

International Intelligence

Pope, Muslims denounce murder of Oran bishop

In the latest escalation of the Algerian civil war, the Catholic bishop of Oran, Msgr. Pierre Claverie, and his chauffeur were killed when an explosive detonated as they entered the bishop's residence on Aug. 1. Claverie had warned that same day, following the visit of French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, that terrorists would pull off something big in response to the visit.

During the Sunday Angelus on Aug. 4, Pope John Paul II called Claverie a martyr, and stressed that the murder "took place in that country where he had devoted most of his life to the small Catholic community, while nourishing a deep friendship with countless Muslims. . . . His martyrdom shall be transformed . . . into a cause for hope."

On Aug. 2, the "Foreign Executive Body" of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) "vigorously" condemned the murder, saying that it could only take place in the crisis created by the fact that the Algerian government refuses to negotiate with the FIS. Nonetheless, "the political crisis into which Algeria is presently plunged, will not be allowed to become a clash between the monotheistic religions which have always coexisted and continue to coexist in Algeria."

French continue legal assault vs. Cheminade

On July 24, a French court bailiff gave a 48-hour warning to Jacques Cheminade, the head of the Solidarity and Progress organization, who made Lyndon LaRouche's political method the centerpiece of his 1995 French Presidential candidacy: Either "reimburse" the French state 1 million francs it advanced to his campaign organization, or have all his possessions seized and sold. The reason given is that "the Constitutional Council rejected his campaign account."

Last Oct. 10, the council broke its own rule that political candidates may not engage in interest-bearing loan transactions and invented an entirely opposite "rule," saying

that interest-free loans made to the Cheminade Presidential campaign should have been reported as gifts. That supposed "misreporting" was the basis for the council to refuse to pay an additional FF 3 million it owed Cheminade, and make the unprecedented demand that he personally reimburse the first million.

On July 26, the bailiff arrived at Cheminade's apartment to inventory his belongings, while he was in Germany speaking at a Schiller Institute conference. The bailiff acknowledged that Cheminade has no money, and listed his personal belongings as "one table, an armchair, a desk, four chairs, a nice wardrobe and 500 books." All this is scheduled for a Sept. 26 auction. Cheminade is taking legal action to stop this outrage.

Sources stress the importance of the fact that he is the only 1995 Presidential candidate not reimbursed for his campaign expenses, although both Jacques Chirac and Edouard Balladur flouted numerous election financing rules with complete impunity.

Clinton aide describes China, N. Korea policy

U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), who has several times visited North Korea to negotiate on behalf of President Clinton, told a Foreign Press Center briefing July 19 that National Security Adviser Anthony Lake's trip to China and South Korea had advanced U.S. relations with China and North Korea enormously. He described a Clinton strategy for getting North Korea to agree to four-party Korean peninsula peace talks.

As a result of the Lake trip, he said, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, had publicly announced for the first time China's willingness to participate in the Clinton plan for four-power Korean peace talks, with the United States, South Korea, and North Korea. China's agreement, he stressed, was a major prerequisite to North Korea's finally agreeing to join the talks, which they have not yet done.

During his last trip to Pyongyang this spring, Richardson had negotiated a three-step plan to bring North Korea into the talks,

which, he predicted, would soon come to pass. In Pyongyang, he unconditionally offered food aid from the U.S. and others. In return, he was told that North Korea "would do two things. One, they would allow for the joint recovery operations, which have happened, of American servicemen. And two, they would agree to a joint briefing" by the U.S. and South Korea, on the four-power talks proposal, which would be an overture to the talks.

British court: Jet sabotage was 'morally justified'

A court in Liverpool, U.K. acquitted four women on July 30 of charges of causing £1.5 million damage to a military jet, which, the women had charged, would be used by the Indonesian government against rebels in East Timor. The women had broken into a British Aerospace factory in Lancashire in January, and were caught attempting to disarm a Hawk jet.

The Liverpool court accepted the women's argument, that the damage was morally justified because of the Indonesian government's use of Hawk jets to bomb rebels in East Timor. Joanna Wilson, one of the defendants, boasted that the decision was "a victory for justice, it's a victory for the people of East Timor, and it means that the people of Liverpool have recognized that a crime is being committed by British Aerospace and the British government." British Aerospace said it had no evidence that the Hawk aircraft were being used in any manner "contrary to assurances provided by the Indonesian government to the British government."

Chirac proposes fund to buy Colombian coca

French President Jacques Chirac proposed the creation of an international fund to purchase coca from producers, during the visit of Colombian narco-President Ernesto Samper Pizano to France. According to the Bogotá daily *El Espectador* of Aug. 3, this was one of the proposals Chirac made to the

Briefly

AUSTRALIA'S MEDIA are having conniptions over newly appointed Catholic Archbishop George Pell. Pell, who is close to the Vatican, has denounced the country's chief animal rights activist as "King Herod's propaganda chief in Australia," and announced his opposition to the Howard government's "privatization" of state assets.

JOE KENNEDY, the Massachusetts Democrat, challenged British Prime Minister John Major to get serious about restarting the Irish peace talks on July 29: "If Major can meet with the Protestant paramilitaries in Westminster, then maybe, if he truly wants to get the British talks and the peace talks back on track, he ought to invite [Sinn Fein President] Gerry Adams to Westminster."

A BOMB IN INDIA injured 55 people on Aug. 2 when it exploded under a bus in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu. The bus ran over the explosives, which set them off. Tamil Nadu was previously the stronghold of Indian sympathy for the Sri Lankan "Tamil Tigers," and was a safe haven for them.

SOMALIA clan warrior Mohamed Farah Aideed died on Aug. 2 in Mogadishu of wounds received from a gunfight, and from an assassination attempt over the July 27-28 weekend. A committee of 30 has been appointed by his United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance to come up with a replacement leader. Aideed's Washington spokesman said he was killed by those "in the services of an international conspiracy." Aideed had declared war on UN peacekeeping forces in Somalia.

FRANCE has been banned from the South Pacific Nations Forum, by its 16 member-nations in retaliation for its nuclear tests in the South Pacific in late 1995 and early 1996. French aid to the South Pacific region, not including its own territories, is about \$25 million per year, and France has hinted that that may be in jeopardy if it isn't invited.

Colombian President. *El Espectador* dedicates an entire page to Colombian reactions to the proposal, most of which, according to the daily, were positive.

Publicity on Chirac's proposal coincides with the strike of coca producers in southeastern Colombia, which is escalating in violence. In Puerto Asis, two people died and 26 were wounded, after strikers tried to take over the local airport guarded by Army troops. Strikers burned the town's only ambulance, and set up brigades to prohibit all movement of vehicles or people. Meantime, international wires charged that Army and police units were violating the strikers' human rights.

Army Commander Gen. Harold Bedoya reiterated that the strikers' objective is to force the government to halt programs to eradicate coca cultivation with glyphosate. The strikers, he said, "are manipulated by the FARC guerrillas, partners of the Cali and Medellín cartels."

Accord on Palestinian state was near in 1995

Leading participants in the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian peace talks revealed on July 31 that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat had reached a preliminary agreement on the establishment of a Palestinian state, in October 1995, two weeks before Rabin was murdered. Yossi Beilin, a top negotiator and aide to then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, disclosed details, which were confirmed by Ibrahim Kreishe, a senior Palestinian negotiator.

A Palestinian state was to be set up in most of the West Bank and Gaza. Ten percent of the West Bank would be annexed by Israel, to put most Jewish settlers under Israeli control; Israel was to give the Palestinians some land near the Gaza Strip in exchange. The capital of Palestine would be either "in the area of East Jerusalem" or "in a West Bank suburb of Jerusalem." The present city of Jerusalem would remain under Israeli control, with wide-ranging autonomy for Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem.

After Rabin's murder on Nov. 4, Beilin proposed that an Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles be drafted and presented to Israel's voters, but the proposal lay fallow, during the election campaign.

Now, the government of Benjamin Netanyahu has lifted the freeze on building new Jewish settlements on the West Bank, which had been imposed by the Labor government. The move poses a great threat to the peace process.

Challenge to Australian euthanasia law dismissed

Australia's Northern Territory Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the world's first statute legalizing "assisted suicide," in late July, and declared "The Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, 1995" valid. The challenge had been organized by the state head of the Australian Medical Association and a prominent Aboriginal minister. However, the act's future is still not certain, as Victorian Liberal Party MP Kevin Andrews plans to sponsor a federal bill in September which will seek to override the Northern Territory's law.

A report commissioned by the state government has revealed that the Aboriginal population are losing faith in modern medical services due to this law, and that some Aborigines see it as a method of genocide against indigenous people. The law "has heightened fear in Aboriginal communities of injections, health clinics, and hospitals" and threatens years of work by medical professionals in building up the confidence of Aboriginal people in such things as immunization programs. The report cites cases where people are now afraid to go to clinics, and that some "deaths have been ascribed to euthanasia already."

The report also states, that opposition was not confined to Aboriginal communities with strong church links, contrary to euthanasia proponents who say that all Aboriginal opposition stems from disinformation by the churches. Many in the Aboriginal community of the Northern Territory have begun campaigns to repeal the legislation.