

International Intelligence

Ugandans boycott Museveni's elections

Voters in Buganda (central), northern Uganda, and the east nearly all boycotted the elections held on June 2 for local leaders of Ugandan dictator Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Movement, Democratic Party leader Paul Ssemogerere reports.

It is Museveni's political weakness, Ssemogerere said, that is driving him to push his land tenure bill, which seeks to open up Ugandan land to foreign ownership. The bill promises to hand over land already owned to the landless and tenants. "We have never had land problems in Buganda, as many tenants now own their own land through hard work," said Ssemogerere.

"Museveni thrives on conflict and violence," Ssemogerere said. "He knows he is weak, and wants to stir up trouble. He can always prevail where there is violence, but I do not think that Bugandans will fight in this way."

Indian leaders reach out to China, Pakistan

Indian President K.R. Narayanan said that India is "determined" to carry forward the process of dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation with China. *The Hindu* reported on May 30. Speaking in Kathmandu, Nepal, the President dwelt at length on the cordial relations between India and China in the last five decades, and the crucial role played by India's Jawaharlal Nehru in getting the rest of the world to accept China after its "liberation war."

The President referred to the "sound and fury" caused by the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, and the economic crises in Southeast Asia and East Asia, and expressed confidence that these developments would not adversely affect the situation in the region.

On May 30, Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee called for bilateral talks with Pakistan, and said that India does not pose any threat to Pakistan or to any other country, the *Economic Times of India* reported. He reiterated his offer of a "no first use" agreement concerning nuclear weapons.

"India wants friendship with Pakistan. It is committed to the resolution of the Kashmir issue through peaceful discussions and negotiations with Pakistan," the Prime Minister said. However, he ruled out third-country mediation for resolving differences between India and Pakistan, saying the two countries had to resolve their differences on a bilateral basis, through a dialogue based on an assessment of geostrategic realities.

Vajpayee said that India had already declared a moratorium on further nuclear tests and is willing to formalize this into an obligation with key interlocutors.

NATO opens post in Albanian capital

On June 1, NATO opened up a Partnership for Peace Cell in the Albanian capital of Tirana, as part of a plan for Kosovo that was adopted at the NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels on May 29. The action was taken as the Serbian Army was shelling towns in Kosova close to the border with Albania with heavy artillery. Kosova's ethnic Albanian leaders issued an appeal for world action to stop this aggression, in a June 2 statement titled "Another Bosnia Is Happening in Kosova!"

The NATO "Cell" is "manned by one civilian member of NATO's international staff, an officer, and a non-commissioned officer," according to a NATO statement. "The 1998 cooperation program for Albania contains activities to assist Albanian authorities in addressing the possible consequences of the crisis in Kosova, including possible assistance in communications, border control, and refugee matters."

The NATO representatives decided to concentrate on securing the borders of Kosova with Albania and Macedonia. The mandate of the special UN peace force stationed in Macedonia, which expires on Aug. 31, will be renewed and broadened. The NATO package signals "NATO's interest in containing the crisis . . . [and to] help Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to secure their borders," according to the statement. NATO military exercises scheduled to take place in Macedonia in September will be upgraded, while ground and air force exercises have been scheduled in

Albania for August. Training centers will be established in Macedonia.

Direct NATO military measures against the Serbs have not been ruled out, should the Kosova conflict spill over into the neighboring countries, said NATO Secretary General Xavier Solana on May 23.

Pope reiterates Vatican position on Jerusalem

Speaking to the new Jordanian ambassador to the Holy See in Rome on May 28, Pope John Paul II spoke out in favor of a solution to the status of Jerusalem by the year 2000. "The long history of the city of Jerusalem, filled with tribulations, will reach a new threshold in the year 2000, with the dawn of the third millennium of Christianity," he said. "It is my fervent hope that this may lead to a formal recognition, with international guarantees, of the unique and sacred identity of the Holy City."

The Pope, who had earlier stated his desire to visit Jerusalem in 2000, has not talked about the trip recently, due to the deadlock in the Mideast peace process. He did mention it to the ambassador though, saying he thought his visit there "would certainly give peace the push it needs." He complained that the process had not made progress, but had instead "regressed."

In a related development, the highest authority of Sunni Islam travelled to Rome to sign a document promoting the Christian-Islamic dialogue. The chairman of the Committee for a Dialogue Between Religions, Sheikh Fawzi Fadel Zifzaf, was scheduled to sign the agreement on May 28 at the Holy See. It has been under negotiation for four years, and is presented as a "landmark agreement."

U.S. anti-gambling adviser warns Australia

Dr. Robert Goodman, who helped set up the National Gambling Impact Study Commission for U.S. President Bill Clinton last year, visited Melbourne, Australia in May, to speak at the Gambling Away Our Future conference, organized by the Interchurch Gambling Taskforce and Victorian Local Governance Association. Praising Australia

SOUTH KOREAN President Kim Dae-jung, in an interview with the *New York Times* published on June 2, said he would ask President Clinton to lift all sanctions against North Korea, when he visits Washington, D.C. the week of June 8. Kim endorsed a policy of "political engagement" with the North, stating that economic ties were the best way to strengthen relations.

MYANMAR opposition figure Aung San Suu Kyi on May 28 praised the ruling military body for allowing her National League for Democracy to hold a rally in the capital, Yangon, for the first time since 1990. It was the eighth anniversary of elections in which the NLD had claimed victory. "The very fact that this anniversary gathering has come about is not only a victory for the NLD, but also for the military," she said. "I salute their courage." The day before, she called for dialogue with the government, which she has disdained in the past.

COL. AVIEM SELLA, the Israel intelligence handler of spy Jonathan Pollard, who was himself convicted for espionage by a U.S. Federal court in 1985, has been appointed chairman of an Israeli Ministry of Defense space program's advisory board. Sella's team will explore U.S.-Israel cooperation related to Israel's Shavit launcher.

THE SWEDISH Supreme Court has rejected a call for a new murder trial for Christer Pettersson, accused of having murdered Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986. Pettersson was convicted for the murder, but the conviction was thrown out by an appeals court, for lack of evidence. The investigation of the murder has been plagued with sabotage and incompetence since day one.

CHINESE Prime Minister Zhu Rongji will visit Washington, likely in the autumn, reported the *South China Morning Post* on June 3, citing an unidentified U.S. official.

lia's national inquiry into gambling, Dr. Goodman warned of a growing trend of "partnership" between governments and the gambling business, the *Herald Sun* reported on May 27.

"The issue that we are dealing with is not just gambling; it's the direction government is moving in, away from regulating and more towards promotion," he said. "I think that sets a very dangerous precedent for the future. The parallel is that once government gets hooked on this, once government gets addicted to the revenue, they want to expand it. I can predict, if things get difficult, this is what's likely to happen" in Australia.

Dr. Goodman met with Victorian Premier and Mont Pelerin Society asset Jeff Kennett, to deliver his warning in person to Australia's most pro-gambling government, which relies on gaming for fully 14% of state revenues.

Barschel investigation shut down in Germany

The official investigation of the October 1987 death of Uwe Barschel, former governor of the German state of Schleswig-Holstein, was closed down on June 3, after more than three years of largely unsuccessful efforts by chief investigator Heinrich Wille to break the institutional sabotage of forensic evidence required to document that Barschel was assassinated.

Referencing his conclusive, 250-page report, Wille said in Lübeck on June 3 that the refusal of the secret services and other government institutions to grant him access to potentially crucial files, was the main reason that the investigators were not successful in producing sufficient forensic evidence. He added that there does "remain a prime suspicion of murder," and that the case could be re-opened at any time, should new evidence come forth.

Barschel's relatives, notably his widow, Freya, threatened a legal move to keep the case open, with a restraining order against those who decided to close it. Justus Warburg, the family's lawyer, declared that it is absurd to close the case, since there is "98% certainty that it was a case of murder. Therefore, it is the task of the investigators to determine who

actually murdered Uwe Barschel."

The official line, since Barschel's body was found in the bathtub of a Geneva hotel room, has been that he committed suicide. However, *EIR* has long pointed to evidence contradicting that. Barschel was apparently caught up in East-West arms-smuggling and espionage operations, specifically the illegal conduiting of arms to Iran, during the Iran-Iraq War. As we emphasized in an October 1996 Special Report ("George Bush and the 12333 Serial Murder Ring"), Barschel was involved in George Bush's Iran-Contra operations, and had said, the day before his death, that he was going to "detonate a bomb" in testimony before a parliamentary commission. He never lived to deliver that testimony.

British fuel renewed clashes in Caucasus

The Transcaucasus region, and the North Caucasus in southern Russia, exploded with new military clashes during May, involving separatist militias that have multiple, often shadowy ties to British Intelligence, circles in Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere. Just days after Wahhabite militia forces seized and held a government building in Makhachkala, Dagestan (inside Russia), for a day, inflicting casualties on police and prompting Moscow to send Internal Affairs Minister Stepashin to the scene, the Abkhazia region of Georgia experienced the worst fighting since its 1992-93 attempted breakaway. There are Russian peace-keeping forces in Georgia.

The clashes in Abkhazia's Gali region flared over the weekend of May 23-24, whereupon Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze put troops on alert. Itar-TASS reported that 20 Georgian civilians, and 44 combatants, had been killed up to that point. The Georgian guerrilla leader of the "White Legion," Zaur Samushia, warned on May 25 that he would target the Russian peacekeeping force deployed in Abkhazia, unless it stopped supplying the Abkhaz with artillery.

Then, on May 25, Abkhazian forces overran a Georgian village, inside a buffer zone patrolled by the Russians. Georgian TV called it the worst fighting since the Georgian army pulled out of Abkhazia in 1993.