

International Intelligence

Spain cracks down hard against ETA terrorists

Early in December, the Spanish Supreme Court found 23 leaders of Herri Batasuna, the political arm of the Basque terrorist/separatist gang ETA, guilty of collaborating with the ETA, and meted out sentences of seven years, and hefty fines. The court action is the result of close collaboration with European, U.S., and Ibero-American governments, which the Spanish government had been intensifying on all fronts since last summer, when ETA-authored murders sparked demonstrations by millions of Spaniards all across the country.

Thanks to much closer cooperation between the French and Spanish, the French government made significant inroads against leading ETA members who were operating from French soil, including the arrest of several top Etarras, and the break-up of a major sympathizer network in Brittany.

National Guard Gen. Santiago López Valdievielo told the newspaper *ABC*, that the victory against the “international support structure” of ETA, stemmed from the intensified cooperation among Spain, France, Mexico, and the United States.

British protect Italian neo-fascist terrorists

British intelligence agencies are protecting and manipulating a “London center” of Italian extremists in exile, according to Guido Olimpio, writing in Italy’s *Corriere della Sera* of Nov. 24. Olimpio’s story takes off from a report in the London *Sunday Telegraph*, on a London chain of “Catholic” charities that were used as a funding cover for neo-fascist groups. According to the *Telegraph*, Roberto Fiore—who was accused in the 1980 Bologna train station bombing, which killed 85 people, and who has since lived undisturbed in London—was suspended as a trustee of the St. George Educational Trust by the British Charity Commission. The commission also suddenly (after long years of turning a blind eye) froze the assets of the “Catholic” Trust of St. Mi-

chael the Archangel, which had raised £50,000 through four “charity shops.” The money was to go for the creation of a “neo-fascist” village in Spain where “nationalists” from all over Europe could live as part of a “new order.” A Catholic Church spokesman stated, “We have no connection with these people.”

But, continued Olimpio, “there is more than the creation of a ‘black paradise’ in Spain, behind the alliance between Italian and British fascists. . . . The neo-fascists are working to broaden a European network that supports right-wing subversion, a network connected to the world of the Western secret services, to the dark world of the mercenaries and to paramilitary formations. The plot revolves around some private investigative firms that have been opened in London. According to investigations, these ‘firms’ enjoy excellent relations with Her Majesty’s 007. And they reportedly also enjoy the protection of the British intelligence services. . . .

“Reportedly the London ‘center’ is the pivot of broader clandestine and propagandistic activity. . . . Using firms and companies as cover, last year, the neo-Nazis recruited volunteers for the Croat militia” in Herzeg-Bosna.

Fight heats up in N. Ireland peace process

Launching a week of diplomatic contacts concerning the slow-moving peace talks, John Hume, the leader of Northern Ireland’s moderate nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), met on Dec. 8 with U.S. President Bill Clinton. At a press conference afterward, Hume praised the President’s “commitment to economic support for Northern Ireland” as the most “crucial factor . . . in building trust among all sections” of the community. Hume mentioned that Clinton’s Northern Ireland economic envoy, Jim Lyons, had just spent a week meeting with all parties in Northern Ireland.

On Dec. 11, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams was scheduled to have his second meeting with Britain’s Prime Minister Tony Blair. Adams, the *Irish Times* reported, “will tell Blair . . . that it is time for Britain to end

its constitutional claim on the North.” However, the U.K. Unionist Party, at its Dec. 6-7 conference, bridled at the proposal for Britain to relinquish its (unlawful) claim on the North, with party leader Robert McCartney calling for “a moratorium on the . . . unity of the Union” issue, which is at the heart of the constitutional claim.

Unionist Party President Conor Cruise O’Brien, an unabashed partisan of the British Empire, gloated over the fragile situation in the effort to find a settlement position acceptable to both nationalists and unionists. “If the unionists stick together,” said the man who fought to keep Germany divided after 1989, any peace proposal presented to voters of both North and South can be defeated.

Islamic Conference unites 56 nations

The Dec. 9 opening in Teheran, Iran of the annual Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) struck the promising note of potentially overturning 30 years of British efforts to maintain an “arc of crisis,” throughout the regions spanned by OIC’s members. The summit brought together leaders of 56 Islamic nations, representing more than 1 billion people. The main issue is the reorganization of relations among the Muslim nations, and between the Islamic world and the West, in accordance with “dignity, dialogue, and participation,” as the summit’s organizers put it.

Discussions included the deadlocked peace process and the threats to peace from the Israeli regime of Benjamin Netanyahu, stopping international terrorism, establishing an Islamic common market, improving relations with the West, and ending the war in Afghanistan. Despite the alleged opposition by Iran to the Mideast peace process, the Iranian organizers included a draft resolution to be ratified by the participants calling on Israel to implement the agreements brokered with the Palestinians and other Arab nations.

Reconciliation among the Muslim nations was most poignant, when Iran, which suffered a devastating eight-year war with Iraq, received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister

BRAZIL'S former President, Gen. João Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo (ret.), has signed the Open Letter to President Clinton calling for the exoneration of Lyndon LaRouche. Earlier this year, President Figueiredo signed the call to President Clinton to convoke a New Bretton Woods monetary conference.

TULLIO GRIMALDI, a parliamentarian in Italy's Rifondazione Comunista, exposed a "bipartisan," anti-constitutional plot to allow Victor Emmanuel IV of Savoy and his family into the country, ending a 50-year exile established by the Italian Republic. The Savoys have never accepted the Constitution and never renounced their claim to Italy's throne.

INDIA'S LOK SABHA, the lower house of parliament, has been dissolved, and will be reconstituted by March 15, with new elections to the chamber to be complete well before then. President K.R. Narayanan issued the keenly awaited order on Dec. 5, on the basis of his conclusion that "the people of India need a reprieve from political instability," after no combination of parties could arrive at a governing coalition.

A FRENCH APPEALS court in Bordeaux has turned down the U.S. extradition request for fugitive Ira Einhorn, who was convicted *in absentia* for the grisly murder of his Philadelphia girlfriend in 1977. In a bizarre twist of French logic, Einhorn's lawyer, Dominique Delthil, said, "The United States has realized today, to its distress, that it still has lessons to learn from old Europe in the area of human rights."

QUEEN ELIZABETH "is to be offered a high-profile role" when Britain assumes the presidency of the European Union on Jan. 1. The proposal came from Prime Minister Tony Blair's Minister without Portfolio Peter Mandelson, who argued that using the monarchy in European diplomacy would "help to transform the government's image in Europe."

Correction regarding Defence Systems Ltd.

In the short, captioned "London's 'Dogs of War' Make Millions in Africa," which appeared on page 46 of the Nov. 7, 1997 edition, *EIR* misquoted in several regards the article from the Oct. 19, 1997 *Sunday Times* of London upon which it relied in composing the short. Additionally, certain of the content of the *Times* article was subsequently corrected by the *Times* in a statement printed on Oct. 26, 1997. Wherefore, *EIR* retracts the report that the *Times* article "detailed the role of the mercenary army from Defence Systems Ltd. in supplying more than 1,000 well-paid soldiers to the Angolan government to wage the civil war against Jonas Savimbi's UNITA, and to back up Gen. Sassou Nguesso's recent takeover of nearby Congo Brazzaville." *EIR* retracts the report that the *Times* article identified "One DSL mercenary who had conducted SAS covert operations in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, before 'retiring' to join DSL. . ." as commenting cynically, "These people cannot seem to get enough of war, but it doesn't bother us. The more trouble there is, the more money we make." Additionally, *EIR* retracts any additional material in the short which was presented or understood as relying on any material in the original *Times* article which was subsequently retracted or corrected by the *Times* in their piece captioned "Defence Systems Limited" which stated:

"Our report last week, 'SAS Veterans Make a Killing in Angola,' contained some errors due to a breakdown in communications with Defence Systems Ltd. (DSL).

"We now understand that DSL was not set up five years ago by Richard Bethell, but in 1981. We have also been asked to point out that Mr. Bethell is not the son of Lord Bethell. Nor did he see action in Bosnia; he was there on mine clearance. DSL is not involved in 'mercenary' operations in Angola, but in security work and clearing mines."

We apologize for the errors and for any damage to DSL's reputation which may have been caused by the inaccuracies contained in the short.

Taha Yasin Ramadhan, with official ceremonies. The call by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Al-Sahhaf to normalize relations with Iran and exchange POWs was prominently featured in the Iranian official press.

Dashing British hopes that the Teheran summit would turn out to be a platform for anti-Americanism, opposition to Mideast peace, and Islamic revolutionary propaganda, the resolutions adopted by the OIC foreign ministers were positive and uplifting.

Jordanian scores Iraq sanctions as 'holocaust'

Dr. Musa Keilani, a prominent Jordanian politician, reported that "a Jordanian delegation which visited Baghdad returned a few days ago speaking of the brutal, nearly genocidal war that the sanctions declared on a defenseless population," according to the *Jordanian Perspective* of Dec. 5. Melhem Tell, secretary general of Jordan's Constitutional Front Party, confirmed official UN reports that over 1.5 million Iraqis, mostly elderly and children, have died since 1990.

Keilani blasted the UN's continued politicking with human life, asking, "Now that the UN Security Council has renewed the Iraqi oil-for-food deal, but refused to double the amount to include the badly required medical needs, we still wonder, what sort of a human conscience could tolerate this new manifestation of genocide?" Keilani added: "No matter what public relations gimmicks are used now to justify the collective death of Iraqis, the whole world should not repeat the same apathy it showed when millions were sent to gas-oven camps years ago in Europe."

The reports from Baghdad confirm data published by Rick McDowell of Unicef in November, showing that 27.5% of Iraq's 3 million children risk acute malnutrition. "More children have died of starvation and disease since 1991 than the combined toll of atomic bombs on Japan or ethnic cleansing in Serbia," he said. A team from Voices in the Wilderness, which had also visited Iraq, reported that, in 1995 alone, some 567,000 Iraqi children died.