

International Intelligence

India holds maneuvers with Iran, Saudi Arabia

For the first time, India has held separate naval exercises with Iran, and joint exercises with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, sending powerful signals about the emerging security equations between South Asia and the Persian Gulf after the nuclear tests by New Delhi and Islamabad. Both sets of exercises took place in the Persian Gulf.

India's decision to hold exercises with Iran, despite the U.S. bid to isolate Tehran, is also an assertion of New Delhi's independent foreign policy. "There is an element of defiance to the United States in these maneuvers," an observer said. For Iran, such exercises with India are a demonstration that it continues to play an effective regional role, despite an attempt to isolate it. India is also keen to add a security dimension to its ties with Iran. Iran is one of the key hydrocarbon suppliers to India; and New Delhi and Tehran are still thinking about constructing a gas pipeline along the sea bed. Naval cooperation can be one of the means of ensuring the security of such a passage.

Australian maritime union sues government

The Maritime Union of Australia has brought suit against the government, charging that it conspired with stevedoring companies to break the union, according to the June 5 *Australian Financial Review*. Leaked cabinet memos have revealed that the Australian government used an "activist" strategy on the waterfront, including pushing the idea that stevedoring companies could sack their unionized workforce to rehire "new people under different arrangements."

The parliamentary opposition exposed the existence of the cabinet papers in Parliament on June 4. The assistant secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), Greg Combet, said that the cabinet document completely contradicts earlier denials by Prime Minister John Howard and Minister for Industrial Relations Peter Reith,

that they had any knowledge of Patrick's plans to replace its unionized workforce.

Patrick and the MUA are currently negotiating the terms under which Patrick will hire back its workers. Most likely, a number of workers will be permanently laid off, and the rest will suffer significant changes for the worse to their working conditions and pay. P&O Ports, the subsidiary of the old drug-trading firm, Peninsular and Orient Steamship Navigation, is also pressing the MUA hard.

British factions emerge around Sudan policy

Parallel to the royal fight that has broken out around the murder of Princess Diana, there is evidence that differences are also emerging inside the British establishment, around Sudan policy. On June 7, Minister of International Cooperation Clare Short (who replaced the Tories' Lady Lynda Chalker, when Labour came to power) told Independent Television that her representative to southern Sudan had reported back, that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army of John Garang (and Lady Chalker) was receiving food and distributing it. She was apparently referring to the food sent as humanitarian aid, and intended for civilians. Her representative, she reported, said that the rebel SPLA soldiers were well-fed. When asked about arms supplies to the SPLA, she responded only: "Good question."

Although Short's account conflicts radically with the barrage of propaganda from Christian Solidarity Worldwide's Lady Caroline Cox, no major print media covered it, except the *Daily Mail*, which mooted Short may lose her job. Short had previously been quoted as criticizing the non-governmental organizations that were continuing to pour in food to the rebels, because this weakened the pressure on the rebels to agree to a ceasefire, which the Sudanese government has been demanding, or to come to terms with the peace process.

The recent stories played up in the *Baltimore Sun* and British press from Cox et al., claim that Khartoum is starving the southern

population in Bahr al Ghazal, by refusing to allow humanitarian aid to be sent in. Cox, who visited the area in May, had herself photographed with undernourished children. In fact, Cox was visiting an area devastated by the rebel forces of Kerobino, which had met with stiff resistance from local tribesmen, who objected to the rebels' stealing their herds and destroying their livelihoods.

Iraqis welcome possible end to deadly sanctions

EIR sources in the Mideast report that the news of an agreement struck between Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and UN-SCOM head Richard Butler, to end UN inspections in two months, and to proceed, following Butler's report to the UN Security Council, to lift the embargo, has been greeted with enthusiasm. It is being presented as a victory against Butler and the UN, as well as a victory "against the U.S." In reality, the decision to ease the sanctions has been coordinated in Washington. Butler himself admitted that it would not have come about without the forceful intervention of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who had coordinated his mission to Baghdad with President Clinton.

The good news for Iraq—though much too late, and after the death of countless civilians—loses some of its luster, against the backdrop of the financial and economic collapse worldwide, which is pulling the international oil price down daily, to the detriment of Iraq's battered economy.

Ireland's 'Jackal' worked closely with British SAS

News reports took advantage of the death in early June of Irish loyalist paramilitary Robin "The Jackal" Jackson, to make further revelations about British Army, Secret Air Services, and MI5 infiltration of the loyalist paramilitaries, and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's police force. Jackson's role in terrorizing Catholics was legendary, but his contacts with the British

Briefly

KOSOVA PRESIDENT Ibrahim Rugova was received by French President Jacques Chirac on June 15. Chirac denounced the "brutal intervention by the Serbs which is causing the exodus of Kosovars, the death of many," and which displays "once again, in reality, their desire to go for ethnic cleansing."

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Prime Minister Bill Skate and Indonesian President B.J. Habibie signed a Memorandum of Understanding on June 4, aimed at providing a framework for improved relations between the two neighbors. P.N.G. has agreed to support Indonesia's inclusion in the South Pacific Forum, and Indonesia will support P.N.G.'s inclusion as a permanent associate member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohammed poked fun at charges of "cronyism," during a speech on June 13. He said that students who received scholarships, people with good jobs, and investors in *bumiputra* (indigenous Malay) trust funds are all his "cronies." "I think I have 6 million cronies [because] some 6 million *bumiputras* have been able to invest in shares of companies. . . . We could have given the shares to those close to our hearts, but we did not."

IRVING MOSCOWITZ, the Miami bingo king and bankroller of the most radical Israeli settlers, was given permission to build 58 housing units on the Mount of Olives in Arab East Jerusalem. Meanwhile, a group of American Jewish peace activists protested the occupation of Palestinian houses by the Jewish settlers in the Silwan district of East Jerusalem.

CAMBODIA has registered 90% of its eligible voters over the past month for general elections on July 26. A member of the European Union's election assistance unit told one daily that "the determination of Cambodians to register has been absolutely remarkable."

SAS, have only recently seen the light of day.

The facts of his role have been featured in a new book, *The Committee: Political Assassination in Northern Ireland*, by Sean McPhilemy. The book is banned from sale in London; however, the publisher reports that its first printing in the United States sold out in less than a month. *EIR* is receiving reports that many in Britain and Northern Ireland are accessing the book via the Internet or underground networks. These continuing revelations will likely have an important impact on the battle over the composition of the new police reform commission mandated by the recently adopted peace accord.

Arafat: Palestine will be an independent state

In an interview with Germany's *Die Welt* on June 8, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat confirmed his intention to announce the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, by next year. Arafat said, "Only such a state guarantees durable and stable peace in the region." He said that he had had "many consultations with many friends—in the Arab world, in Europe, Asia, and Africa," adding, "We would like the birth of the state to be perfect."

Regarding expected immigration into a Palestinian state, he said, "In the West Bank and Gaza there are 3 million Palestinians, almost half of them living in refugee camps under conditions beneath human dignity. These camps have to be finally eliminated, as per the UN decisions. Then there are the 6 million Palestinians who are scattered in the winds everywhere." They, he said, all had the right to return.

Regarding the deadlock around Israeli withdrawals from territory destined for the Palestinians, Arafat made several points: First, that although he agreed to the 13% Israeli withdrawal offered by the United States, as a means to restart the peace process, he does not agree that that satisfies the demands covered in the Oslo Accords. Oslo, he recalled, stipulated that the West Bank and Gaza constituted "a geographical unity,

which Israel should withdraw from completely."

He said: "In the Oslo treaty, there is the security of Israel, not of the settlers. We made peace with Israel within the 1967 borders, and not with the settlers." He repeated several times that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy has been to encourage new illegal settlements, as a means of breaking up Palestinian territory, creating a "leopard skin" map, preventing any unity, and, obviously, preempting the possibility of a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem.

In Rome, Arafat met with Pope John Paul II on June 12, and extended an invitation for the Pope to visit Bethlehem, to celebrate the millennium. The Pope accepted the invitation "in principle." He had earlier turned down an invitation by Netanyahu to visit Jerusalem for the Jubilee.

Roland Dumas deeper in trouble in France

The two judges investigating the possible financial illegalities by Constitutional Court President Roland Dumas have opened up a new line of interrogatories, seeking to find out why, between 1991 and 1996, Dumas's personal checking account at Crédit Lyonnais was credited with 9,270,730 francs (\$1.5 million), FF 3,299,500 of which was in cash.

According to French money-laundering laws, cash deposits over 10,000 francs must be justified. Moreover, public officeholders may not legally undertake private jobs; Dumas, during 1991-93, was French Foreign Minister. During that time, his professional checking account at his law office was also credited with FF 10,783,280.

It was in 1992 that Dumas's mistress, Christine Deviers-Joncour, got FF 46 million in kickbacks from Elf Aquitaine, when she also withdrew large amounts of cash from Swiss accounts. If the judges find any connection between her cash withdrawals and his cash deposit, then they have proven the case of corruption. The judges let it be known that Dumas had not been able to explain the cash deposit.