

International Intelligence

Confrontation between Syria and Iraq coming?

A head-on confrontation between Syria and Iraq cannot be ruled out now, according to Syrian diplomats quoted in the Oct. 2 London *Observer*. Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur is quoted saying that Damascus doesn't want such a confrontation, but no one "can predict the reaction of Saddam Hussein."

He was referring to the Syrian government's recent pledge of "total support," financial and military, to the newly created "Kurdish National Front," based in Damascus and headed by Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The KNF is a coalition consolidated after Talabani's meeting with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad.

Talabani announced that he would be able to use bases of the terrorist Kurdish Communist Party (PKK) inside Turkey to re-enter Iraqi territory after a recent military offensive by Iraq sent the Kurdish population fleeing for the most part into neighboring Turkey.

The Syrians, meanwhile, are warning against the recent creation of a "Syrian National Front" in Baghdad and are expecting Iraq to sponsor "retaliatory raids" against Syrian border villages.

Ethiopian refugee camp flooded

Ethiopia's biggest refugee camp was swamped by flooding during the summer. From reports just now coming out, in mid-August, the Baro River burst its banks, flooding Itang, the largest refugee camp in Ethiopia, a "city" of thatched huts housing 213,000 persons who fled famine and civil war in southern Sudan.

Malaria, dysentery, and pneumonia are on the increase and health officials fear an epidemic could break out at any moment. Drinking water supplies are contaminated, and most of the camp's inhabitants wash and defecate in the same muddy water they drink, Kwingsley Amaning, the U.N. official in charge of Itang, told Reuters.

Heavy rains which have provoked the worst flooding in 20 years in southern Ethiopia have also cut roads leading to this remote camp on savannah lowlands near the Sudanese border. The trucks are now getting through again, but Amaning, a Ghanaian, said Itang refugee camp was in a "desperate situation," with only five days of food stocks in reserve.

Wife says British scientist murdered

The wife of a British defense scientist found dead under mysterious circumstances asserts that he was murdered. Mary Beckham is the widow of the late Alistair Beckham, who had worked for Plessey Naval Systems in Surrey, in classified areas.

Sometime in August of this year, Beckham was found dead by his wife on a Sunday. He was in the garden shed, with electric wires attached to his body, and a handkerchief stuffed in his mouth. The fuse in the power supply had been bypassed by a paperclip. The Surrey coroner recorded an open verdict.

His wife told the Oct. 2 *Sunday Times* of London, "I can't imagine him going out in the shed and killing himself. He was perfectly all right. . . . I believe he was murdered and I've told the police that." Beckham was only 50, happily married for 17 years, and known to be highly devoted to his three daughters.

Following Beckham's death, in September, 33-year-old British Aerospace executive Andrew Hall was found dead in his car with a pipe leading from the exhaust through a window. Hall was involved in SDI-related work. Police are labeling it a "suicide."

The *Sunday Times* said that the recorded number of British scientists' who have died strange deaths over the past few years is now 12, but other estimates are that the number has reached 20.

Swiss practice defense against irregular war

"Indirect warfare" was a major theme of the maneuvers just concluded by the Swiss

Army, reported the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* Oct. 2. More than 23,000 men, 3,000 vehicles, and 50 aircraft engaged in the "Rondo" exercises.

"In the first phase, command and troops had to confront the problems of indirect warfare, and build up their ability to preserve neutrality by fighting. The second phase concerned mainly the use of a flexible command to be able to organize a mobilization that was being hindered [by irregular warfare] and engage the troops in combat. The last phase concerned defense in an overt crisis situation."

Pioneering work in conceptualizing irregular warfare was done in Switzerland some decades ago, according to Brig. Gen. August von der Heydte's book, *Irregular Warfare*, and the last general maneuver of the Swiss Army was based on a scenario of defeating a Soviet invasion by joining with NATO forces.

Crises building in Red China

In both Tibet and in the western Chinese region of Xinjiang, separatist tensions are building, London's *Daily Telegraph* reported Oct. 4.

Harsh pre-emptive moves have kept Tibet relatively quiet, but the current period includes a series of anniversaries of outbreaks of unrest against the occupying Chinese, and more trouble is expected. Oct. 1 was the anniversary of last year's riots, and Oct. 7 will be the 38th anniversary of the Chinese invasion of Tibet. Police are reportedly patrolling everywhere in the capital, Lhasa.

In Xinjiang, a Muslim Central Asian region, unrest may also be breaking out again. P.R.C. officials have just reported that, in June, a racial slur against the native Uygur population written on a university wall provoked an Uygur demonstration against the Han Chinese, who have been moving into the region in ever greater numbers.

There have been many protests against the Chinese since 1950, when Red Chinese troops marched in to crush an Uygur independence movement. A series of articles in the local government-controlled press in re-

cent months have denounced separatist agitation and foreign infiltration. Foreign journalists are now banned from the area.

Reportedly, the Red Chinese are getting help from Poland in training riot-control troops, the *Jerusalem Post* reported Sept. 29. An Eastern European diplomatic source said that Chinese security forces have worked with Poland on prevention, control, and repression of civil unrest. "Everyone knows that Poland has a lot of experience in this domain," commented the *Post*. When former Polish Prime Minister Zbigniew Meszner visited the P.R.C. recently, Zhao Ziyang indicated that the Beijing government expects an escalation of social unrest in coming years.

Japanese emperors' tombs vandalized

The tombs of Japanese emperors were vandalized Oct. 3 and leaflets were left calling for the abolition of the imperial system.

Police said one radical group left a smoke bomb outside the tomb of Emperor Meiji, the grandfather of ailing Emperor Hirohito, on the outskirts of the former capital of Kyoto in western Japan. The leaflets, declaring, "Now is the time to get rid of the imperial system," were signed by the Association of Revolutionary Workers. (Japan's leftists, including the Japanese Communist Party, have long attacked Hirohito as a war criminal.)

Another group sprayed red paint over an Imperial Household Agency billboard and scattered horse manure outside a sacred tomb reputed to house the remains of Emperor Jimmu, the legendary first emperor of Japan, located in Nara.

In a statement printed in *EIR*'s last edition, Lyndon LaRouche warned that Japan has been targeted for destabilization by networks centered on Britain's "Tiny" Rowland of the Lonrho conglomerate.

Thais warn Burmese rebels to keep out

The Thai army has issued a warning to Burmese government troops and Karen rebels

battling near the Thai-Burmese border to confine their fighting to Burmese territory, 3rd Army Region Commander Siri Thiwanphan said Oct. 3.

The warning came after stray artillery shells hit a village in Tha Song Yang district of Tak Oct. 1, killing a schoolboy and wounding four other villagers, according to Siri. Major General Ansorn said the fighting between the Burmese government troops and the rebels near the border area is expected to intensify over the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, Karen leader Bo Mya on Oct. 3 appealed for international aid for some 3,500 Burmese "students" who have fled to his rebel bases for military training. Bo Mya reiterated that the Karens would allow the students to set up independently run camps where the rebels would provide military training and arm the students. Two small groups of students reportedly have already been given rudimentary training and have slipped back into Rangoon.

Said another Karen spokesman, Em Marta, "We can provide security at these camps, but we cannot protect them from their number-one enemy—malaria."

Angolan rebels ask for continued aid

Marcos Samondo, the deputy representative to the United States of Angola's pro-Western UNITA guerrillas, stressed Oct. 4 the necessity of maintaining U.S. military aid to UNITA until all Cuban troops have left Angola.

Under an agreement mediated by the United States, all South African troops have withdrawn from the country, but the Cubans remain.

"There are many questions still unanswered. The 60,000 Cuban troops which are in Angola now. Who will supervise their withdrawal? Why will it take two years for them to withdraw?" asked Samondo.

He said that there were meetings being held in Zambia with seven heads of state to create a situation where UNITA would be integrated into a postwar Angola. Samondo explained, however, that Cuban forces were still in position to attack UNITA headquarters.

Briefly

● **THE RESULTS** of a new AIDS study were reported in the West German monthly, *AIDS Forschung*. France is registering 33 new AIDS cases weekly, and Italy 26. In the United States, there is a new AIDS-sick patient every 14 minutes.

● **GERMAN** Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in a speech at the University of Bologna, Italy Oct. 3, attacked Western critics of Soviet policy: "All those, who . . . mistake the image of the enemy as a world view, who think that always the worst case has to be assumed for Soviet policy, all those have to be told to modernize their thinking."

● **THE F-18 'HORNET'** was chosen by the Swiss Defense Ministry to replace its aging Mirage IIIs and Hunters as the mainstay of the Swiss Air Force. Thirty-four aircraft will be purchased from the United States at a cost of 3 billion Swiss francs.

● **A SHORTAGE** of Stinger missiles is hampering the efforts of the Afghan rebels, and Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Safi, head of intelligence for the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, came to Washington in early October to ask for more. He told congressional sources the Stingers are needed because Soviet aircraft continue to support Afghan army units.

● **TORRENTIAL RAINS** over a 24-hour period killed at least 23 people in India's financial capital of Bombay the first week of October. Most were killed by walls collapsing under the weight of nearly eight inches of rain.

● **THE U.S.** Drug Enforcement Administration is fighting to keep open its office in Panama, against the wishes of the State Department. The DEA says to close the office would cut off "important" and "useful" anti-drug cooperation with the Panamanian Defense Forces.