

International Intelligence

Norwegian 'aid' groups help fuel Sudan war

A report which was produced by the Danish firm COWI Konsult (which, according to *EIR*'s sources in Denmark, is a major World Bank contractor for projects in Africa), claims that the Norwegian organizations Norsk Folkehjelp and Kirkens Noedhjelp have been contributing to prolonging the war in southern Sudan by funnelling humanitarian aid to John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels.

The report, which was prepared for the Norwegian Foreign Office before the mid-May visit by Norwegian Development and Human Rights Minister Hilde Johnson to Kenya and Sudan, states that "Norsk Folkehjelp has provided the SPLA soldiers with food, put cars and houses at the SPLA's disposal, and built schools for the children of the SPLA officers." The report also states that the organization is said to have been "more preoccupied with treating wounded soldiers at the front than providing care for the civilian population."

Netanyahu taking heat at home and abroad

The leading candidate to become Israel's new chief of the General Staff, Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai, spoke out on May 17 about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to pass him over for Maj. Gen. Shaul Mofaz. Vilnai's outburst is unprecedented in Israel, where, as *EIR* had forecast, Netanyahu is reshuffling the military and security leaderships to carry out his "nuclear Armageddon" strategy. The peace camp and secular groups are mobilizing against the projected appointment of Brig. Gen. Yaakov Amidror to head Military Intelligence. Amidror recently referred to secular Jews as nothing but Hebrew-speaking Gentiles."

Netanyahu's efforts to bury the Oslo peace accords have come under fire as well. Former Prime Minister Shimon Peres (Labor) said: "For the past two years, the peace process has collapsed under the reign of

Netanyahu. Economic growth has disappeared, that was created by the peace process, and Sheikh Yassin [of Hamas], whom Netanyahu freed, roams about freely raising money for terrorism. The time has come for Netanyahu to stop blaming the previous government for all his failures." Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo, an anti-Netanyahu Likud member who is running for prime minister, was quoted by press: "Instead of talking about the collapse of peace, Netanyahu should keep his promise to withdraw 13% and continue the peace process."

Equally trenchant, were the remarks of Jordan's King Hussein on May 23, saying Netanyahu showed no "respect for the Palestinians and no commitment to . . . UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Oslo and Hebron accords." Regarding Netanyahu's recent threat to "set Washington on fire," the King said: "I believe that the last time that Washington was on fire was during the revolution against the British colonial power, when British troops burnt down the White House."

Meanwhile, Singapore's government has rejected a visit by Netanyahu, in order to avoid a public denunciation of his policies.

Mubarak, Chirac push for new Mideast peace effort

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in talks with French President Jacques Chirac in late May, proposed the convening of an international conference to restart the deadlocked Middle East peace process. He told Chirac that he had been asked by the Group of 15 developing countries, which had just concluded its summit in Cairo, to contact international groupings, especially the leading Western powers, to try to arrange a serious dialogue.

In their joint call, the two Presidents reiterated their commitment to the "peace process begun in Madrid," on the basis of "honest implementation" of UN resolutions 242, 338, and 425," and the land-for-peace formula. "This, according to our points of view, should lead the Palestinians to establish their independent state and to have the right to self-determination. . . .

"Given the above, the collective will of the international community became clear, as the peace process in the Middle East is highly prioritized with the hope of working out the Arab-Israeli conflict by the end of this century.

"In this regard, we stress the responsibility shouldered by all international powers, particularly the United States, the European Union, and the Russian Federation. Therefore, we call on these powers to painstakingly work to overcome obstacles hindering the resumption of the peace process at all tracks."

The proposed conference would occur in two stages, the first without the Israelis and Palestinians. The French Foreign Minister was quoted by the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on May 20 that, "it is impossible to hold a summit of peacemakers with Benjamin Netanyahu present. That is why two stages are necessary."

Milosevic moves against Montenegro President

Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic has set the stage for a provocation against neighboring Montenegro, which, with Serbia, makes up "Yugoslavia." Montenegro is set to hold parliamentary elections on May 31, which the coalition of President Milo Djukanovic hopes to win. Djukanovic has been sharply critical of Milosevic's ferocity against ethnic Albanians in Kosova. On May 19, Milosevic ordered the majority of the Belgrade Federal Parliament, which he controls, to oust federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic and to replace him with former Montenegro President Momir Bulatovic, Djukanovic's main adversary in the elections.

Djukanovic's response was swift, and bordered on secession from Yugoslavia: On May 20 in the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica, he labelled Bulatovic's government "illegitimate, illegal, and un-Yugoslav." The Podgorica Parliament voted in an emergency session not to recognize Kontic's ouster, and called it illegal, since the swing votes came from six Montenegro deputies whose mandates from the Montenegro Par-

liament had been rendered invalid on May 15.

Milosevic also turned down an invitation from Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle to meet with him and the Montenegrin President on May 21. Montenegrin Metropolitan Amfilohije and Bishop Artemije from Kosova charged Milosevic with "consciously or unconsciously helping those who want to destroy the joint state of Serbia and Montenegro." Artemije added that Milosevic "has suicidal tendencies, to which he has subordinated the fate of the Serbian people." Both of Milosevic's parents, who were of Montenegrin descent, committed suicide.

Six Mekong states sign anti-narcotics pact

Meeting in Hanoi on May 14-15, Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam signed three anti-drug agreements encompassing demand reduction among high-risk groups, improvement of drug abuse data-collecting systems, and cross-border cooperation for reduction of opium poppy cultivation. Implementation of the three accords will cost \$4 million.

In addition, a task force on cross-border trade was set up under a UN-sponsored regional drug cooperation scheme launched in 1995. The countries are also committed to work closer with health officials in information sharing, education, and addiction treatment, to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS through intravenous drug use. The UN International Drug Control Program has 12 projects in the region, worth \$15 million.

Surgery in New Zealand: Cut off the patient

In a callous move by the Mont Pelerin-infested New Zealand government, more than 25,000 people will miss out on publicly funded hospital surgery, forcing them to fund their own surgeries or arrange to "medically manage" their conditions. A new rationing system for elective surgery, called "clinical priority assessment criteria," de-

veloped by Dr. Sharon Kletchko, will replace the present waiting-list system on July 1, dropping from the list those waiting for "minor" surgery.

The national director of the Health Funding Authority's new waiting-times project, Dr. Paul Malpass, said that one-quarter of the 100,000 people on current waiting lists will be dropped and referred back to their primary physicians; another quarter will be booked for surgery within six months, while half will be transferred to a residual waiting list, a gray area, where they will be "monitored."

Typical of New Zealand's managed-care system was the case of heart patient Colin Morrison, 42, who died after waiting four months for a triple coronary bypass. The average wait for heart surgery at his level of urgency, where he lived in South Island, is more than 22 months, compared with 5 months in Auckland, on the North Island. Between 1993 and 1996, hospital waiting lists grew from 62,000 to 94,000, and even nudged 100,000 in December 1997.

Hungary votes out socialist Gyula Horn

Hungary's socialist Prime Minister, Gyula Horn, suffered defeat in the May 24 parliamentary elections. The second round of voting for the Hungarian Parliament was a blow to the socialist-liberal coalition, and a notable increase of votes for the anti-socialist opposition, which implies the end of the era of Prime Minister Horn. Horn, who was Foreign Minister in the waning days of communism, became Prime Minister after the early 1993 elections that followed the death of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall.

Horn's Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP) received 137 seats, its coalition partner, the Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ) 24 seats. The main opposition group of the liberal Young Democrats (FIDESZ) received 144 seats, and the Independent Party of the Small Landowners (FKGP) 49 seats. Pending final results, it is generally expected that FIDESZ and FKGP will form a majority coalition for a new government.

THE EUROPEAN UNION has threatened to ban Israeli exports for violating the trade treaty between the EU and Israel, which included exporting goods labeled "Made in Israel" that were produced in Jewish settlements in what the EU considers to be militarily occupied territory, not part of Israel. The EU also accused Israel of palming off Brazilian oranges as "Jaffa" oranges, in order to retain preferential tariffs.

SHIMON PERES, speaking on the formation of a \$50 million Peace Technology Fund, spoke up for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's call for a Palestinian state. Israel's last sane Prime Minister said, "As an Israeli father and grandfather, I am convinced that to remain a Jewish state, Israel needs a Palestinian state, and we have to say it clearly and do it right away."

THE BRITISH government will send Derek Farchett, the Foreign Office Minister in charge of the Middle East, to Iran, on the highest-level diplomatic mission since the Iranian death sentence against author Salman Rushdie, who lives in Britain, was pronounced. Britain has had no embassy in Tehran since the *fatwa* against Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* was issued.

IRAQ'S President Saddam Hussein has conveyed a message to Pope John Paul II, through Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, who met with the Pope on May 19: "We need the support of the Holy See, to get the embargo against our country lifted," Aziz told the press later.

MYANMAR'S anti-government activist Aung San Suu Kyi's top adviser, Tin Oo, was arrested by Thai police, and he admitted to conducting activities aimed at the overthrow of the Myanmar government. Thai police raided a safehouse for members of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front. George Soros's Open Society Institute is a champion of the ABSDF, which has been accused of involvement in bombings in Yangon.