

# International Intelligence

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## ***Ruling favors Ontario teachers' job action***

On Nov. 3, Ontario Court's General Division Justice James MacPherson ruled against the Tory government of Premier Mike Harris and refused to grant a back-to-work injunction against the teachers unions, while praising the teachers for being "deeply committed to the education of their students." Thus, the largest teachers' protest in Canada's history, which began Oct. 27, brought 126,000 teachers out of classrooms in opposition to the Harris government's "Common Sense Revolution" budget-cutting plans.

The protest is against the threatened passage, in November, of Bill 160, which would give control over many aspects of the province's schools to the provincial government, headed by the Tory (Progressive Conservative) party. The union charges that passage of the bill will lead to huge spending cuts—at least \$500 million next year alone—to larger class sizes, 10,000 teaching position cuts, and use of non-certified teachers to replace certified teachers in specialized areas. Nearly 2.1 million schoolchildren are affected by the walkout, which shut Ontario's 4,742 public and Catholic schools.

As the protest went into its second week, there was little hope for an early negotiated settlement. The local school boards are reluctant to get involved with the lengthy process of applying for back-to-work orders, and the Harris government is wary about calling Parliament back into session to pass emergency back-to-work legislation, given the government's rising unpopularity.

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## ***Israelis blame Netanyahu for Rabin assassination***

Over 200,000 Israelis turned out in Tel Aviv on Nov. 1 to memorialize the second anniversary of the Nov. 4, 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, shortly after he addressed a peace rally. The memorial rally was addressed by his widow Leah Rabin, Labor Party head Ehud Barak, and Rabin's deputy prime minister Shimon Peres

(who then became prime minister), and others. It was said to be the largest gathering in Israeli history.

While the killer was a fanatical Jewish underground terrorist, the demonstrators placed the blame for Rabin's death squarely on the shoulders of Likud's Benjamin ("Bibi") Netanyahu, who had acted as the standard-bearer against the Oslo peace accords. Typifying the mood of the rally were signs reading, "Bibi has no alibi" and "We want peace." Speakers repeatedly identified Netanyahu as personally responsible for the murder.

Yossi Sarid, whose Merez party was in Rabin's coalition government, was most provocative: "We do accuse, explicitly, all those who called Rabin a traitor and a murderer. We do accuse anyone who shouted 'with blood and fire we'll drive Rabin out' . . . We accuse . . . all those who dressed Rabin up in Gestapo or terrorist uniform. All those who issued a *pulsa denura* curse or issued *din rodef* [permission to kill a persecutor] against him. And all those deaf and dumb and blind, who didn't see, didn't hear, didn't protest and kept their silence, until his blood was spilled." Most of the references are to Netanyahu.

Showing a photograph of Netanyahu leading a demonstration calling for violence against Rabin, which included displaying a coffin, Sarid continued: "If the coffin is intended for Zionism, as they claim, for whom then is this hanging rope, dangling in front of the eyes of the one who is today prime minister? And I ask you, did he or did he not see it?"

"He saw!" the crowd thundered.

"Two years after the murder, we're through asking for apologies. Now we're demanding [Netanyahu's] resignation."

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## ***World Bank chief rails against 'corruption'***

World Bank President James Wolfensohn brought Prince Philip's Transparency International campaign against poor nations to the United States, with an editorial commentary titled "Kill Corruption, Ease World Poverty," in the Nov. 6 *Los Angeles Times*.

The cynical operation is designed to deny funds to poor countries that are trying to raise their citizens' living standards, by accusing governments of "corruption," and then either imposing economic sanctions, or having international financial institutions make "cleaning up corruption" a conditionality for loans.

"Corruption," as defined by Wolfensohn, "cripples the efforts of people across the world to improve their living standards. It undermines macroeconomic stability, it deters investment . . . and endangers the business environment," the last two meaning market liberalization to allow looting.

Rather than building infrastructure, schools, hospitals, etc., he says, "governments must reform their public administrations, build professional civil services, improve financial management, and promote an overall climate of openness. They must create and support watchdog agencies to scrutinize government performance. . . . Too much administrative discretion and overly complex tax systems are the environment in which corruption flourishes."

Wolfensohn then crows that "the World Bank is playing an important role in helping civil society and government fight corruption. . . . [W]e must go further and actively promote good governance."

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## ***Legalizers distraught as Australia fights dope***

The Australian government has unveiled a new, \$87 million anti-drugs strategy which it says is based on a policy of "zero tolerance." Announcing the policy on Nov. 2, Prime Minister John Howard said, "Every parent lives in fear of the impact of drugs. Our Tough on Drugs strategy provides moral leadership against drugs—for our children's sake." The funds will be spent over three years on increased law enforcement, private treatment clinics, and anti-drug education for schoolchildren. Though the amount is far too little, the increased funding for enforcement is a step in the right direction.

The Labor opposition has charged that it was the government's budget cuts to the Australian Federal Police and the Australian

**NEUE ZÜRCHER ZEITUNG**, the Swiss financial daily, took Britain's media to task for hypocritically heating up "too many transatlantic emotions," in order to sour Euro-American relations. "From . . . sanctions against Iraq, or the greenhouse effect, policy towards Iran, banning land mines, approach to Cuba, or the review of structures inside NATO, the relationship between America and Europe is exposed to stress to an extent that makes one worry," the daily editorialized.

**AUSTRALIAN** Archbishop of Melbourne George Pell told *The Age* that Australia's population should grow to 50 million from its present 18 million. This, he said, should be achieved by increasing immigration, instead of the present discriminatory policy, a refugee policy "too tight and too mean. We have a vast continent; we have an obligation to develop it and to share our blessings," he said.

**AFGHANISTAN'S** synthetic "Islamist" Taliban movement is so barbaric, according to humanitarian groups at an Oct. 24 press conference in Paris, that it has refused to allow hospitals in Kabul to treat women. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported that two of the four big clinics were refusing even emergencies.

**RADICAL BUDDHISTS** and environmentalists in Thailand ordained several dozen *trees* on the border with Myanmar on Nov. 2, in an effort to stop the construction of an oil pipeline. The monks first blessed the trees, then dressed them up in saffron robes, thereby making them "sacred."

**LAROCHE CO-THINKERS** in Australia, the Citizens Electoral Council, have launched Federal Senate campaigns in four states. Candidates are: in Victoria, Craig Isherwood and Robert Barwick; in New South Wales, Bob Butler, Glensy Collins and Lindsay Cosgrove; for Queensland, Maurice Hetherington and Ray Gillham; and in Western Australia, Tony Drake and Jean Robinson.

Customs Service that increased the influx of drugs (true), and that the \$15.5 million to be put back into the AFP for 54 new officers does not compensate for the more than 100 staff lost to budget cuts in the past year (see last week's *EIR*, p. 53).

George Soros's drug legalization lobby, on the other hand, is beside itself. Dr. Alex Wodak, the president of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation, and a recipient of Soros money via the Drug Policy Foundation, wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "This is the end of the sensible policy of harm reduction in Australia which began in 1985, and helped to control HIV infection among our drug users and the rest of the community," referring to distribution of free needles to addicts. Soros's other Australian asset, member of the Legislative Assembly in the capitals federal district, Michael Moore, was less measured, shrilling that Howard was a "little man with little ideas throwing a little money at a big problem." Earlier this year, Howard had intervened to stop a proposed experiment in legalized heroin distribution from going ahead in Canberra, much to the chagrin of Wodak and Moore, the project's architects.

## ***Blair warns Chirac not to buck London in Africa***

French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin flew to London on Nov. 6 for a summit with Prime Minister Tony Blair. Coming just out of the not-very-successful Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Blair warned Chirac "that France should not try to take advantage of sanctions against Nigeria, or offer General Sani Abacha any respite from the pressure over human rights and democracy," according to the London *Times*'s Michael Binyon.

Previewing the summit, Binyon wrote that Blair, "who failed . . . to persuade Commonwealth leaders to impose any immediate new sanctions, is to raise British concern that Paris will be tempted to bolster relations with General Abacha." General Abacha, say the British, "has attempted to play Paris off against London."

Binyon asserts that Africa will be a main

topic at the Nov. 7 summit, citing the colonial powers' effort to "set up an African peacekeeping force," including the fact that "in February, a British platoon is to take part in a joint mission in Senegal, a former French colony."

On arrival in London, Chirac "went immediately to Buckingham Palace, for an audience with the Queen."

Other topics, according to the *Times*, include Bosnia, Iraq, the upcoming European Union jobs summit in Luxembourg, and the future of the European Monetary Union.

## ***Sudan's talks with Garang end in Nairobi***

Talks in Nairobi, Kenya, between the Sudan government and John Garang's British-run Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels were to end on Nov. 11, a Sudanese diplomatic source told *EIR* on Nov. 10. The Sudan government delegation and the SPLA delegation will present a statement to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, stating that they had reached some "common ground," according to the source, and that talks will resume early next year. The two sides agreed to avoid phrases in the communiqué such as "the talks broke down" or "the talks failed."

The talks are ending because the SPLA—the last major hold-out among the southern rebel groups, which signed a broad-ranging peace agreement with Khartoum this past April—presented an untenable list of demands, which includes immediate division of the country into two confederated states, north and south; a referendum on secession of the south in two, instead of four years; and the abolition of *shariat* (Islamic) law. These demands were presented in the beginning of November, and represented an escalation—not the usual mode for serious negotiators.

"The war will continue," said the Sudanese diplomat. There are reports of SPLA military operations in the Tong region of Eastern Equatorial Province. Reports from British outlets that the SPLA and its allies are besieging Juba or are about ready to seize the Rosieres Dam in the east, are not correct, the diplomat said.