

# International Intelligence

## ***Bosnian Presidency invites pope to visit***

On Jan. 25, an official meeting was held in Sarajevo between President Alija Izetbegovic and the Papal Nuncio to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Archbishop Francesco Monterisi, to prepare for the visit of Pope John Paul II to Sarajevo, expected to take place on April 12-13. The invitation to the pope was extended last November by the country's collective Presidency, comprised of Muslim, Croatian, and Serbian members. Izetbegovic had always supported a papal visit as a way of reinforcing the country's multicultural tradition.

In September 1994, John Paul had to cancel a trip to Sarajevo when the British-dominated UN forces went along with threats by the Karadzic Serbs who were laying siege to Sarajevo, and said that Unprofor was not in a position to guarantee the "safety" of the pope.

## ***Club of Life intervenes vs. euthanasia in Europe***

Club of Life representatives Jutta Dinkermann and Dr. Wolfgang Lillge argued on behalf of a petition to a European Parliament committee in Brussels, attacking the attempts by the European Commission to kill off coma patients under the so-called "Bio-med program." The petition by the Club of Life, founded in 1982 by Helga Zepp LaRouche, had first been presented in 1995.

Dinkermann's statement blasted the arguments on behalf of "patients' rights to autonomy" and similar drivel, as a thin cover for medical budget-balancing, by denying life-giving care to the chronically ill.

"In this regard," she said, "the austerity criteria of the Maastricht Treaty play a decisive role in pushing through such policies.

"In the midst of such cost-cutting mania and austerity measures in the medical sector, the bioethicists with their so-called 'purely objective utilitarian criteria' are being boosted. Their utilitarian ethics would decide which human lives are supposedly no

longer worth living. . . .

"We wish to point out that the Statutes of the Nuremberg Trials (1945-49) against leading Nazis do not define 'crimes against humanity' as being solely war crimes or genocide. It was also explicitly stressed for future generations that homicide by 'providing insufficient hospital and medical care' is also a 'crime against humanity.' These statutes represent current law in force and also apply to every politician who enforces an austerity policy which, foreseeably, seriously endangers the lives and health of his fellow citizens."

## ***Ramsey Clark: End deadly sanctions against Iraq***

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark renewed calls for an end to the UN Security Council's sanctions against Iraq, in a statement released on Dec. 28 by the International Commission of Inquiry on Economic Sanctions, of which he is co-president. In his statement, Clark described the sanctions as "genocide" and "crimes against humanity."

Clark's statement, sent to *EIR* by the Iraqi Embassy in Australia, was accompanied by a cover letter that documented the soaring mortality rates among Iraqis under age 5 and over 50, directly attributable to sanctions. In December 1989, the numbers of deaths from diarrhea, pneumonia, and malnutrition among children under five were 101, 117, and 81, respectively. In December 1996, those figures had ballooned to: diarrhea, 1,176; pneumonia, 2,173; and malnutrition, 2,458, representing effective increases in the mortality rate in those categories of over ten times, 17 times, and 29 times, respectively. Similarly, deaths among those over 50 in 1989 due to hypertension (82 deaths), diabetes (90 deaths), and malignant neoplasms (347 deaths), increased to 461, 346, and 1519, respectively, in 1996.

In his statement, Ramsey Clark said, "The victims are overwhelmingly infants, children, the elderly, and the chronically ill, the very segments of society every civilized people try hardest to protect."

## ***Jesuit calls for Mexico to legalize prostitution***

David Fernández, S.J., called for Mexico to legalize prostitution in a Jan. 22 article in *El Universal*. Only a month earlier, the Jesuit had penned a slander in *Reforma* magazine against the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) and its leader Marivilia Carrasco, charging that the MSIA was behind death threats to himself and his Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center. Fernández is also the recipient of an award from Human Rights Watch/Americas, a terrorist-apologist gang, which got its seed money from drug legalization moneybags George Soros.

In *El Universal*, Fernández notes how pleased he is that the Mexico City Human Rights Commission recommended that "the practice of prostitution be legally regulated." Of special importance, Fernández states, is the proposal to "curb the abuses of whorehouse owners, which affect the rights of citizens and 'sex workers.'" However, he adds, "We oppose the idea of establishing a health ID card, because . . . if the proposal were to include the results of HIV tests, this would constitute a violation of the voluntary nature of this test, as established in Mexican law."

## ***Mulroney gets apology, but criminal probe goes on***

Canada's government announced on Jan. 6 an interim legal settlement with former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who is being investigated on charges of having taken a \$5-million bribe from Airbus to sell planes to Air Canada, then still government-owned, in 1988. Mulroney is a close political partner of George Bush, and derives a large proportion of his income as Bush's underling at the Barrick Gold Corporation.

Mulroney sued the Canadian Justice Department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for libel, to try to derail the investigation. The government has now agreed to pay his legal expenses and apologize, but not to

stop the investigation. When Canadian police had first begun probing the alleged bribe in 1989, Mulroney was prime minister; the probe was cancelled.

But, in 1995, with Mulroney now a private citizen, the Canadian Justice Department sent a letter to Swiss authorities, asking them to freeze three bank accounts in which it believed Mulroney had stashed his loot from the Airbus sale. The confidential letter stated that the matter concerned criminal actions by a former prime minister, in "an ongoing scheme . . . to defraud the Canadian government." The letter was leaked to the Hollinger Corp.'s *Financial Post*, whereupon Mulroney sued the government, on the grounds that the government should have known it would be leaked, and that it would damage his reputation. The settlement notwithstanding, government lawyers have intimated that "the Mulroney camp" leaked the letter.

## ***U.K. to launch theater laser-based ABM system***

Great Britain may begin developing an anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense system, using high-powered lasers aboard modified Boeing 747s, pending cabinet approval of the Ministry of Defense proposal. According to Martin Walker, Washington correspondent for the London *Guardian*, "Although the possibility of defending Britain against missile attack is still being considered, the immediate purpose of the ABM system is to protect British troops deployed overseas in regions like the [Persian] Gulf, where a missile threat is seen as more immediate." In this design, Britain will not be developing its own system, but is planning to "buy in" components from the United States, "and cooperate with other NATO allies in developing a 'theater defense' system." Walker, citing U.S. *Defense News* as his source, continues: "The airborne lasers, designed to shoot down incoming missiles in flight, would be just part of a complex anti-ballistic missile system, which would include early warning satellites and shipborne interceptor missiles."

Judging from Walker's report, the idea behind the defense system is coherent with former U.S. Defense Secretary "Sir" Caspar Weinberger's doomsday novel *The Next War*. Walker reports: "Britain and other European countries are watching closely, the prospect of 'rogue regimes' obtaining missiles which could hit Europe. With countries like India and China, as well as North Korea, developing advanced missile technology, and Russia increasingly willing to sell its own technology, the Ministry of Defense study estimates Britain could be at theoretical risk by 2006."

## ***Chechnya elections surrounded by tension***

On Jan. 23, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov criticized the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, for granting \$600,000 to the Chechen Electoral Commission for the Jan. 27 Presidential and parliamentary elections. Russian law prohibits foreign funding of elections. The OSCE mission chief in Chechnya, Tim Guldimmann, replied that the contributions were reviewed with Security Council Secretary Rybkin and other Russian officials. At his Jan. 22 press conference, Security Council Deputy Secretary Boris Berezovsky said that anyone "who opposes Guldimmann is an enemy of the peace process."

The situation throughout southern Russia is tense, since Chechen authorities limited the vote to within Chechnya's borders. There are 300,000 refugees from Chechnya, most of them ethnic Russians, living in the southern provinces of Stavropol and Krasnodar (the centers of Cossack activity), and in other north Caucasus republics. Moscow authorities may challenge the elections because of the refugees' exclusion.

On the same day, the Federation Council voted 103-3 to demand that President Boris Yeltsin fire Berezovsky, after he had gone on ORT TV (which he owns), telling the Terek Cossacks in southern Russia that he backed their demands for arms, against possible attacks by Chechen bands.

**GEORGE SOROS'S** Open Society Foundation paid \$500,000 in back taxes to Croatia, one month after the Croatian branch was charged with tax evasion and other crimes. Belying its "open society" name, the foundation had been keeping a separate set of books from the ones it opened up to authorities.

**THE MOUNTAIN GORILLAS** in Virunga National Park in Zaire are "enjoying a break from poaching and habitat destruction with the departure of Zairean soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees, conservationists say," according to a "human interest" dispatch from a British news outlet on Jan. 13. The park is now occupied by Laurent "Hitler" Kabila's mercenary Rwandan and Ugandan troops.

**SERBIA'S OPPOSITION** was invited to Paris by Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette in early February, which he characterized as "equivalent to French government recognition of the leaders of the opposition coalition Zajedno ['Together']." He added a warning to "Serbian authorities against a violent drift which can only lead to catastrophe for the country."

**SWISS ATTORNEY** Hans Kopp, has lost his license to practice in both Zurich and his hometown of Lucerne. Kopp received a one-year suspended sentence in 1991, for his active role in the fraudulent 1982 liquidation of Trans-KB, a firm that played a murky role on the Swiss end of George Bush's dirty international weapons-for-drugs deals.

**MICHAEL HESELTINE**, Britain's deputy prime minister, would not rule out the possibility that Prime Minister John Major could call general elections for March. Heseltine told the *Irish Times* on Feb. 3, that a March polling date was "an option," rather than the elections now expected to take place in May.