

cated in the multibillion-ruble theft is difficult, indeed. However, the picture comes into sharp focus by looking back at Geopol, the new home of Laurent Murawiec, and a gathering spot for some of Switzerland's best-known and most-sophisticated con artists. As we have already seen, Helmut Raiser has been a central player in some of the biggest arms deals in recent memory, always in league with British intelligence.

Another director of Geopol, Elizabeth Kopp, is the former justice minister of Switzerland. Her husband, Hans Kopp, was implicated in one of the biggest drug money laundering schemes ever probed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Kopp was the vice president of the Shakarchi Trading Company, owned by a Lebanese family of several generations of drug smugglers and money launderers whose laundering efforts were handled through banker Edmond Safra. Safra's Trade Development Bank is now a part of the Geopol apparatus.

Pierre Hafner, another Geopol director, is a senior official of the CBI-TDB Union Bancaire Privée, and Geopol's offices are in the TDB-UBP building. This bank is owned by the Picciotto holding company, CBI Holding SA, which is based at the bank's headquarters and of which Hafner is a director. It is common talk in Swiss financial circles that Hafner is a creature of the Rothschilds and related British interests, "without which he would be nothing," as a Swiss source told *EIR*. Only a few years ago, he shared board membership at Deutsche Bank Geneva with Albert Hartmann of BCCI.

Safra's Republic National Bank, headquartered in New York City, was implicated in drug money-laundering by both the Shakarchi Trading Company and a string of Medellín Cartel fronts in Colombia back in the late 1980s. More recently, TDB was implicated in funneling mafia money to Socialist Party politicians in Italy and Spain.

In 1982, Hans Kopp was convicted of fraud and sentenced to a one-year suspended jail term. The case involved another Swiss banker named Rudolph J. Ernst, who, according to reports in the Swiss press, was allegedly operating out of the Dominican Republic and shipping prostitutes to Switzerland, where they would have been set up in a porno club targeting government officials for blackmail. When Kopp's name came up in the Shakarchi-Safra probe by DEA agents in Berne, his wife was forced to resign as justice minister.

Elizabeth Kopp's career took a further turn for the worse when a former employee came forward with charges (published in Swiss newspapers) that while she was in office, whippings using bamboo sticks had regularly been administered to male employees of the Justice Ministry. Kopp is currently a director of Yugotours, a firm widely thought to be a front for Serbian intelligence.

Between Kopp, Raiser, Hafner, and Raiser's longtime confidant Iso Lenzlinger, Geopol represents a true crossroads of East-West corruption. No matter how much Laurent Murawiec may squeak about his London IISS credentials, he is residing in a high-class cesspool.

France toward a new Algerian crisis?

by Christine Bierre

In an interview given to *Le Monde* on Sept. 6, French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppé announced a significant change in French policy toward Algeria when he declared, "there is no other solution to the present drama than the reconciliation of the Algerian people, a political dialogue which should lead to elections."

Tensions between France's government and Algerian Islamists (those who defend the idea of a political order based on Islamic religious principles) had increased massively following the assassination of five French citizens—two policemen and three consular personnel—in Algiers last Aug. 4. Responsibility for the attack was later claimed by the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), the most extreme of the armed groups fighting in Algeria's civil war, in a statement to the London-based Arab paper *El Hayat*. This attack, which for the first time targeted diplomatic personnel, represents a considerable escalation in the war which the Algerian Islamists are waging against the French government, which is accused of being the main western supporter of the Algerian regime.

The attack could have had far worse consequences. The five Frenchmen were killed in a shootout with the extremists, while these latter were attempting to place a car bomb in the area near the Max Marchand French school. The target of the car bomb appears to have been a building housing almost the totality of France's 70 diplomatic personnel who had been regrouped and moved there in an effort to improve their protection. Scheduled to go off at 7:30 a.m., the bomb's effect would have been devastating in this heavily populated area at a time when many people are busily buzzing around.

The killings were immediately condemned in a communiqué released by Rabah Kebir, the spokesman for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Europe, who hinted that Algerian military elements may have been involved in the provocation.

The background to this level of atrocity was the position of total hostility adopted by the French government against any participation in power by the Islamists, and an attempt to prop up an Algerian regime in spite of the fact that it never had any mandate to rule. This whole situation goes back to 1990 when the moderate Islamic forces organized

around the FIS won the national legislative elections hands down. The FIS was never handed its victory, however.

Claiming to be the ultimate defenders of democracy, the military took power under pretext that the FIS would bring in an Iranian-style regime which would end democracy altogether. Since then, the country has been run by the military amid growing opposition which has developed more and more into a full-fledged civil war. War casualties easily reach 200-300 a week at this point and whole areas of the country are dominated by the armed Islamists.

In this situation, the French government, formerly Algeria's colonial power which maintains considerable influence in the country, opted for full backing for the present regime. In a cold panic that this situation might degenerate and create massive unrest in France, the French government increased its own financial aid considerably and recently organized the international financial community and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to allow Algeria to reschedule its debt. The conditions were unusually favorable for this institution, which otherwise specializes in looting, in its effort to prop up the Algiers government by stabilizing the economy, while refusing to negotiate with the FIS. Out of a total of \$16 billion in public debt, \$5 billion were rescheduled over a 15-year period, combined with an initial four years of grace. This rescheduling will allow Algeria to reduce international debt servicing to "only" half of its revenue. Otherwise, the IMF and France are extending \$1 billion in loans apiece to try to stabilize the situation. The French are also providing technical, military, and intelligence assistance.

France shifts to hard line

This hardline anti-Islamist position had not always been the French government's policy. Since the FIS won the 1990 elections, President François Mitterrand, a Socialist, encouraged the Algerian leaders to negotiate with FIS moderates. He also developed a policy of seeking contacts with other moderate Islamic regimes, such as Sudan, which could eventually contribute to a solution of the Algerian crisis.

The turn in the French line came when the coalition government, led by Mitterrand's opponent Edouard Balladur, came to power in March 1993. (Under the Fifth Republic's Constitution, the French President remains in office for seven years as head of state, while the prime minister and cabinet are elected on the basis of more frequent parliamentary elections—hence from time to time, the head of state and government may have opposite policies.) While in the early months, the Balladur government also studied the possibilities for opening up dialogue with the FIS, according to press accounts, by the spring of this year they had come to the conclusion that there were "no moderate Islamists" in Algeria and that everything had to be done to prop up the present military regime because it was preferable to have a "deficit of democracy" with the military than "no

democracy at all with the FIS."

Beyond statements from French Foreign Affairs Minister Alain Juppé at the end of 1993 and in early 1994 favoring an opening to the FIS, even French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, known as very hostile to the immigration from North Africa, had tried to open up contact with one of the FIS leaders in exile in Germany, Rabah Kebir. *Libération*, the French daily, revealed on Aug. 7 that as late as April 1994, Pasqua sent an emissary to Rabah Kebir with the intention of working out a negotiation platform that Paris would then transmit to the Algerian government. According to *Libération*, the contacts didn't go very far, however, when the FIS asked whether two of its leaders, who had just been freed from jail by Algerian head of state General Zeroual, could leave the country in order to conduct negotiations freely. Since then the French have devolved toward a harder and harder opposition to the Islamists, which was resumed when Charles Pasqua remarked, "There are no FIS moderates."

To most observers, including, paradoxically, the French government, there is no doubt that the present Algerian regime, after years of austerity policies and corruption, is totally discredited with the population. The government knows this but thinks this is still the better solution to the situation.

At the same time, the United States has been carrying out back-channel talks with FIS moderates for some time. This includes contacts with U.S.-based FIS representative Anwar Haddam, as well as with Rabah Kebir. Following those openings, the United States has been pressuring the Algerian and the French governments to move in the direction of negotiations. The FIS analysis of the overall situation itself goes in that direction. It is their view that Algeria is heading toward a stalemate in the war—they know neither side has enough power to win, and that inevitably, at some point in the game, the FIS will have to come to the political negotiating table.

Why, then, is Charles Pasqua promoting this hardline anti-Islamic policy, given his reputation as one of the most pragmatic French politicians, always ready to negotiate with the devil, if it might get him somewhere?

The key is in the perceived mood of the French population one year before the 1995 presidential elections. Polls taken in the suburban areas of the Paris region in particular show that most voters perceive the most important problem to be their "security." The problems of "insecurity" are more often than not blamed on the North African immigrants, who are predominately Muslims. Pasqua is undoubtedly taking into account the fact that the anti-immigrant racist party of Jean-Marie Le Pen maintained its more than 10% vote in the last elections to the European Parliament, while the "Other Europe" list of Philippe de Villiers and Jimmy Goldsmith, running on a very similar platform, obtained 12.5% of the vote. Add to this, the fact that Charles Pasqua has indicated his willingness to be a presidential candidate in the 1995

elections, and the reasons why Pasqua has worked full time to have the government endorse his harsh anti-FIS policy become more clear. Pasqua is pandering massively to the anti-immigration "law and order" sentiments in France to ensure a victory of his coalition, if not eventually his own electoral platform.

No sooner had the killing of the five Frenchmen in Algiers occurred than Pasqua had already put the country on a full anti-terrorist alert, in a mobilization going way beyond the level of danger, according to statements made by Pasqua himself to the daily *Le Figaro*, that he did not expect bombings on French territory. All policemen, including the judiciary and the political police, plus three extra units of the special anti-riot police CERES, were mobilized in heavily immigrant and sensitive areas, or simply heavily populated

areas of Paris, checking identity cards and reassuring the population, amid false rumors of bomb attempts. Meanwhile, 17 Islamists, including two imams suspected of pro-FIS sympathies, were put under house arrest. Some will be expelled to the first country that will receive them; others, who are wanted in Algiers and who would therefore face the death penalty, will be kept in France under house arrest. Furthermore, five FIS-connected publications have been banned. Internationally, Pasqua went on the air attacking the United States, Germany, and Great Britain for harboring exiled "FIS extremists." The interior minister apparently expects that this "security" buildup will translate into several extra percentage points for his party or for himself in the next elections.

If Pasqua is maneuvering for his own aims, many howev-

FIS, government move toward negotiations

In an unexpected move, the government of Algeria announced in mid-September the good news of the release of three of the most important Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders, held at the Blida military prison: Kamel Guemmazi, Omar Abdelkader, and Nourredine Chigara. More important, the government announced the downgrading to simple house arrest of the prison sentences of the founders of the FIS, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

The reason stated by the government's communiqué is that Abassi Madani's letter of Aug. 23 proved "the willingness of the leaders of the dissolved party to act towards halting all bloodletting and to contribute through peaceful means to the emergence of a definite solution to the crisis the country is going through."

The government's decision should free the way to full-fledged negotiations with FIS moderates. At the end of August, the imprisoned FIS leaders had already agreed to meet two emissaries of General Zeroual, Algeria's strongman. A first meeting with Generals Betchine and Derradji took place with FIS founder, Abassi Madani, alone. Two others brought together five of the most important leaders currently at the Blida prison.

During the course of those meetings, the FIS clarified that it would orient toward a tolerant Islam, as opposed to a sectarian, Khomeini style of fundamentalism. In two letters (on Aug. 23 and 27) addressed by Madani to General Zeroual, the imprisoned leader mentioned for the first time the possibility of a "truce" in the fighting. Abassi

Madani also committed the Islamic movement to respecting the constitution, "political pluralism" and "party alternation," and called for a referendum with the least delay to have the Algerian people approve the establishment of "a republican Algerian state founded on Islamic principles." In exchange, the FIS leader demanded essentially two preconditions for any further dialogue: the release of all the political prisoners, and the re-legalization of the FIS.

Ironically enough, one of the elements contributing to this dialogue has been the growth of the extremist Islamic Armed Group (GIA). Their rapid expansion forced the FIS into a untenable position: either to outdo the GIA in violence, competing with them in recruiting radicalized elements, a situation which would have led to the discreditation of the Islamic movement among the broader population already fed up with the war and rejecting radical forms of fundamentalism; or to open up negotiations with the government while there's still time. The threat of a GIA breakout also contributed to softening the government's opposition to negotiations.

In the meantime, the FIS has taken steps to increase its control over the armed groups. The prohibition of the FIS two years ago, the arrest of its leaders and the flight into exile of others, had decapitated the FIS inside the country, leaving the field open to extremist groups. Efforts over the last weeks to assemble the armed groups of the eastern and western parts of the country under the banner of the FIS-affiliated Islamic Salvation Army have apparently been successful and have improved the FIS's control throughout the country. The freeing over recent weeks by the government of other leading FIS elements, has apparently contributed to this development.

—Christine Bierre

er have accepted the government policy with no protest for fear that if the FIS comes to power in Algeria, it would create a domino effect throughout the rest of the Maghreb countries, especially in Tunisia and Morocco, which, up to now, have avoided Islamist regimes.

Who controls the Algerian terrorists?

If the FIS is claiming that it is moderate and many of its leaders seek contacts with the West, who, then, are the extremists? For the past couple of years, the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) has been terrorizing foreigners and moderate Islamic and even secular Algerians. Fifty-seven foreigners have been killed all told, a strategy clearly aimed at breaking all Algerian ties to the outside world. Within Algeria, the armed groups are trying to force Islamic law on people who don't necessarily want it. Thus in some areas they have threatened women to wear the *jehab* (veil), or stay inside their houses. They even made death threats against students and teachers, if they attended the beginning of the school year in September.

The GIA, comprised of Afghans—those Islamists who participated in the Afghanistan war against the Soviets—is playing right into the “clash of civilizations” scenario of the Trilateral Commission think-tanker Samuel Huntington, according to which, in this post-communist era, the old East-West political confrontation will be supplanted by a deepening conflict between the Enlightenment-inspired West and a supposed “Islamic-Confucian” monolith on the other.

There is some amount of suspicion that this policy is being promoted by evil circles in advanced countries, in England in particular, who want to rule over a divided world, plunged into wars over ethnic, religious, and cultural differences. Great Britain in particular, has a long tradition of creation and manipulation of “radical Islamists,” who can be deployed against numerous targets.

The British *Guardian* reported that much tension, a “diplomatic rift” even, occurred between Britain and France over the issue of British laxity toward radical Islamists on its territory. The French were pointing notably to a conference of the Hizb ut-Tahrir which took place at the Wembley Hall in Britain, on Aug. 8. Indeed this is one of the most extreme Islamic groups. Further inquiry into the group revealed, however, that it is a group of “extremist hotheads” which has received massive backup for a little over a year, from the British establishment. Created in Jordan about 25 years ago, this radical group remained very small until about a year ago when the British elite started lavishing media attention on it. The group received two pages of coverage in the *Guardian* and was covered by national TV. The *Independent* called it the most important international Islamic conference in the recent period, while the BBC ran hourly commercials for it. It is thus that this group, which could only bring out 10-15 people to demonstrations one year ago, was able to gather 8,000 at the Wembley meeting.

Book Reviews

China's murderous anti-family policy

by Sabine Muehler

A Mother's Ordeal

by Steven Mosher

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, 1994

288 pages, hardbound, \$21.95

The following first appeared in the German weekly Neue Solidarität as a review of the book Der zerrissene Herz, by Chi An and Steven Mosher, which is the German translation of A Mother's Ordeal. All quotes that appear in this review have been translated from the German.

The wish to have children, to found a family, is one of the most basic rights and most private domains of each married couple. To curtail and control this right means a degradation of individual freedom. But this is exactly what the United Nations sought at their population conference in Cairo. Although the conference strategists avoided, in the more recent period, praising China's one-child policy too much, still, in the World Population Report 1990 of the U.N. Population Fund, it is positively mentioned that China managed to reduce the number of children to 2.2 per woman in less than two decades.

Now, a book has appeared in Germany, co-authored by Chinese nurse Chi An, on her work as an enforcer in family policy, and by American social scientist Steven Mosher. In a very moving way, Chi An exposes the practice and effects of population control. The report was published in German under the title, *Das zerrissene Herz*, or *The Lacerated Heart*.

In the preface, Steven Mosher, who pulled together Chi An's eyewitness report, explains the incredible situation he found when conducting research in China in 1980. He followed the women who were forcibly transported to the county hospital; watched the abortions and sterilizations; talked to depressed husbands and desperate grandparents, and held interviews with responsible functionaries. In closing he writes: “When I left China a few months later, the cries for