

International Intelligence

Pope seeks to re-start Mideast peace effort

Pope John Paul II sent letters to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on June 16 expressing his deep concern over the reversal in the Middle East peace process, the Vatican revealed on June 27. In his letters, the Pope said the Holy See is "always open" to Palestinians and Israelis who sincerely seek peace. To Arafat, he wrote: "I am deeply worried and I share the pain of those, especially among the Palestinians and the Israelis, who feel demoralized and frustrated and, despite this, do not abandon themselves to the terrible temptation to re-ignite the conflict and bring it to the highest level of hate and violence. . . . My fear is that if this situation continues, it will become increasingly difficult to revive the quest for the trust that is essential to every negotiation."

Speaking to the international radio broadcast "EIR Talks," on July 2, Lyndon LaRouche remarked that the Pope is "an ecumenicist, in the real sense," in the tradition of the 1439 Council of Florence and Nicolaus of Cusa's dialogue *On the Peace of Faith*. "The Pope has, in addition to an ecumenical relationship within Christianity, as typified by his efforts to bring about ecumenical dialogue with the Eastern churches . . . also been zealous in trying to open up dialogues with Islam, and with Judaism." John Paul II "has always sought to establish the peace of faith; and this is what he's doing in this case. He's intervening where intervention is needed," he said.

Algerian regime frees Islamist leader Hachani

Algerian authorities released Abdelkader Hachani, the leader of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), from prison this month. On July 7, Hachani, charged with seeking to undermine state security, was sentenced to five years in prison, but had already spent over five years in pre-trial detention. The official Algerian news

agency APS, cited an unnamed prosecutor that his sentence was being retroactively applied to time served. Earlier in July, the FIS executive in exile said that Hachani's release "would certainly contribute to an easing of tensions required to promote the necessary climate for a return to peace and stability."

FIS had won the first round of elections in 1992, when the military cancelled the second round and assumed power. Since then, the country has been plunged into a civil war between the junta and the London-backed terrorist Armed Islamic Groups (GIA), both of which target FIS members. Coinciding with Hachani's expected release, "suspected Muslim terrorists" went on a murder spree, killing 51 civilians, including a baby and 12 women. Earlier in the week, "rebels" bombed a funeral in Ouzera, killing 18. And in Algiers, "rebels" reportedly cut the throats of three soccer fans caught at a fake roadblock.

Ukrainian hunger strike lashes out at IMF

The office of Dr. Natalya Vitrenko, member of the Supreme Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and chairman of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, announced on July 8 that over 60 PSPU leaders had begun a hunger strike against the government's economic policies and International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities. Most of the strikers gathered in a public area next to the Ukrainian Parliament building, and had the support of other groups which threw up picket lines. The strike lasted July 7-9.

In February, Dr. Vitrenko and Schiller Institute President Helga Zepp LaRouche launched an international appeal to President Clinton to convene a New Bretton Woods Conference, that would reorganize the IMF's bankrupt international financial system.

Referring to the 1997 budget and 1998 budget resolution as "against the national interest," the statement from Vitrenko's office, said that the PSPU, "resorting to the extreme social protest measure of a mass hunger strike, demands:

"1. An immediate elimination of wage and pension arrears, full employment in existing jobs, and creation of new jobs.

"2. An immediate self-dissolution of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine and the organization of new parliamentary elections in November 1997.

"3. The complete resignation of the P. Lazarenko government, and filing of a suit with the General Prosecutor's Office against Prime Minister of Ukraine Pavel Lazarenko, and the members of the Council of Ministers, complicit in plundering the budget of Ukraine.

"4. The resignation of President of Ukraine L. Kuchma, and the scheduling of new Presidential elections, simultaneous with parliamentary elections, in November 1997.

"5. Holding of a nationwide referendum on the question of Ukraine's social-economic development, and the adoption of a new Constitution of Ukraine."

Cox's CSI gang cooks up big lie against Myanmar

Investigations by *EIR* have turned up another disinformation operation by Baroness Caroline Cox's Christian Solidarity International. The lie is that the military government, SLORC, set off an epidemic in eastern Myanmar (Burma), among Karen refugees. The Karen, a Christian minority, whom the British had set up as the officer corps in the British Burma Army, and who have the longest-running insurgency since independence, compiled their own report on the epidemic, in early 1994.

According to a 1996 report by Australian military intelligence expert Andrew Selth, in late 1994, Cox took a CSI team to Myanmar, and "reported that over 300 Karens had died from epidemics, which appeared to have resulted from air drops of 'white boxes.' . . . An Australian member of the CSI team also claimed that Burmese military personnel had visited Germany in 1993 for training in 'germ warfare.'" The "white boxes" were found to be radiosondes for weather forecasting. Truth (and injunctions about bearing false witness) notwithstanding, in 1995,

TONI NEGRI, now 65, returned to Italy, where the founder of the 1970s Autonomia Operaia terrorist group faces more than five years in prison. Negri, who has “converted” to the federalism of the secessionists such as the Northern League, had spent his exile teaching economics at the Sorbonne in Paris. Negri is confident an old-fashioned “people’s movement” will keep him out of prison.

CHIEF PSYCHOLOGIST of the women’s prison at Lübeck-Lauerhof, Germany, was taken hostage briefly by a 23-year-old convicted killer. The hostage, Meike Wille, is the wife of the chief investigator into the murder of former Schleswig-Holstein Gov. Uwe Barschel, whose death in October 1987 was ruled a suicide. Barschel died in Geneva, where he went to meet with shadowy individuals in the Oliver North-George Bush gun-running operations.

THE BRITISH are fomenting a separatist movement in Iran that would break away and join with Azerbaijan, a Russian source told *EIR*. “Precedents are there. We, in the Soviet Union, supported an ‘Independent Republic of North Azerbaijan,’ in 1943. But the British are playing this card again. It should be watched closely.”

OPIUM PRICES have skyrocketed since Myanmar cracked down on drug trafficking, according to Peter Haymond, of the U.S. Department of State Division of Narcotic Affairs. Haymond resides in Vientiane, Laos, where production has increased since “the doubling and tripling of opium prices on the Burmese border after the well-known trafficker Khun Sa went into semi-retirement in Burma.”

ARIEL SHARON lost his bid to take over Israel’s Finance Ministry, because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was forced to make concessions to Foreign Minister David Levy, who had threatened to resign from the shaky government. Netanyahu named former Justice Minister Yaacov Neeman to the Finance post.

the London *Times* continued the CSI big lie campaign, demurring that tests on the “mysterious objects” from the sky “were described as ‘inconclusive,’ but the British experts were later quoted as saying that the objects were ‘consistent with the covert use of germ warfare.’”

UN Drug Control Program confirms global plague

The UN Drug Control Program released its first report in late June, estimating international revenues from illegal drugs at \$400 billion—only slightly below *EIR*’s estimate in the July 26, 1996 cover story “Britain’s Dope, Inc. Grows to a \$521 Billion Business.” The UN report, issued from Vienna, said:

- Amphetamines and other stimulants, such as Ecstasy, showed the strongest growth, and that drug cartels which used to grow and refine drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, are starting to manufacture methamphetamine which is used to produce Ecstasy.

- The \$400 billion revenue from illicit drugs is 8% of total global trade, and more than the sum of world trade in iron, steel, and motor vehicles in 1994.

- Some 3.3-4.1% of the world’s population consume illicit drugs; 30 million people use amphetamine-type stimulants annually, while 13 million are addicted to cocaine and 8 million to heroin; roughly two-thirds of the world’s heroin users are in Asia.

Italian Army scandals aid British plans

Italian Army officers who are crucial to Italy’s peacekeeping efforts in nearby Albania, are suddenly being hit with charges of misconduct during Italy’s deployment with the UN Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, in 1992-94. Three top generals have been forced to resign, according to the Italian journal *Panorama* in June.

The dredging up of scandals, in which one leading “witness” has already been exposed as a liar, is jeopardizing the multinational force in Albania, which has so far pre-

vented that country from exploding into all-out civil war. The Italian military is supplying the main contingent, as well as the command structure, of the multinational force in Albania. Gen. Luigi Cantoni, who is in Albania, was forced to resign as commander of the Folgore paratroopers, the elite corps of the Italian Army. All three generals are from the south, no small detail, given that the Army would be called on to face down an insurrection by London’s Northern League separatists.

Another reason why London may be taking out its fury against the Italian Army is that, since the Italians took over Albanian ports, in April, the newest drug route to Italy has been shut down. According to unconfirmed reports from sources, George Soros, who has bankrolled drug-legalization campaigns internationally, has bought marijuana plantations in Albania.

German Jewish leader blasts Africa holocaust

Israeli-born German Jewish author Michael Wolffsohn loosed a broadside against the international hypocrisy in the face of the genocide ongoing in Africa, in the June 26 German daily *Bildzeitung*. Headlined “Genocide in Africa—And Everybody Is Talking about Elephants,” Wolffsohn wrote, “Genocide in Africa. Between 200-300,000 human beings have been killed brutally in Congo. What are people talking about, at the same time? Only a few kilometers away, an international conference is discussing the protection of African elephants. This is okay. But where is the protection for African humans?”

Worse, he said, look at Denver, at the G-7 summit: Much was discussed, but not the Middle East powderkeg, not the genocide in Congo. In Denver, the Europeans lobbied for the protection of the forests. But the protection of humans? In Denver, it was resolved to integrate Africa into the world trade system. In Germany, he trenchantly concluded, we can expect typical Sunday sermons about how the Nazi Holocaust was not prevented. But as of now, the new genocide is being not prevented either.