

# International Intelligence

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## ***Thailand, India Affirm Strong Bilateral Ties***

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee released a joint statement on Nov. 29, at the end of Thaksin's visit to India, which "affirmed their commitment to building a strong bilateral relationship." They called for the continuation of high-level contacts, and agreed to set up a joint working group to study Thaksin's proposal for a bilateral free trade arrangement. They also agreed to consider establishing a joint-venture center in India to aid investment links between Thai and Indian companies in the areas of road building, tourism, and food processing.

The two leaders also agreed that the Thailand-India Colloquium, which last met in 1996, would be revived to advance relations among young people, intellectuals, and the academic and business communities.

The two sides agreed to intensify bilateral cooperation in advanced technology, study the idea of a bilateral free-trade arrangement, and explore the prospect for a land corridor between the two countries through Myanmar and to Vietnam's deep-sea ports.

Thaksin also spoke to Indian leaders on his government's plan for an Asian Cooperation Dialogue. He called for setting up a core group of countries from Asia to promote the concept.

Thaksin extended an invitation to Prime Minister Vajpayee to participate in the first Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Plus-India summit in Cambodia next year.

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## ***Brazil's Military Back Freedom For Seineldín***

*Ombro a Ombro*, the magazine of Brazil's retired military officers, published another call for freeing Argentina's Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín, in its November issue. As *EIR* reported last week, Seineldín, a political prisoner, demanded his own freedom, in order to defend Argentina against further disintegration, after former President Saúl Menem was released from prison and

announced that he will run for President again. As President, Menem abetted the International Monetary Fund destruction of Argentina, while Seineldín was jailed in 1990 for resisting it.

The article in *Ombro a Ombro* was written by Vice-Adm. Sergio Tasso (ret.), a leader of the "Brazilian Committee For The Freedom Of Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín." Tasso said that the Brazilian patriots who formed this committee did so, because by fighting for Seineldín's freedom, "we are also defending Brazil, its sovereignty, and its national dignity," against the "immense oligarchical system" which neo-liberal globalization would impose upon the world.

"Colonel Seineldín is a patriot, a brave soldier," Tasso said. "In addition, he is a friend of Brazil and the Brazilians, and it is very clear that Latin America, with its enormous potential, which could make it one of the poles of the world's peace, justice, security, and development, will only have its day when Brasilia and Buenos Aires cement . . . an unbreakable union of ideals and aims, to the benefit of peace and harmony among all peoples."

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## ***East Timor Leader Seeks Peace With Indonesia***

Xanana Gusmao, the former Fretelin rebel leader who is widely expected to become the first President of East Timor, visited West Timor, Indonesia, in late November, meeting with former militia leaders accused of the destruction and killing after the East Timor independence referendum in August 1999, Agence France Presse reported on Nov. 27. Militia leader João Tavares, after meeting with Gusmao, said, "Both sides no longer wish to continue enmity, and we agree to live in peace side by side. We want to hand down peace to our children." Gusmao said that he would propose a policy of amnesty to the international community, as the basis for East Timor's relations with Indonesia.

However, so far, the U.S. response has not been favorable to the forgiveness approach. At the same time that Gusmao was in West Timor, U.S. Commander in Chief, Pacific Command, Adm. Dennis Blair, dur-

ing a visit to Indonesia, said, "We are ready to resume the full range of bilateral cooperation," but only with the "completion of the actions regarding accountability for the action of the TNI [the Indonesian Army] in East Timor following the referendum in 1999."

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## ***Israeli Group Accuses Arafat Of War Crimes***

A day before a hearing in Brussels, Belgium on new war crimes charges against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a complaint was filed in Brussels charging Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and other Palestinians with "crimes against humanity," the Nov. 27 Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

The complaint, filed by the Terror Victims Association (TVA) on behalf of about 30 Israelis, charges Arafat, Tanzim militia chief Marwan Barghouti — whom the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) is trying to assassinate — Palestinian preventive security heads Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan, and several Palestinian organizations, with "murder, crimes against humanity, and genocide," for attacks dating back to 1974. Lawyers for the plaintiffs are Yves Oshinsky of the TVA, founded by IDF Lt. Col. Meir Indor in 1986; William Goldnadel, head of the French group "Lawyers Without Borders"; and Jakov Rubin. The TVA is headed by a veteran of IDF death squads.

The World Committee for Justice and Peace, part of the United Jewish Communities, a project of the "Mega" group of billionaires fanatically opposed to a Mideast peace, headed by Charles Bronfman, plans to file a similar complaint in Brussels against Arafat, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas, on behalf of 20 Israeli claimants.

Israeli officials charged that the suit against Sharon, which the Belgian state prosecutor has allowed to proceed, is an act of the Intifada, and "part of the Palestinian struggle against the state of Israel." An unnamed official of the Foreign and Justice Ministries' delegation to the Belgian court said, "In Israel they [Palestinians] carry out terrorist attacks, and here they are making manipulative use of Belgian law in order to attack Israel."