
International Intelligence

Barghouti Calls for Historic Reconciliation

Palestinian Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti, who is imprisoned in Israel, called for a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, based on a two-state solution.

Writing in a letter to be read April 8 before the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Israeli peace movement, Peace Now, Barghouti declared: "The vast majority of the Palestinian people, myself included, are ready for a historic reconciliation based on international resolutions that will result in the establishment of two states, a Palestinian and an Israeli one, that will exist side by side in peace and security. We are ready for reconciliation that will grant our and your own children a life devoid of the threats of war and bloodshed; to this end, we must reach a comprehensive ceasefire as soon as possible."

Barghouti is one of the most popular leaders in the West Bank, a strong nationalist who has the respect of all the Palestinian factions, including Hamas. In recent days two leaders of the Israeli Labor party, Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer and former Labor Party chairman Amir Peretz, have called for his release. The latter will be launching a political campaign for that purpose. Lyndon LaRouche and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III have called for his release as well.

EIR Rep Addresses Italian Businessmen

Claudio Celani of *EIR* was one of two featured speakers at a conference in Bergamo, Italy, April 10, organized by the Lombardy Confapi (Confederation of Small Business Associations), entitled "New Economic Scenarios for Enterprises: A Rooseveltian approach."

Celani explained the origins of the current financial breakdown crisis, and then presented the solutions laid out by Lyndon LaRouche to reorganize the system and rebuild

the economy: the Homeowners and Bank Protection Act, a New Bretton Woods financial-monetary system, and the Eurasian Land-Bridge. He noted that the debate which has exploded in Italy around former finance minister Giulio Tremonti's recent book and attacks on financial globalization (see *EIR*, March 28, April 4), is a result of the public discussion which the LaRouche movement launched on Roosevelt-style measures to deal with the crisis, with Tremonti himself and other political leaders. Celani also called on the participants to join the fight to defeat the Lisbon Treaty, which would deprive Italy and other European countries of their sovereignty, thus eliminating any possibility to intervene effectively to change economic policy. After the presentations, the participants were eager to discuss the need for modernizing the country's infrastructure and introducing reality into the discussion of economics.

The event was attended by over 60 entrepreneurs, most belonging to the youth (meaning under-40) section of the National Confederation of Small Business Associations; the companies in this group are generally small, highly productive industries, which represent the backbone of Italy's physical economy. The event was organized as a result of Confapi events in Ascoli Piceno and Rome in 2007.

Court: Halting BAE Investigation Was Unlawful

A British high court ruled April 10 that the London government's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) acted "unlawfully" when it stopped the investigation into the massive corruption of the notorious "Al-Yamanah" arms deal between BAE Systems and Saudi Arabia. In December 2006, SFO director Robert Wardle stopped the ongoing investigation of the bribery and corruption involved in the £43 billion Al-Yamamah deal. After the deal was originally signed in 1985, for BAE to sell military equipment to Saudi Arabia, allegations emerged that hundreds of millions of pounds in bribes had been paid, including to Saudi "national security advisor" Prince Bandar.

In 2006, Tony Blair, then Prime Minis-

ter, and then-Attorney General Lord Goldsmith brought a lot of weight to bear to stop the investigation, claiming it would have caused "serious damage" to U.K.-Saudi relations and threaten national security, because the Saudis were allegedly refusing to continue counter-terrorism cooperation.

The two judges, Lord Justice Moses and Justice Sullivan, ruled that "No one, whether in this country or outside, is entitled to interfere with the course of our justice. It is the failure of government and the defendant [Wardle] to bear that essential principle in mind that justifies the intervention of this court."

As yet, there is no order to resume the investigation, and there will be a further hearing on what is next to be done, the *Guardian* reported. What's at stake is a lot more than a bribery case. As *EIR* has reported, the Al-Yamamah deal is just the tip of the iceberg of a Saudi deal with the Anglo-Dutch financial oligarchy, which produced a slush fund of undisclosed size, available for clandestine wars and covert operations, most likely including 9/11. Thus it is no surprise that already there are signs that both Prime Minister Gordon Brown, and the Conservative opposition, are trying to bury the case once again.

FSB Chief Patrushev Says NGOs Sponsor Terror

Addressing a session of Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee (NAC) on April 9, director of the Federal Security Service (FSB) Nikolai Patrushev charged that foreign NGOs were assisting "international terrorists" in recruiting Russian citizens for their operations. Patrushev said that this assertion is based on evidence gathered in Russia's Southern Federal District, which includes Chechnya and the rest of the North Caucasus.

Patrushev's statements were the latest in a series of indications that Russian government authorities are increasingly looking, in their counter-terror efforts, in directions that lead to London. In a commentary earlier this year, analyst Boris Mezhyuev wrote that last

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year's heightening of tension between Moscow and London was connected with Russian security agencies' discovery of a "British trail" in the destabilization of the North Caucasus. At the end of March, in an address to another meeting, Patrushev warned about likely Islamist attacks on targets in Russia's Ural industrial region, citing the activity of Hizb ut-Tahrir al-Islami, which happens to be an organization harbored in London.

Also speaking at the NAC session was Alexander Torshin, deputy chairman of the Federation Council. He told Novosti information agency that there are 59 NGOs that support Chechen and other anti-Russian insurgencies. "Foreign NGOs often turn into platforms for recruiting terrorists and extremists. What is particularly alarming is that in most cases they recruit young people," Torshin said in an interview after the NAC meeting. He cited anti-Russian events in Poland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Turkey, and some of the Baltic and Scandinavian countries.

Bering Strait Tunnel Is Popularized in Russia

It's not known with certainty, whether Russian President Vladimir Putin brought up the project for a multimodal transport connection across the Bering Strait, when he met with President George Bush at Sochi on April 6. Scores of Russian press articles had anticipated that he would, citing a *Sunday Times* of London report that put together a Kremlin official's mention of "a real bridge" between the U.S.A. and Russia, with Chukotka Region Governor Roman Abramovich's purchase of a giant tunnel-boring drill. The Bering Strait was not mentioned at the post-summit press conference, nor in any releases, but the Russian publicity has not abated.

The transportation website www.kolesa.ru ("kolesa" means "wheels"), on April 7, noted that "it wasn't on the official agenda," but "it very well may be that there was discussion at Sochi of the somewhat extravagant, but nonetheless truly impressive,

project of joining the two continents through an underground link." *Argumenty i fakty*, Russia's most widely circulated print publication, had an article the same day, titled "Chukotka—Alaska: a Map of the Crossing." This article stated in tones of certainty, that the project "should be started in the near future." Besides the bore acquisition by Abramovich's Infrastruktura company, *AiF* reprised the history of the Bering Strait project since the turn of the 19th-to-20th centuries, including the creation of the Interhemispheric Bering Strait Tunnel and Railroad Group. The *AiF* article was picked up by Pravda.ru, among others.

Separatists Threaten Bolivia's Integrity

Global hyperinflation in food prices is feeding the British drive to break apart Bolivia, as only the first domino to fall in South America.

Separatists in the gas- and agricultural-export-rich department of Santa Cruz have scheduled a referendum on "autonomy" from the federal government for May 4, which the separatists promise to hold, no matter who declares it illegal.

Santa Cruz's extensive soy cultivation provides much of the cooking oils used nationally. With the price having risen 35% in the recent period, President Evo Morales ordered exports of cooking oil suspended temporarily on March 26, until supplies for the domestic market were assured. The separatist Civic Committee went to town (its head, Branko Marinkovic, is one of the biggest cooking oil producers), mobilizing a protest of 300,000 people on April 2 against the export ban, and for autonomy. The governor of the department, Ruben Costas, ranted there that the export ban doesn't matter, because after the May 4 referendum, the department will be able to make its own laws. "We're making the real revolution."

Brazil and Argentina's foreign ministers, plus the vice foreign minister of Colombia, went to Bolivia, in an attempt to mediate between the government and the separatists, to head off the vote.

PPP VULTURES are currently targeting Europe's 30 most important transportation projects, claiming that they will cost far more than originally thought, and therefore should be targets for looting by public-private partnerships.

JIMMY CARTER says that he will meet in Syria with Hamas leader Khaled Meshal, during his trip to the Middle East, which begins April 13. Carter's itinerary includes Israel, the West Bank, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan.

PHILIP BOWRING, a top British intelligence analyst, took the occasion of an article in the April 9 website of *Asia Sentinel*, to muse that the (British-provoked) Tibet crisis may lead to another world war. He compared the "Tibet effect" to the events in Bosnia in 1914, as the former "can tip a delicate balance and stir what seemed dormant passions into gut-wrenching nationalistic rages."

CHINESE SCHOLAR Prof. Hu Yan, of the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, correctly identified the drive for "Tibetan independence" as a British creation, in an interview with Xinhua April 6. Tibet is "a region coveted by western nations since the Opium War in the 1840s," he said. "The so-called issue of 'Tibet Independence,' is originally an outcome of aggression by imperialist nations." The British tried to separate Tibet from China and make it a "buffer zone" between China and India. "These two wars shall never be forgotten," Hu said.

THE FRENCH government narrowly won a vote of no confidence in Parliament on April 8, which was called to oppose France's return to NATO's military organization, and commitment to send additional troops to Afghanistan. Out of 574 members of Parliament, 227 voted in favor of the censure motion. To bring down the government, 288 votes are required.