

# International Intelligence

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## ***Suicide, homelessness booming in Australia***

Thanks to Mont Pelerin Society austerity, job-cutting, and anti-social measures, Australia is experiencing a boom in youth suicides and general homelessness. In 1997, some 117 youths between the ages of 15 and 24 committed suicide in the state of Victoria, 50% more than the 78 in 1996. In New South Wales, the largest state, there was a 37% increase, and nationally, there was a 25.3% jump in youth suicides. The overall suicide rate rose 11%, and figures show that there are 4.5 male deaths to every female death. For the last six years under Premier Jeff Kennett, Victoria has suffered the most brutal Mont Pelerin economic reforms of any state in the country.

Young people are also especially victimized by homelessness, with more than 50,000 young people struggling to find a place to sleep every night, according to the Salvation Army. The number of young people, 14-24 years old, with no fixed address, has more than doubled in the past seven years, and a shortage of emergency accommodations increasingly means that many have nowhere to sleep. Mrs. Beryl Golding, the executive director of the Salvo's Crossroads emergency accommodation, reported that the 650 families in 1991 that had sought help from the center skyrocketed to 6,700 in 1995-96. In attributing the blame for the homelessness, the Salvation Army underscored government callousness in welfare and housing, as well as youth unemployment.

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## ***British kidnappers kill British victims in Yemen***

The government of Prime Minister Tony Blair is setting up a destabilization of Yemen, attempting to turn it into a field for proxy war between British-backed Islamist terrorists and Saudi-supported tribal forces and separatist groups from the former South Yemen, all fighting the sovereign government of the Republic of Yemen. The dirty operation started when an Islamist group in

the south, calling itself the Islamic Army of Aden (and Yemen's Islamic Jihad group), kidnapped 16 British and Australian tourists in late December. During the Yemeni rescue operation on Dec. 29, the kidnappers murdered three Britons and one Australian. The British media, soon followed by Blair's government, accused Yemen of "provoking the murders," because they refused to negotiate with the terrorists.

An official from Yemen's Interior Ministry has countered that authorities are interrogating ten Yemenis and two Pakistanis, at least five of whom carried British passports, and were arrested for their part in the kidnapping, and their links to the Al-Jihad Al-Islami group. The British consul in Aden, David Purse, confirmed to Agence France Presse, that three of the Yemeni kidnappers had been in London several days before the kidnapping. "I am waiting to meet with them," Purse said.

The Yemeni official stated that "three in the group were in possession of explosives when they were arrested on Dec. 23," before the kidnapping. "They had planned to attack certain targets in Yemen," he said, adding that "they were in London a few days before the kidnapping."

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## ***China protests Dalai Lama speech to Indian industry***

The Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) decision to invite the Tibetan Dalai Lama to address a session at the fifth Partnership Summit on Jan. 8, sparked a protest from the Chinese Embassy. The Dalai Lama was to speak at a plenary session on "The Role of Ethics and Values in Our Life." While the CII officials said that the protest was registered, they added that the invitation had been issued because of the growing interest in issues relating to ethics and moral values in the field of corporate governance.

One day before, a group of Tibetan "activists" stormed the Chinese embassy in New Delhi, and burned China's flag. About 20 members of the Tibetan Youth Congress scaled the embassy wall and forced their way into the embassy. They later burnt two Chinese flags outside the compound, in pro-

test against China's "occupation" of Tibet. The protesters also handed over a letter addressed to Chinese President Jiang Zemin asking for an end to Beijing's "colonial rule" of Tibet. Embassy security guards were able to expel the Tibetans from the compound without calling police.

The incident is clearly aimed at throwing a monkey wrench into the highly sensitive Indian-Chinese relations, at a time when they are gaining strategic prominence, as is a China-India-Russia triad.

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## ***Gen. Shahak tells Israel, 'Netanyahu is a danger'***

Retired Chief of Staff Gen. Amron Lipkin-Shahak announced his candidacy for Israeli Prime Minister on the ticket of a new Centrist party. Shahak told a Tel Aviv press conference on Jan. 6: "Today a new movement, under my leadership, is on its way. The next elections, the choice is simple: change and national reconciliation, or deepening the internal war which can lead us to disaster, hope, or division."

Shahak continued, "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a danger to Israel and is leading us to disaster. . . . The responsibility for what has happened here in the past two years falls squarely on Netanyahu's shoulders. He sees the rift. He listens and hears the voices. He understands the danger, but uses it to his own advantage. Netanyahu is a danger to Israel; Netanyahu has to go."

Netanyahu countered that the remarks were an incitement against Netanyahu, to which Shahak retorted: "When there's a danger, one must point to it. I'm not the only one who thinks so, by the way. Or, should we keep silent and speak only when we see the results of that danger?"

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## ***Pakistan, India exchange lists of nuclear sites***

India and Pakistan on Dec. 31 exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities in each other's country, in pursuance of a five-year-old bilateral agreement to protect them

**NEW ZEALAND** Justice Minister Sir Douglas Graham said on Jan. 8, "If commodity prices that we're so dependent on keep tumbling, that will push us closer and closer to Australia." Earlier, Australian Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer proposed a common currency, to be called the Zac. Australia's colonial constitution allows for the colony of New Zealand to merge with Australia, should New Zealanders so desire, and this clause remains in force.

**CHILE'S** armed forces have produced a document calling for breaking military relations with Spain and Great Britain, including the withdrawal of military missions from London and Madrid, and creating a new mission in Germany. The Jan. 4 report was prepared for President Eduardo Frei.

**MALAYSIA'S** Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad was presented the U Thant Peace Award on Jan. 5, by Sri Chinmoy on behalf of the Peace Meditation at the UN. The award cites Dr. Mahathir's service to Malaysia and all developing countries, as well as his unique contributions to the integration of spiritual and material progress during his 18 years of service. Other recipients include Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Mikhail Gorbachov, Nelson Mandela, and the Malaysian king, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar.

**TWO KOSOVA** villages were attacked by Serbian forces in retaliation for the kidnapping of eight Serbian soldiers by the Kosova Liberation Army (UCK). Serbian military targeted two villages near Kosovska Mitrovica, on Jan. 9, in the area where the UCK had captured the Serbian soldiers the previous day. The fighting is the most serious since the October cease-fire brokered by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke.

**ARIEL SHARON** Israel's Foreign Minister, warned the PLO against declaring an independent state, in an interview in the Jan. 14 issue of *Le Monde*.

from attack. The lists were exchanged through the countries' high commissions, in accordance with the 1993 agreement on prohibition of attacks against each other's nuclear installations and facilities.

In further diplomatic moves, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott will arrive in Pakistan on Feb. 2 for a three-day visit to continue talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Shamshad Ahmad. Talbott will also visit New Delhi. Talbott's visit to Islamabad and New Delhi will take place days before the Indian and Pakistani Foreign Secretaries meet to discuss Kashmir, and peace and security issues, apart from reviewing the progress made in their October-November round of dialogue. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a moratorium on fissile material production, restraint on nuclear and missile deployment, export controls, and the Pakistan-India dialogue will be on the agenda of the Talbott-Ahmad talks, according to Pakistani Foreign Minister Sarjaz Aziz.

## ***Sectarian attacks aimed at new Pakistan-Iran ties***

Sixteen Shiite worshippers crowded into a mosque in Multan, Pakistan, were slain on Jan. 4, when a four-man commando team with machine-guns stormed the site. The mosque was particularly crowded for the Ramadan season. The massacre—which, Pakistani government sources have stressed to *EIR*, is sure to spark a Shiite reprisal—was executed by Sipah i Sahaba, an Afghan mujahideen-staffed Sunni terrorist organization, which has been waging war on the Pakistani Shiite community for years.

Two weeks earlier a special anti-terrorism court sentenced eight members of the group to death, for the February 1997 death of Iranian diplomat Muhammad Ali Rahmimi and seven employees, at an Iranian government cultural center. Several more members of the Sunni terrorist group are now on trial, and probably will be convicted and executed.

"This is a proxy war, and has nothing to do with Pakistan per se," a source told *EIR*. "It reflects the fact that certain Muslim

countries are strongly opposed to Pakistan having a rapprochement with Iran," the center of Shia Islam. The attack occurred while Pakistani Foreign Minister Sarjaz Aziz was in Tehran meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, and where significant breakthroughs in troubled relations were expected.

## ***Southeast Asian nations wracked by irregular war***

Throughout Southeast Asia, terrorists, separatists, and fanatics are on the march, seeking to make their respective countries, and the region as a whole, ungovernable.

- **Philippines:** On Jan. 5, guerrillas from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front ambushed a logging truck, killing four near Buldon and threatening to cut off peace talks with Manila; on Jan. 6, members of Abu Sayyaf lobbed a grenade into a restaurant frequented by soldiers. Both groups have old Afghansi ties to Osama bin Laden.

- **Myanmar:** Karen rebels skirmished with government forces near the Unocal/Total Yadana pipeline on Jan. 6, according to Thai military sources. The government has accused Aung San Suu Kyi of illegal links to the Karen, the oldest separatist insurgency in Myanmar.

- **Indonesia:** Two bomb threats in Jakarta on Jan. 6 forced the evacuation of several buildings, including the headquarters of a supermarket chain and a nearby department store outlet; on Jan. 1, there was an explosion in a vacant store of the same chain. A federation of 18 student groups representing Java, Bali, and Lampung, the Front for Indonesian Youth Struggle, has vowed to continue demonstrations. Several leaders, including Muslim leader Abdurrahman Wahid, have called on the students to stop street rallies during Ramadan.

- **Thailand:** Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai called for greater security around government buildings, following bombings in Bangkok and Chiangmai. The bombings, according to intelligence officials, he said "could be aimed at creating confusion to a point the government can no longer maintain peace."