

International Intelligence

Police shakeup in Colombia's 'drug capital'

Colombian National Police authorities announced on June 20 that major internal changes were under way in the city of Medellín, dubbed the country's "drug capital" because the cocaine-trafficking Medellín Cartel is headquartered there. The 96-man command hierarchy of the Medellín metropolitan police is slated for replacement by officers from Colombia's outlying provinces, and the top commanders of Medellín's F-2, the police intelligence unit, are expected to be transferred elsewhere imminently. Replacement of the entire police force is also under consideration.

The shakeup reportedly has as much to do with purging contaminated elements as it does with giving much-needed relief to the city's law enforcement agents. Medellín Cartel chieftain Pablo Escobar has offered a bounty of \$4,000 for every policeman assassinated in that violence-torn city. So far this year, 141 officers have been slain, and 40 more have resigned in fear for their lives.

"We are seriously considering changing all of the 160 officials and 4,187 agents we have in that city; that is, bringing personnel from different parts of the country. It is a measure intended to prevent infiltration by Medellín Cartel people," said one police source.

Romanian government consolidates fascist rule

Romanian President Ion Iliescu is setting up a new riot-control force, he told the *Times* of London of June 25. The move follows a bloody crackdown against anti-government demonstrators earlier in the month, in which stormtroopers recruited by Iliescu's government beat and jailed peaceful protesters.

The Romanian government is considering asking British or American institutions

to train some of the new riot-control units, Iliescu said, because they had the most experience in crowd control! The new force will be set up because, "for the police and the Army, psychologically speaking it is now difficult to confront the populace when they are on the streets," Iliescu said. "This has created a state of stress and a certain inferiority complex on behalf of some military units—even when they have to confront obviously rebellious elements. . . . Even though we had a legally elected government and state institutions were being attacked, the police did not dare to shoot to scare them even in self-defense. This is an indication of the acuteness of this psychological state."

Iliescu said he would have to recruit "young and determined lads."

China to strengthen militia to keep 'order'

The Army of the People's Republic of China is calling for strengthening the military capability of the country's militia to deal with what it termed "the urgency of the situation." The *Liberation Army Daily* of June 19 did not specify the source of the urgency, but it said the militia was supposed to "maintain social order."

In an earlier article, the same paper noted, "The possibility exists of local wars and military conflicts in the border areas of our country," and that much of the weaponry in the People's Liberation Army, while well suited to normal conditions, "cannot meet the needs of fighting in cold, hot, or jungle areas. . . . When they reach 4,000 meters, then the weak points emerge."

The sections of the Chinese frontier that are so high are mainly in Tibet—which borders on India, Nepal, and Bhutan—and Xinjiang, which abuts the Soviet republics of Tadzhikistan, Kirghizia, and Kazakhstan. To deal with "local war," the *Liberation Army Daily* said the PLA needed equipment "mobile on land as well as transportable by air," and which could be used in tropical areas as well as high altitudes.

Panamanians demonstrate against U.S. occupation

Giving the lie to the claims of the Bush administration that Panamanians "welcomed" the U.S. invasion of their country last Dec. 20, some 25,000 Panamanians, many dressed in mourning, demonstrated on June 22 against the continuing presence of U.S. troops and the puppet government installed by Washington.

This is the largest opposition demonstration since the invasion, and more than double the size of a previous demonstration, in May. The major sponsoring groups were the Relatives of the Fallen of December 20, the National Committee of Unemployed, the War Refugees of Chorillo, plus many trade unions, student groups, and groups of relatives of political prisoners.

Speakers at the rally denounced the crimes committed during the invasion and demanded justice and a government that was independent of the United States. The organizers vowed to hold monthly demonstrations on the 20th of each month.

Fang Lizhi freed: Will Bush restore ties?

The announcement on June 25 that Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi and his wife have been allowed to leave Beijing, is seen by intelligence analysts as giving the go-ahead for the Bush administration to fully restore relations with the Chinese Communist government. Astrophysicist Fang and his wife had been given asylum in the U.S. embassy in Beijing during the June 4 massacre last year.

The Bush administration hailed the release of the couple as a "far-sighted, significant step," which will allow improvement of Sino-U.S. relations.

Fang, who is now in Britain, will likely teach at Cambridge University. Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, said that he and his wife have "repented" and promised not to take part in any anti-Beijing activities abroad.

Briefly

● **THE WEST GERMAN** Parliament on June 22 formally denounced the violence perpetrated by Romania's President Ion Iliescu against demonstrators. The new Romanian dictator was accused of inciting violence against the opposition, to crush peaceful protest rallies in Bucharest. The resolution was handed over to the Romanian ambassador to Bonn.

● **THE BRAZILIAN** Green Party, which had failed to meet the relatively simple requirements for registration as a national party, and which had therefore been ruled ineligible to run for office, was resuscitated by vote of a majority in the Congress on June 23, who voted to waive the normal regulations and permit the party to be registered anyway.

● **ARGENTINA'S** nationalist military leader Col. Mohamed Ali Seineldín is the target of attack in the June 1990 issue of the Anti-Defamation League's *Latin America Report*. Author Martin Edwin Andersen, a friend of former Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín, accused Seineldín of being the primary threat to democracy in Argentina.

● **FRANCIS MAUDE**, Britain's Minister of State for Hong Kong will visit Beijing in July, the first British minister to visit there since the massacre last June. The visit will discuss arrangements for the shift of Hong Kong rule from Britain to China in 1997. The Foreign Office expects a deluge of domestic criticism of the visit, but a spokesman said: "We just have to brave it out. It is simply necessary to get on with our dialogue over Hong Kong."

● **Yael Dayan**, the daughter of the famous Israeli Gen. Moshe Dayan, is touring the United States with Faisal Hussein, whose father is an Arab military commander, under the auspices of the Peace Now movement. Dayan denounced the Bush administration's break with the PLO as "a gift to . . . the enemies of the peace process."

Gerald Seagal, a China expert with Britain's Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), said that the release of Fang gives the Bush administration the "symbol" it has been seeking from China since last year to prove that China is a "normal country" that you can do business with. Bush has been looking for the opportunity to make a deal with the P.R.C. since he sent National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger there last year, Seagal said. The British government must also have played a key role in Fang's release, he said.

The Chinese government must be happy to let Fang go now, Seagal said, because he was causing problems in relations with the United States. Beijing is convinced that the opposition movement will never amount to anything, Seagal said, because it is too fragmented. Beijing's view is that sending a dissident leader with a "strong ego" abroad will just help splinter the opposition.

New role seen for NATO in 'gunboat diplomacy'

NATO must remain a viable alliance, to deal with threats from the South, including North Africa and the Middle East, stated Britain's permanent representative to NATO, Sir Michael Alexander, in a speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London on June 20. Because such threats exist, he stated, the NATO alliance is "still very much in business," despite what he described as diminishing East-West tensions.

Alexander said that NATO could be faced in the coming years with "precise" threats from the south, including a possible attack from a specific country. Under such conditions, NATO would be able to "retaliate" against that country. He didn't mention any specific country he might have had in mind.

A retired British military officer told *EIR* that the Alexander speech is one of "several hints of a European version of gunboat diplomacy being considered, as opposed to some kind of British unilateral action." He said there was a "fundamental re-thinking"

going on inside NATO, as "the nature of the potential enemy changes."

Many British military people believe that the kind of equipment and manpower Britain now has stationed in Germany is "no bloody good, if something is brewing south of the Mediterranean or in the Middle East." According to this source, there is much discussion in Britain about the growing "supranational threat of fundamentalist Islam."

Shamir hails end of U.S. dialogue with PLO

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on June 20 praised the Bush administration for breaking off its 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said he hoped Washington would never speak to the group again.

Bush announced that he was suspending dealings with the PLO because it had not denounced a May 30 attempt to raid Israel by sea.

"Today, after the United States has reached its conclusions, we cannot but welcome it," Shamir told Israel Radio.

Regarding Bush's comments that he would promptly reopen talks once the PLO condemned the assault, Shamir said: "It raises doubts that perhaps the United States has not reached a clear conclusion that what we are indeed talking about is a terrorist organization that never stopped terrorism for a moment. I hope this suspension will not be temporary but will determine a new chapter in the U.S. attitude towards the Middle East."

Intelligence sources report that there is more to the Israeli policy than meets the eye, however. During the last week in June, Shamir sent letters to Bush, Gorbachov, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on the issue of Soviet Jewish settlements on the occupied territories. The Israelis have asked Egypt to become the official mediator in negotiations with Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Egypt's foreign minister flew to Washington on June 24 to review the possibilities of a new round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.