

International Intelligence

Saudi billionaire is new Lebanese premier

Rafik al-Hariri, 48, a Saudi billionaire of Lebanese origin, was named Lebanon's prime minister on Oct. 22 by President Elias Hrawi, after winning the backing of Syria, Saudi Arabia, and most of the 128 members of the new Parliament. It was Hariri's first foray into politics, but he is said to be a close friend of Saudi King Fahd.

Hariri made his estimated \$3 billion fortune from construction and banking, after arriving penniless in Saudi Arabia in 1965. "I will work on forming a government that is capable of realizing the hopes and aspirations of the Lebanese," he said blandly, outlining the new government's main tasks as "bringing back confidence and stability." Officials said Hariri agreed to become prime minister as long as he was free to choose technocrats for portfolios essential to rebuilding and reviving an economy gripped by more than 100% annual inflation.

Exiled Lebanese nationalist leader Gen. Michel Aoun, who was prime minister until he was ousted in 1990, has called for his countrymen to boycott the new government, calling it a tool of the occupying powers.

NATO ministers meet on nuclear proliferation

Nuclear terrorism and proliferation of "dangerous technologies" were on the agenda of a NATO defense ministers meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, on Oct. 20. The ministers were scheduled to receive a report on the just-concluded visit of CIA director Robert Gates to Moscow, which resulted in a cooperation pact against "terrorism, nuclear proliferation, drug dealing, and organized crime" between the CIA and the FIS, Russia's successor organization to the KGB.

Tightening proliferation controls through closer cooperation between the West and the East will also be discussed at a special session of CoCom in Paris in November. CoCom is the Coordinating Committee which oversaw the restriction of advanced western technology to the Soviet

bloc during the Cold War years. The agenda of that meeting, which is targeting "dangerous countries in the South," was prearranged between the United States and the Russian Federation.

Reprisals against Argentina's Seineldín

The Argentine daily *La Nación* reported on Oct. 18 that jailed nationalist leader Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín "charged before the courts that the conditions of his detention at the Magdalena penitentiary had worsened in 'an unlawful and unjustified manner' after he was told that Army Chief Martin Balsa said that the broadcast of a taped statement of his had created 'unease in political circles.'" Seineldín had addressed a tape-recorded message to the founding conference of the Movement for National Identity and Ibero-American Integration (Mineii) in Buenos Aires on Oct. 3 (see *EIR*, Oct. 23).

In a formal complaint to the Federal Court in Buenos Aires, Seineldín charged that on Balza's order, he was denied visitors on his regular visiting day. According to *La Nación*, Seineldín said he had been informed by military authorities that "if this continued—that is, if other oral statements reach the public—there will be transfers to prisons for common prisoners." Seineldín condemned "the application of unlawful and discriminatory measures," and "the violation of my right to free speech."

British writer denounces lies against Columbus

A commentator in the *Sunday Telegraph* of London on Oct. 18 admitted that the "Black Legend" attacks on Spain are largely British-inspired propaganda, and called for celebrating Columbus's voyage to the New World, in the face of efforts by the anti-Columbus lobby to "threaten civilization itself."

Under the title "God Bless Christopher Columbus," Ambrose Evans-Pritchard blasted the Nobel Peace Prize Committee

for giving the prize to Guatemalan terrorist Rigoberta Menchú.

He continued that "we should be careful about believing the *leyenda negra* of Spanish atrocities against the Indians in the 16th century." Many of the accounts from that period are "not reliable," but were written by priests who were actually "passionate, fanatical, highly strung scions of noble, even royal blood." In certain cases, those who wrote such accounts also went so far as to allow child sacrifice in their churches, supposedly in support of the indigenous peoples of the time.

The "Black Legend" propaganda was "wildly exaggerated," he wrote, especially when individuals with such anti-Spanish accounts were "intercepted by British ships, [the accounts] were turned into spectacular propaganda against the Spanish Empire."

Today, this "revisionist history has gone too far." Columbus is being turned into a "mass murderer." This propaganda now is "poisoning our civilization" and the gravity of the effect that it is having on young Americans "cannot be overstated." What is being undermined, "is the extraordinary power of an idea, the American idea that each new immigrant into the country should shed his old skin and his old prejudice." All of this is under attack from "the great wrecking crew," the "cultural defeatists," whose efforts can only be described as "truly sickening."

Kosovo minister warns of coming bloodshed

There will be bloodshed against Kosovo next, if the United States does not put pressure on Serbia to stop its aggression, Kosovo Prime Minister Bujar Bukoshi said, in a speech on Oct. 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. He said his country has the right to be a sovereign state, especially since it was one of the regions of Yugoslavia, up until two years ago, when Serbia forcibly annexed it. Kosovo is predominantly ethnic Albanian and Muslim.

Briefly

Bukoshi said that Kosovo has no defense against Serbia, but that if it were attacked, Albania, Macedonia, and Bulgaria would all become involved—making the conflict international.

The prime minister was in Washington meeting with State Department officials and members of Congress.

New Stasi lies, without the Stasi?

Anno Hellenbroich, member of the board of the Patriots for Germany, on Oct. 23 issued a statement demanding a swift and thorough investigation of the deaths of two Green Party leaders, Petra Kelly and Gerd Bastian. The two were found dead at their home on Oct. 19 under mysterious circumstances, and authorities quickly pronounced the verdict: "suicide."

As *EIR* reported in the *Report from Bonn* last week, many people are raising questions at the verdict, which was released to the press before forensic tests had even been completed.

Hellenbroich branded the official declaration "unacceptable," and called for an end to the coverup.

He criticized the line which has begun to circulate in some news media in Germany, that the now-defunct European Labor Party (EAP), of which Hellenbroich was formerly a board member, might be implicated in murdering the two politicians. "I cannot accept the outrageous lie of a Mr. Dehring, who presented himself as an assistant of Kelly, and spoke about 'death threats' of the EAP against Petra Kelly in the past, in order thus to insinuate possible perpetrators."

Hellenbroich, the author of an ongoing *EIR* series exposing the former East German communist secret service, the Stasi (see issues of Oct. 16 and Oct. 23), continued: "I have already experienced a similar hate campaign once before, after the murder of [Swedish Prime Minister] Olof Palme. Since then, the responsible Stasi officer has confessed to having channeled the lies into Swedish police circles.

"Just as we have always insisted on the need for a conclusive, thorough explanation of the circumstances which led to the death of [former Schleswig-Holstein governor] Uwe Barschel, now every possible aspect of the criminal case regarding Kelly and Bastian must be thoroughly investigated, since everybody knows by now from the Stasi files to what extent secret services and political interests operating on the international plane were involved in the anti-nuclear movement."

ANC admits torture of its dissidents

The African National Congress held a press conference in Johannesburg on Oct. 19, announcing that an internal investigation had confirmed that the ANC systematically tortured its dissidents, including at what the ANC termed "concentration camps."

According to the report, ANC dissidents were beaten on the soles of their feet, forced to crawl through red ant colonies with pig fat smeared on them to attract bites, and subjected to starvation, forced labor, and solitary confinement for years on end. The torture took place at exile camps in Angola, Uganda, and Tanzania, from the 1980s through the 1990s.

"We regret the fact that abuses were committed, but in no country can abuses be evaded," ANC President Nelson Mandela told the press conference. Mandela was noncommittal when asked whether the individuals who oversaw the torture would be purged. "Many of the transgressions committed by the ANC must be understood in the context in which they occurred," he said.

According to the ANC report, "several persons against whom serious allegations of brutality have been leveled are currently employed by the ANC in the security department." According to South African sources, the ANC was forced to issue the report, which they term a "coverup," due to ongoing investigations of the Returned Exile Coordinating Committee, a group of former ANC cadre.

● **ITALIAN POLICE** on Oct. 18 seized weapons coming from eastern Europe to the Italian Mafia, and arrested several persons connected to mafioso Giovan Battista Licata. Licata and Frederich Schaudinn are alleged to be running a drugs and weapons trade to and from eastern Europe, and are presumed to be in hiding in Croatia.

● **SAUDI ARABIA'S** highest religious authority, Sheikh Abdel Aziz bin Baz, issued a religious edict on Oct. 22, urging "all Muslim governments and people in all countries . . . to support the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina . . . with men, money, and weapons until the war stops and peace achieved between them and their enemy."

● **BRITAIN** is undertaking a reorganization of its police and security apparatus. Using the recent Irish Republican Army bombings as a pretext, the government will set up a national anti-terror force comprising MI-5 and MI-6 (the domestic and foreign intelligence services), customs, fraud investigators, armed forces, forensic scientists, and explosives experts.

● **FRENCH SOLDIERS** in Bosnia were killed by Serbians, not Bosnians as originally charged, according to a secret U.N. report leaked in the Croatian magazine *Globus*. The death of the soldiers in July led to all relief flights to Sarajevo being stopped for eight weeks. The U.N. commander in Zagreb, Croatia, Christian Xuëreb, refused to confirm or deny the story, "because it's confidential."

● **RUSSIA** says it may "ease" its sanctions against Serbia. Following meetings on the weekend of Oct. 10 with European Community mediator Lord Owen and U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told the press that his country was considering easing sanctions against Serbia so that "her people can survive the winter."