

International Intelligence

Lawyers scramble to keep lid on pedophile scandal

The drama surrounding the allegations of a high-level pedophile cover-up in New South Wales, Australia, escalated on Oct. 16 when Labour MP Franca Arena, who made the allegations, was taken to hospital with chest pains. Arena had been unsuccessfully challenging efforts to compel her to testify before a judicial inquiry ostensibly set up to investigate her allegations, charging that it breached the privilege that allows an MP to speak in Parliament with immunity.

Meanwhile, the judicial inquiry itself erupted into pandemonium when Kate Wentworth, the niece of a famous former federal MP, blurted out the name of a senior judge as one of the pedophiles, whose name she had confidentially given to the investigatory the Wood Royal Commission. Sensing that she was about to name the judge, the legal representatives began shouting to drown her out. The presiding judge, Justice John Nadar QC, quickly urged her not to name names, to which she replied, "I already have." Nadar issued a suppression order to prevent the name's being published.

African 'peacekeeping' force being set up

Several western countries, Japan, and Russia met with some 20 African countries in Dakar, Senegal on Oct. 21 to move forward a project to establish an all-African supranational "peacekeeping" force. According to the Paris daily *Le Monde* of Oct. 18, the non-African countries participating included France, the United States, Canada, Belgium, Russia, Japan, and Italy.

The original initiative, proposed by the U.S., Britain, and France last year, to be run under international auspices, was rejected, according to *Le Monde*, by the Africans, who insisted that the force be operated by the participant nations themselves. Under a subsequent French proposal called Recamp, the U.S., Britain, and France will furnish training

and equipment to the new force. Already, maneuvers are being set up for February 1998, with a large multinational maneuver called "Guidimakhra" to be held in Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal, with 3,000-3,500 men. In addition to the armies of Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal, those of Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, and Cape Verde will take part.

Shortly before the Dakar seminar, French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine toured both former French and British colonies, and announced a "new Africa" policy, which sounds more like a neo-colonial extension of France's "Entente Cordiale" with the British Empire. Vedrine's trip included Ethiopia where he met with President Meles Zenawi, a puppet of Ugandan dictator Yoweri Museveni. In addition, Vedrine addressed ambassadors from the Organization for African Unity, whom he assured that France's "renewed engagement" would mean "no meddling in internal conflicts."

While France is cutting its military cooperation budget in Africa by 4.9%, Vedrine declared that France will contribute the equivalent of \$1 million toward a crisis-prevention and -management center for Africa, as well as \$30 million toward training and equipping a battalion of African peacekeeping forces. Matériel worth \$3 million, from disbanded French Army units, will be positioned in Dakar, Senegal, where it will equip some 600 African troops. France will also create a troop-training center in Zambakro, Ivory Coast, near the Ghana border.

British Labour Party in bed with MKO terrorists

The Iranian press is gloating about the fact, reported in the London *Guardian* on Oct. 16 that Britain's ruling Labour Party had given delegate status to the Labour Party's congress to terrorists from the Mujaheddin al Khalq (MKO). The MKO is an Iranian opposition movement, based in Iraq, Europe, and the United States, which was just put on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist organizations (see *EIR*, Oct. 24, p. 64).

According to the *Guardian*, Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook "were photographed talking to [MKO] national council members. Their pictures were later displayed in the group's newspaper, *Iran Zamin*."

A release from the Teheran news service, IRNA, commented: "The British Foreign Secretary was seen to be in an untenable position, being responsible for official policy that outlaws the MKO as a terrorist group, while being a member of Labour's national executive committee, recommending support for the resolution," backing the "Iranian people's resistance," an alias for the MKO. While the Foreign Office demurred that the government has "regarded the MKO as a terrorist organization for some years," there was no mention of the fact that the MKO has been allowed to operate in Britain, unimpeded.

Soros blasts Belarus, embraced by Russian TV

Speculator George Soros took his ire out on the tiny nation of Belarus, which had shut down its chapter of the Soros Foundation after the group was charged with evading millions of dollars in taxes. Stopping in nearby Riga, Latvia on Oct. 6, en route to Russia, he attacked Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenko as running a "Presidential dictatorship." The Soros Foundation closed its operations in Belarus, after being charged with evading millions of dollars in taxes. "We shall announce shortly that we intend to continue the support of civic society and individuals from outside Belarus," Soros said at his press conference.

Soros was criss-crossing the former Soviet countries, celebrating the 10th anniversary of his "Open Society" looting in the region. Instead of arresting him, Russian officials and mass media fell over themselves to flatter him. NTV's Mikhail Osokin called him "the scandalously famous Soros," and the network, in its Hero of the Day program, recruited the unctuous anchorman Yevgeny Kiselyov to interview him in St. Petersburg

on Oct. 7. "We know you, Mr. Soros, are not just a businessman, but a politician," cooed Kiselyov. "Unfortunately, you can't run for the U.S. Presidency, as you are not a native U.S. citizen. But why don't you run for President of Hungary?"

Drugs from Afghan war destabilize region

The continuing strife in Afghanistan is creating serious security problems for all its neighbors, not only because of the threat that hostilities may spread, but because of the increasing flow of drugs out of Afghanistan, in all directions. In early October, the Iranian news services reported on several important drug seizures, which indicate the dimensions of the problem, as experienced by Iran.

On Oct. 9, it was announced that 497 kg of illicit drugs had been seized in Yazd over the past six months. In one raid, 167 kg of drugs were seized from 52 smugglers who were arrested in the provincial cities of Ardakan, Mehriz, and Bafq, as well as the capital city of Yazd. Two days earlier, it was announced that some 1,650 kg of narcotics had been seized over the previous month and a half, in Fars province.

On Oct. 11, authorities announced seizures of 1,399 kg of drugs in Khorasan province, in the northeastern part of the country. The narcotics included 1,338 kg of opium and 61 kg of morphine.

Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan restored, reopens

One of the world's greatest libraries, Milan's Biblioteca Ambrosiana, will be open to the public, following seven years of restoration. It was founded in 1609, by Cardinal Federico Borromeo, who had sent eight scholars throughout Europe and the Holy Land, to collect great works.

Its collection includes 400,000 printed volumes, 15,000 manuscripts and 60,000 letters and documents, 12,000 on parchment, 10,000 drawings, 30,000 etchings, and 2,000 Arabic codices. Among the trea-

asures are the following: a fifth-century illustrated edition of Homer's *Iliad*, from Alexandria; the Atlantic codex of Leonardo (402 pages of 1,000 scientific and technical drawings); *De prospectiva pingendi*, by Piero della Francesca; autographed works of Boccaccio, Petrarca, Machiavelli, Tasso, Galileo, Parini, Manzoni, Beccaria, Porta, Fogazzaro, Goethe, Byron, Stendhal, Savonarola, and others. There is an edition of Virgil's poems which belonged to Petrarca, who made his annotations in it; the *Summa contra Gentiles* of St. Thomas Aquinas; a Hebrew Bible, 1,200 years old; a Samaritan Bible from Palestine; a unique Koran. Among the works of art is the immense cartoon of the *School of Athens*, by Raphael.

The Ambrosiana was the first public library in Italy. An 18th-century writer described the library as follows: "Three men help continually to serve the public during the opening hours of the library, bringing the books back and forth. . . . Anyone who comes to study there, is given by the library free, paper, ink and pen." It adds, that provisions were made to make sure students would not suffer from the winter cold.

Australia to certify high school 'McDiploma'

Beginning the next year, cooking a Big Mac hamburger will be an officially accredited high school subject for students studying for the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Known as the Certificate in Food Retail (McDonald's), the new scheme will be open to Year 10, 11, and 12 students, will be marked by assessors from the McDonald's fast-food chain, and will provide points toward the Tertiary Entrance Rank, the points system which determines students' eligibility for university positions.

The scheme is the brainchild of Federal Education Minister Dr. David Kemp, who said, "This . . . will open the door to tens of thousands of students [and] will give children a head start in the jobs market." Kemp is a leading figure in the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), one of the four Mont Pelerin Society think-tanks in Australia.

THE PROMISE KEEPERS cult planned to establish a chapter in Germany on Oct. 18, headed by Baptist minister Johann Heinrich Rust, according to the newsletter of the European Doctors Initiative (EAI), which has vowed to oppose the dirty operation.

SEVEN BRITS out of ten want the Queen out, according to an opinion poll reported in the Italian press on Oct. 19. As to who should replace Queen Elizabeth II, the poll indicates that, out of 100 British subjects questioned, 46 favor Charles and 44 want William.

JULIUS HACKETHAL, Germany's equivalent of the death-dealing Dr. Jack Kevorkian of Michigan, died of lung cancer on Oct. 18, at the age of 75, although he apparently did not take the cyanide-laced "last drink" he advocated for so-called terminally ill patients.

SAUDI ARABIA and Iran are continuing to mend fences, with the visit of Saudi Prince Ahmad al-Aziz bin Ahmad al-Saud to Teheran earlier this month. He was received by President Khatami, who called for improved bilateral relations as the basis for increased stability and security in the region. The prince was in Teheran, for a meeting of the World Health Organization.

PORTUGAL staged a provocation over East Timor on Oct. 16, when a Portuguese journalist claimed that five Australian journalists who were killed 22 years ago during the Indonesian invasion of East Timor were killed by the Indonesian Army. Several Australian inquiries, including one two years ago, concluded that they had been caught in the cross-fire between the Army and the Fretilin gang of Nobel Peace Prize laureate José Ramos-Horta.