

# International Intelligence

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## **Mulroney case a Canadian landmark**

Former Tory Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney will be questioned in a Montreal courtroom in April regarding his \$50 million libel suit against the Canadian government, reported the Daily News Internet service April 12. It promises to be a dramatic high point in a case that is fast on its way to becoming a Canadian legal and political landmark.

The former prime minister is suing the government and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) for suggestions that he received kickbacks in the \$1.8 billion sale of 34 jetliners to Air Canada by Airbus Industrie in 1988. It is the first time that a former prime minister has made such a court appearance. Three days—April 17, April 20, and April 27—have been set aside for a pre-trial process known as examination on discovery.

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## **Why Russian science is at a standstill**

In an interview published in *Argumenty I Fakty*, No. 14, April 1996, with Academician Vitaly Goldansky, who is an adviser of the Russian Academy Sciences, interviewer Natalya Zhelnorova asked why Russian science is at a standstill. Goldansky replied: "Our science is wrestling with Hamlet's question: To be or not to be. On the one hand the dismissive attitude of the authorities toward the vital interests of basic science and the risible (laughter through tears!) level of appropriations for science are increasingly obvious. On the other, the sharp decline in the prestige of science and scientists in society, and instead of being a panacea, science has come to be regarded as the source of all troubles."

The interview concluded with the following: "I wondered whether a rank-and-file scientist who had made, in his opinion, an outstanding discovery which shook science's foundations could evoke interest among the leading lights of science and ob-

tain their support," writes Zhelnorova. "The academician's response was as follows. If the question dealt with the 'holy of holies,' the principal axioms and theorems of physics and mechanics, that is, no respectable scientist would either try to grasp or investigate this 'discovery.' If with something small-scale and clarifying, certainly, but big things—do not encroach.

"Perhaps this is why we have few striking discoveries and sensations? Or perhaps it is good like this for venerable scientists—all is clear and comprehensible?"

Goldansky also criticized the "burgeoning of bogus science and pseudo-science," saying that when the media "serve up various pieces of twaddle, this is depressing, of course. Bio-fields, telekinesis, astrology, ESP, Filipino medicine, the other world, in which time moves backward, deflection of the flow of elementary particles by the power of thought—there is no limit to this claptrap, to which, unfortunately, perfectly respectable people and the news media are no strangers at times."

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## **Pope urges dialogue in visit to Muslim Tunisia**

Pope John Paul II visited Tunisia on April 14, for a one-day trip which included a mass in Tunis's 19th-century cathedral, a meeting in Carthage with Tunisian President Zine al Abidine Ben Ali and about 400 Tunisian religious and cultural leaders, a visit to a Roman amphitheater where Christians had been martyred in the third century, and an address to North African bishops. The purpose of the visit was to promote tolerance and dialogue with Muslims, according to wire stories.

At the Carthage meeting, John Paul II paid tribute to the spirit of tolerance he said had allowed Christianity to survive in the overwhelmingly Muslim country. He said dialogue between Christians and Muslims had to be inspired by a real desire to know and accept one another and by a common responsibility to protect life and human dignity and to speak up for the weakest members of society. "The opening to each other

is, in some way, an answer to God who admits our differences and wants us to know each other more deeply," the pope said.

At the meeting with bishops, the pope said, "No one can kill in God's name, no one can accept bringing death upon his brother," addressing bishops from Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. "Show your conviction that God is the God of life, that He seeks the life of man and not his death."

The pope's spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, called it "another step in his continued opening to Islam" after visits to other predominantly Muslim countries in Africa and Asia. Navarro-Valls noted the pope's own frequently expressed dream to mark the Jubilee year 2000 with a pilgrimage to the Biblical lands of the Middle East in the footsteps of Abraham and Moses.

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## **TB rise reaches alarming rates in Russia**

Since 1991, the rates of tuberculosis infection in Russia have been growing steadily, rising in 1994 by 42% among adults and by 62.2% among children, *Izvestia* reported on April 11. In absolute numbers, it reached 48 per 100,000 in adults and 12 per 100,000 in children. The most affected age group is 40-59, with rates in males being three times higher than in females. Rural inhabitants are affected 10-15% more often than urban population. The mortality rate among patients increased to 87% and comprised 14 cases per 100,000 in the general population in 1994.

"Under the old system, annual prophylactic checks of the population were obligatory and controls were very strict," Russian Health Ministry expert Lev Kapkov told the newspaper. "Now we cannot violate peoples' rights by subjecting them to compulsory examination and treatment. And these people are increasingly falling ill and dying."

The worst situation is in the Russian Far East and Siberia, where rates are reaching 106 cases per 100,000 in some places, as well as in Tuva, Dagestan, Kalmykia, Chechnya, Ingushetia, and the indigenous peoples of the Far North. In endemic zones,

frequency is 50 times higher than the average in the country.

*Izvestia* also noted that the system of preventive treatment of tuberculosis, which was well developed in the Soviet Union, collapsed after 1992, when the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted legislation on self-management, i.e., legislation that proposed that health care be financed from local budgets.

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### ***Brazilian 'landless' clash with military***

A confrontation between members of Brazil's "Landless Movement" (MST) and military police, during a demonstration in the state of Minas Gerais, left five people wounded, Brazilian newspapers reported on April 10. Police arrested 15 of the demonstrators, including a priest, for refusing to obey a judicial order not to carry sickles (as in the communist emblem, hammer and sickle) and other farm tools during their demonstration, part of a national march for "agrarian reform." The "Landless" had defied the judicial order, arguing that the sickles were merely agricultural implements.

"Those tools, in an urban setting, are very dangerous weapons, used by the 'Landless' to intimidate anyone who stands on their way," replied police Colonel Couto. The incident in Minas Gerais is part of a national offensive being waged by the MST and their controllers in the CUT labor federation, which is in turn controlled by the Workers Party (PT) of the narco-terrorist international run out of Castro's Cuba, known as the São Paulo Forum.

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### ***New world order to grab more of Colombia?***

Retired Army general and former Presidential candidate Alvaro Valencia Tovar penned a column in the daily *El Tiempo* on April 12 warning that the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to bring international observers and negotiators into the terrorist-racked northwest region of Uraba, could lead to Colombia's losing that

region, just as it lost Panama nearly a century ago.

Echoing the longstanding warnings of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement, founded by co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche, that the "new world order" is trying to separate this strategic region from Colombian territory, Valencia Tovar wrote that Uraba contains the Atrato and Truandó rivers, which cross that narrow isthmus just below Panama, and which invite the construction of a series of locks which would enable it to complement, or replace, the obsolescent Panama Canal.

However, Valencia warns: "If the guerrillas were truly a patriotic force inspired by service to the highest national interests, they would not persist in sowing chaos and terror in what they aspire to turn into a 'liberated region.' We could lose Uraba any day, just as we lost Panama."

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### ***Major drug depot found in Kazakhstan***

Kazakhstani customs officials and members of the State Investigation Committee intercepted a major narcotics shipment base in Almaty, arresting several members of a Kazakh-Tajik drug-smuggling ring and seizing large quantities of raw opium and marijuana, Itar-Tass wires reported on April 8.

The base was part of a route that runs from Pakistan and Afghanistan, through Central Asia, and on to Russia and other former Soviet states. A State Investigation Committee official told Itar-Tass that an arrest in March at Almaty Airport of a number of Tajik citizens, who had more than 12 kg. of raw opium and 5 kg. of hashish valued at more than \$1 million, led to the later arrests at the Almaty base. Drug-smuggling rings are increasingly using Kazakhstan as a transit country, because it has good air links with other former Soviet countries and eastern Europe.

The use of narcotics as a means of destabilizing Central Asia was featured in the April 12, 1996 *EIR* cover story, "British Monarchy Rapes the Transcaucasus—Again."

## ***Briefly***

**SPAIN'S** wealthy northeastern region of Catalonia, which holds the balance of power after inconclusive national elections, wants a special status similar to Quebec Province in Canada. Catalonia's president Jordi Pujol made this remark to a newspaper in the Catalan capital of Barcelona on April 12.

**RUSSIAN** President Boris Yeltsin denied reports on April 12 that he had ordered a halt to demarcation of the border with China, which first came out in a radio interview given by the governor of the far eastern Primorsk region, Yevgeny Nazdratenko. Yeltsin suggested that Nazdratenko, who has often been at odds with Moscow, consult a doctor.

**HIGHEST ECHELONS** of the British establishment, centered around the Queen's Privy Council, have decided that new elections should be held on Oct. 10 in the United Kingdom, a Russian source with high-level ties in Britain told *EIR*.

**NARCO-SATANISM** is a good subject for study during the Easter season, advised Colombian columnist Reinaldo Delgado López in a column for *El Nuevo Siglo* published April 15. He recommended reading the Spanish edition of *Dope, Inc.*, saying that the book on the international drug cartel was written by *EIR* investigators under the direction of Lyndon LaRouche. LaRouche's name is rarely mentioned in Colombia's media.

**AN ARCTIC COUNCIL**, brainchild of Prince Philip, which aims to turn the Arctic into one of the largest "native preserves" on the globe, was agreed upon between Canada's new Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and his Russian counterpart, Yevgeni Primakov, during talks in Moscow in early April.