

# International Intelligence

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## ***Jordanian King Speaks Against Attack on Iran***

Jordan's King Abdallah II warned on March 15 that "a strike against Iran would cause the whole region to explode. The threat to regional security and stability will be grave if force is utilized to resolve this problem." He continued, "Dialogue, patience and diplomacy are the only solution."

The King deplored the March 14 Israeli attack on the Jericho prison, calling it "a threat to the future of the peace process and to security in the region. It is an unfortunate escalation."

Abdallah II also addressed the Hamas issue, with some veiled warnings. He said Hamas, which won the recent Palestinian legislative elections for the first time and is now forming a government, should "deal with internal and regional realities," and that the international community should "respect the Palestinians' will, to give Hamas a chance." He said time was running out for negotiations, adding, "If we are going to keep throwing the ball to each other's court . . . the reality of the situation is that we will find, two years from now, that we have no homeland to talk about." This may be a reference to the danger that the Israeli government will expel the Palestinians to Jordan.

He reiterated his offer to host an inter-faith conference in Amman, for all Iraqi factions.

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## ***Pope Calls for Dialogue Of 'Religions of the Book'***

Receiving a delegation of the American Jewish Committee on March 16, Pope Benedict XVI delivered a short speech in support of the dialogue among Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—the three "religions of the Book."

"Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," the Pope said, "believe in the one God, Creator of heaven and earth. It follows, therefore, that all three monotheistic religions are called to cooperate with one another for the common good of humanity, serving the

cause of justice and peace in the world. This is especially important today when particular attention must be given to teaching respect for God, for religions and their symbols, and for holy sites and places of worship. Religious leaders have a responsibility to work for reconciliation through genuine dialogue and acts of human solidarity."

The Pope's clear statement comes amid a faction fight in the Vatican between the "ecumenical" and the "Crusader" factions. Cardinal Renato Martino, following a meeting of the three largest Muslim organizations in Italy, declared to the press that he would be in favor of teaching the Koran, if enough pupils in a school demanded it. Within hours from his statements, the Press Office of the Vatican issued a release saying that Martino represented only his personal opinion. The next day, Martino gave an interview in which he declared that this is not only his personal view, but that it corresponds to the Pope's own, as indicated by decisions taken in recent years in Germany and supported by both Christian churches. On that occasion, then-Cardinal Ratzinger was personally involved to guarantee the success of the operation.

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## ***Uribe's Supporters Sweep Elections in Colombia***

Congressional elections held on March 12 in Colombia, produced a sweep by the six-party coalition of political forces backing President Alvaro Uribe's re-election bid. Presidential elections will be held in May, and Uribe is now considered a shoo-in for a second four-year term. The Colombian Constitution was amended recently to allow for second-term Presidencies.

Despite abstention rates as high as 60%, in large part due to the narco-terrorist FARC's pre-election terror campaign and widespread assassination threats against candidates around the country, Uribe's supporters will be taking 65 of 102 seats in the Senate, and 90 of the 166 in the lower House, knocking the Liberal Party, dominated by the pro-drug former Presidents Alfonso López Michelsen and César Gaviria, out of their long-held majority in the Congress.

Among the Uribe coalition forces that swept the elections was the Alas Equipo Colombia group, which maintained its bloc of five congressional seats. Max Londono, the president of the Lyndon LaRouche Association, ran for Senate on the Alas slate, and was credited with some 380 votes. The LaRouche Association has announced that its campaign will continue into the Presidential elections, with the slogan, "A Train and Nuclear Energy in Search of a Candidate."

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## ***Coverage of LaRouche In Russia, Egypt***

The March 6 article by Lyndon LaRouche, "Strictly Speaking, There Is No 'Iran Crisis'" (*EIR*, March 17) was posted on March 14 on the Russian site CMNews.ru and at INSI.org.ua (the Independent Strategic Studies Institute, based in Ukraine). A Feb. 25 LaRouche PAC release, "Collapse of Carry Trade Will Blow Out the System" is circulating on Russian blogs and forums, after being posted on the above two sites the previous week. That release will also appear as a feature in the March issue of *Valyutny Spekulyant (Currency Dealer)* magazine, which will be appearing the week of March 20.

Meanwhile, an interview with *EIR* Editorial Board member Murel Mirak-Weissbach was published in *al-Gumhuriya*, a leading Egyptian paper, on March 16, as well as in several other Arabic newspapers. The interview was conducted by syndicated columnist El-Sayed Hani, during Mirak-Weissbach's visit to Cairo in February. The journalist was particularly interested in who was behind the "Mohammad cartoons" in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, the role of George Shultz, and the threat against Iran.

In addition, a book has been published in Cairo, with the speech delivered at Cairo University during a previous visit by Mirak-Weissbach—on perspectives for changing U.S. policy toward Southwest Asia—along with a speech by Prof. Mohammad el-Sayed Selim of the University of Cairo (see article, p. 53).