

# International Intelligence

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## ***Turkey, Syria to end conflict over PKK rebels***

Turkey and Syria have come to an agreement to end their conflict, over Syria's protection of Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) terrorists. Syria pledged to shut down Kurdish rebel camps in its territory and in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, which it controls, under an agreement signed on Oct. 20. Syria also agreed not to let Kurdish guerrillas stage cross-border attacks on Turkey.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem was quoted by Associated Press that Syria would treat the PKK as a "terrorist organization," and would not let PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan into Syria. "An important foreign support to terrorism has thus been eliminated," Cem said. Although Ocalan has told the Kurdish news agency that he is somewhere in "Kurdistan" (the Kurdish people live in the border areas of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran), Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said Ocalan was in Russia, and Turkey had requested his extradition from Moscow.

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## ***Canadian indigenist meddling in Australia***

A Canadian indigenous activist who went to Australia is claiming that Aboriginal land rights should extend to privately owned property, known as freehold title. Canada has long been a test bed for the British oligarchy's assault on the nation-state, in this case, locking up vast tracts of mineral-rich lands in these sparsely populated nations, via specious "native people's" land claims. Several Canadian indigenous activists have been deployed to Australia to agitate for Aboriginal land-grabs, on behalf of the oligarchy's mining firms. The head of state of both Canada and Australia is Queen Elizabeth.

Don Ryan, chief of Canada's Gitxan people and a chief native title negotiator for Canadian Indians, has been touring Australia and is lobbying for indigenous groups within Australia, to use a precedent set by the courts in British Columbia, which ruled that native title rights are not extinguished

by freehold titles. Australian legislation currently rules that certain areas cannot be claimed, including freehold titles.

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## ***Russia and Iran move to strengthen ties***

Despite contrary pressures from the U.S. Congress, the Russian Duma (parliament) voted on Oct. 21 to further expand ties with Iran. (The U.S. Congress had voted the day before, on Oct. 20, to halve aid to Russia, unless it stopped development of nuclear programs related to missiles. This bill has not been sent to the Senate yet, nor has it the approval of President Clinton.) Its declaration, voted up by 267 members, said, "The Duma believes it is indispensable . . . to exploit more fully the potential for military and technical cooperation between Russia and Iran in order to support the national economy." It characterized U.S. pressures against "mutually advantageous" relations between Russia and Iran, as "illegal and unacceptable," according to wire reports.

Relations have been improving steadily, and high-level meetings have taken place around areas of mutual concern, including the war in Afghanistan. Iran is counting on Russian help to complete the Bushehr nuclear plant.

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## ***Indonesia plagued by political 'ninja' murders***

Jakarta Police Chief Maj. Gen. Noegroho Djajoesman was quoted in the *Jakarta Post* on Oct. 16, saying that his security personnel have been put on alert against the risk that the pattern of killings of alleged "sorcerers" by individuals disguised as "ninjas," which started in East Java, and has since spread to Central and West Java, could also hit Jakarta. The Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence reports that 147 people have been killed in regencies in East Java many of whom were Muslim preachers or Koranic teachers. Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso met with senior editors and journalists on Oct. 16 to stress his concern that the killings must be kept out of the capital, "to safe-

guard Jakarta so as not to project the image that Indonesians are barbaric."

Abdurrahman Wahid, head of the largest Muslim organization in Indonesia, the Nadlatul Ulama, told the *Media Indonesia* daily on Oct. 18 that he knows who the "master puppeteer" behind the "ninja" murders is, but declined to reveal the individual. The intent, Wahid said, is "to incite NU members. They want to create national instability and disrupt plans to hold the general election in 1999." He said that the murders were carried out "neatly and in a very organized way," claiming that professionals from Jakarta were sent to carry them out.

He also said they were related to violent attacks on the home of businessman Arifin Panigoro, who is known for his support to student groups and non-governmental organizations, and to attacks on the headquarters of the country's leading human rights watchdog, the Indonesian Legal Aid Institute. Wahid's statement was followed up by a call from the head of the newly created National Awakening Party, which enjoys substantial support from NU members, to keep the general elections on track for next May.

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## ***Swissair crash probe is being sabotaged***

Some time during the night of Oct. 11-12, the office of the chief of Swissair in Zurich was broken into. According to the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, the police are investigating whether the theft was an attempt to steal the report on Swissair Flight 111, which crashed off Nova Scotia on Sept. 2. On Oct. 13, Guido Hirni, a crash investigator for the Swiss federal aviation safety board, was killed in a helicopter crash. Although it is not known whether Hirni was directly involved in the investigation of Flight 111, he was one of the inspectors who was briefing the press.

In its Oct. 16 issue, *EIR* exclusively reported on the suspicious nature of the Swissair crash, including the fact Richard Tomlinson, an ex-British MI6 agent who has exposed many of the agency's illegal activities, had been booked on that flight, although he was not on the plane.