of its skull. In the second mass grave, at Ar Zuraa in Mongolia's northwestern Hovsgol province, skeletons still swaddled in the saffron robes of Buddhist monks were found piled on top of each other to a depth of 12 meters.

"The soldiers must have shot the monks one by one in full view of each other and pushed them on top of each other into the grave," said Rinchin. "It must have been a scene of shocking cruelty." Rinchin had a

## Briefly

● **THE MAASTRICHT** Treaty was attacked by Pehr Gyllenhammar, chairman of Volvo, in an Aug. 24 radio interview. It "is badly written and hardly intelligible. It gives again the impression that the experts make the decisions," he said.

● **BURMA** has opened its universities in another step to lighten martial law. Since a change of leadership this spring, the junta has released political prisoners, involved the opposition in planning a new Constitution, and tried to work with Bangladesh to deal with the Muslim refugees who were driven out of western Burma.

● **FAIEZ NAGIB**, president of the Coptic government in exile, called for the formation of a Coptic Pharaonic republic in upper Egypt, in late August. The call came while clashes among Muslims, Copts, and security forces have killed over 70 people since last March.

● **TAIWAN** weaponry expert Hei You-lung appealed for U.S. aircraft to meet the expanding military capacity of China, China News Agency reported Aug. 26. He warned that if the Chinese Air Force has obtained in-flight refueling technology as reported, many more of China's 6,000 military aircraft pose an immediate threat to Taiwan's security.

● **THE TIBET** government in exile accused China of planning a mass increase in Han occupation, Reuters reported Aug. 25. Tibetans say 100,000 Chinese settlers had arrived in June and July, and there are reported plans to move 700,000 more. "The Chinese are speeding their sinister campaign of demographic aggression of Tibet," a statement said. It "could very well be a part of China's 'Final Solution' for Tibet."

● **GREENPEACE** threatened on Aug. 26 that it would intervene to stop plutonium shipments traveling from France to Japan. "Once we exhaust political and diplomatic venues we will clearly follow with other acts," a spokesman for the terrorist-environmentalist group said.

videotape which showed young men wearing gas masks excavating the monks' skeletons along with possessions found in the folds of their gowns—prayer beads, statues of Buddha, snuff bottles, and pages of scripture.

The atrocities were carried out on the orders of Mongolia's communist dictator Horloogiyn Choibalsan as part of a campaign to smash the power of this country's ancient Buddhist theocracy. Historians estimate that 17,000 monks were executed and dumped in mass graves. In addition, 746 monasteries containing most of Mongolia's wealth and learning were destroyed. Choibalsan, by his death in 1952, is reported to have executed about 100,000 people.

Mongolian historians now sifting through hitherto classified state archives say that Josef Stalin, paranoid that Mongolians would collude with expansionist Japanese armies in Manchuria, ordered many of the executions.

### **Rabin threatens 'massive retaliation'**

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed Aug. 28 to retaliate massively against the cities of any Arab state that launched conventional missiles at Israel. Rabin told the Israeli daily *Haaretz* that Israel would not hold back if attacked by Iraqi missiles as it had done during the Gulf war. "I do not think that Iraq will act against Israel," he said, "but if it does, Israel has a wide variety of means of action which there is no point to detail publicly."

Asked how Israel could deter other Arab states from missile strikes, Rabin replied: "Generally, when talking about a nearby state like Syria in the context of all-out war, there are two components." The first, he said, is "to make clear that a strike against Israel with conventional weapons would bring a massive conventional strike against the cities of that state." The second, he said, would be "to come to a quick decision in the war and not have a situation like [Operation] Desert Storm in which for 45 days our rear was exposed. Regarding states that are further off—develop the ability to hit the population centers of those states."

### **Assassinations of PKK leaders okayed by Turkey**

The national security council of Turkey authorized operations to kill leaders of the Kurdish PKK separatist group, in its joint session with President Turgut Özal in Ankara on Aug. 27, the daily *Hurriyet* reported the following day.

While the official communiqué just spoke of "operations inside and outside the country," *Hurriyet* elaborated that Turkey is thinking of deploying special teams to do to PKK leaders what Israel has done many times outside of Israel's borders to the PLO, namely, eliminate leaders and key cadre.

PKK Chairman Abdullah Özalcan, who is said to hide out in Syria, is mooted to be a prime target of such an Israeli-style operation, *Hurriyet* wrote. Earlier comments by Turkish Interior Minister Szesgin that his forces would hunt "these terrorists down no matter where they are, even if we would be forced to chase them outside of our borders," has been reported again in the Turkish media.

### **Lebanese patriarch warns of anti-Syrian uprising**

Lebanese Maronite Patriarch Zuphia warned the government to call off the ongoing elections or risk generating a "popular uprising" among the Christian and Muslim populations, who see the elections as being orchestrated by the Syrians to ensure their continued occupation of Lebanon, according to wire reports. The elections are being conducted in several rounds, the first and second round of elections were held on Aug. 23 and Aug. 30.

Although the elections on Aug. 30 were to be held in the Christian areas, the entire Christian community boycotted them while the Christian trade unions organized a strike.

Despite the highly rigged nature and low voter turnout in the Aug. 23 round of elections in the eastern and southern part of the country, the results showed a decisive anti-Syrian bias.