

# International Intelligence

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## Angolan government recaptures towns

Following the South African troop pull-back from Angola on Sept. 1, the Angolan military has recaptured a string of towns held by the pro-Western UNITA guerrillas under Dr. Jonas Savimbi.

The South Africans pulled out of southern Angola after a deal was negotiated between the United States and the Russians—although ostensibly between Angola, Cuba with 50,000 troops there, and South Africa. UNITA was not a party to the negotiations, which have been attacked by Savimbi as a sell-out by Washington. The South African pull-out from the south has left UNITA positions in the center and north of the country more exposed.

The pro-Soviet Angolan government's chief of military intelligence, Lt. Col. Mario Placido Cirilo de Sa, claimed that government forces had confronted nine rebel battalions and killed 1,300 defenders in fierce fighting in Savimbi's native village of Munchango along the Benguela Railroad. These claims are denied by the Savimbi forces.

The region around the village served as a major arms depot and supply route to UNITA forces in central and northern Angola.

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## U.S. asks British probe of 'SDI deaths'

The toll in the wave of mysterious deaths of British scientists is now estimated at 22, up by 10 from a week earlier estimate of 12, reported the Oct. 9 *Sunday Times* of London. The Pentagon is about to formally ask the British government to look into the deaths, because many are believed to have been involved in top secret research related to the American Strategic Defense Initiative.

The Pentagon is expected to ask Britain for the case histories of the 22 Britons. "It was irrefutable that some were working on projects linked to Star Wars," the Pentagon source is quoted.

U.S. defense officials "want an investigation into suggestions by some relatives

and colleagues that the men may have been victims of a macabre conspiracy," said the British paper. "This official American concern comes as GEC, whose Marconi subsidiary employed some of the defense workers who have died, begins its own investigation at the instigation of Lord Weinstock, the company's managing director."

According to the paper, the Pentagon particularly wants the British Ministry of Defense to "look into suggestions that some of those who died were working on the American star wars projects and other secret defense contracts."

The *Sunday Times* upgrading of the number from 12 to 22 comes from American embassy estimations. The embassy has forwarded 22 names to Washington.

Meanwhile, family members of two more defense scientists who died suspiciously, have come forward to say they did not believe it was suicide.

Labour Party parliamentarian Doug Hoyle told the paper, "The government knows a lot more than it is saying. It should come clean."

The *Sunday Times*' own investigators have found several cases in which official explanations of why one or another scientist may have committed suicide did not correspond to the facts of the situation.

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## For Haiti, no new U.S. aid soon

Although Haiti has done everything the United States as asked it to, there will be no aid for that country anytime soon, according to State Department spokesmen quoted in the Oct. 8 *Washington Post*. "By taking bold measures to attract fresh U.S. aid to the poverty-stricken nation, Haiti's new military government has put Washington in a bind," commented the newspaper.

The leaders of the coup have said that their measures are designed to "persuade the U.S. to restore \$89 million in government-to-government aid cut last November. In its first weeks, the new government undertook a series of measures that had been advocated by U.S. officials. . . . But the U.S. Congress is unlikely to consider renewing Hai-

ti's aid before February. Even then, aides in Washington say sympathetic lawmakers may face a struggle just to raise American assistance to its former levels . . . given overall budget constraints."

Most people in Haiti live at starvation levels, with per capita income at \$300 per year.

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## Satanic boom in Britain

"Satanists are enjoying a boom" in Great Britain, as Christian churches decline, reports the 1989-90 edition of the *Christian Handbook*, published the first week of October.

Christian churches in Britain have lost nearly 900,000 members in the last eight years, and are expected to lose several hundred thousand more by the year 2000.

Meanwhile, according to an Oct. 8 *Daily Telegraph* synopsis of the *Handbook*, "Independent Christian churches, non-Christian religions, and even Satanists are enjoying a boom." Satanists now number 16,000, having added 1,000 members in two years.

One other religion spreading in Britain is Islam, with a new mosque opening every two weeks in the country. And Sikhs now number 200,000, ten times their size in 1985. Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists are all declining in numbers.

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## Pakistan polarizes as elections approach

Acting Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has announced that Nov. 16 elections for the national assembly and Nov. 19 elections for the provincial assembly will be held on a "party basis."

The late President Zia ul-Haq, killed in an unexplained plane crash in September, had decreed that the elections would be held on a non-party, candidate basis.

Since most of Pakistan's parties, except for Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League,

are ethnic parties with one leader and little national influence, those two might expect to benefit the most from the change, especially the PPP, which has the strongest organization in two crucial provinces, Punjab and Sind, accounting for 75% of the national assembly seats.

The Pakistan Muslim League, the party which ushered in Pakistan in 1947 under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, has been split into PML (F) and PML (J) groups, primarily demarcated by pro-Zia, pro-Punjab, and anti-Zia, pro-Sind factions, respectively. Many smaller parties—leftist, centrist, and religious in outlook—are trying to attach themselves to either the PPP or one of the PML factions.

Because the PML remains split, making it likely the PPP, with a strong pro-Soviet current, will come out an easy winner in the elections, supporters of the late Zia have banded together in a coalition for the Nov. 16 elections. An announcement by leaders of eight mainly right-wing and religious parties Oct. 6 said the alliance would put up joint candidates. The program of the "Islamic Democratic Alliance" (IDA) includes full support for the "holy war" of rebels in Afghanistan.

## ***Sihanouk meets Reagan, battles Khmer Rouge***

Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk met with President Reagan and State Department officials Oct. 11, and told reporters that Reagan had agreed that an international peacekeeping force was necessary for the area.

The prince added that Reagan also said "that the United States wanted Sihanouk to lead the new government of Cambodia once the Vietnamese troops are out." The *New York Times* reported today that China, Vietnam, the United States and other nations have agreed that several Khmer Rouge leaders, including Pol Pot, should be exiled to China to give the Khmer Rouge a more moderate image, so that other coalition partners would accept the group, which was responsible for the relatively greatest genocide in modern history, against their own people.

Meanwhile, Sihanouk's army is sending reinforcements into the interior of Cambodia to prevent takeover by the Khmer Rouge, Sihanouk's son Ranariddh said in a telegram to the prince released on Oct. 10, "Faced with the Khmer Rouge threat, I have taken the liberty of deciding to send 75% of our troops and all commanding officers into the interior," he told his father.

## ***Mitterrand, Moscow in 'total dialogue'***

French President François Mitterrand of the Socialist International, in an interview with the journal *Nouvelles d'Alsace* in early October, stressed that "Eastern Europe should not be excluded from the 1993 European Big Market," which will take place because of the "1992" reforms. This, he said, could be one of the central agenda items of his visit to the Soviet Union.

The 1992 reforms will abolish all customs barriers on the continent, representing a giant first step toward eliminating national sovereignty and preparing Europe for the status of Soviet protectorate.

It is now official that President Mitterrand will visit the U.S.S.R. Nov. 25-26. Gorbachov is invited to France in the first half of 1989.

"We attach priority to the dialogue with the U.S.S.R.," declared French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, in an interview with the Soviet government paper *Izvestia* recently. "I've recently been in Czechoslovakia and I'm planning to visit other Eastern countries during the next months," he added on Radio France-Inter Oct. 3.

A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry praised the "total dialogue" now "reestablished" with France.

No longer reined in by Gaullists around former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, Mitterrand is now avidly promoting Gorbachov's "Common European House" policy for Soviet takeover of Europe.

In Moscow, Mitterrand's agenda will include economic and scientific cooperation on the bilateral level, disarmament, and regional conflicts, primarily in the Middle East and in Cambodia.

## ***Briefly***

● **MIKHAIL GORBACHOV** and wife Raisa are likely to stay with the Queen at Buckingham Palace during the first Soviet state visit to Britain in spring of 1989, say British newspapers.

● **ETHIOPIAN** Air Force jets have attacked anti-locust spraying planes near the Sudanese border, forcing specialists battling the swarms to ground the planes, according to an Oct. 8 Sudan news agency report.

● **COMMUNIST PARTY** of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison has proposed that talks between New People's Army rebels and the government resume and the rebels lay down their arms, if President Aquino dismantles U.S. military bases there. Sison said he foresees the Senate denying ratification of a new treaty retaining the bases anyway.

● **THE ANNIVERSARY** of the "Double Tenth," the Chinese Revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen 77 years ago, came on Oct. 10. It was the tenth time that Sun had tried to take power. He himself was not in China at the time, but abroad successfully arranging for a cut-off of foreign funds to the Manchus.

● **SOVIET OLYMPIC** medals in Seoul were overwhelmingly won by members of the armed forces, says an Oct. 6 report in the military paper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*. Team members from the "army and fleet" had accounted for 51 of 55 gold medals, 29 of 39 silver medals, and 34 of 46 bronze medals.

● **THE LARGEST** peacetime security operation in British history is now being mounted for the Conservative Party conference in Brighton, with 1,500 police, a minesweeper, and a 3-mile air exclusion zone. The 1984 conference was bombed by IRA terrorists.