

International Intelligence

Italy's Parliament may probe judicial abuse

The Italian Parliament is set to vote next month to establish an investigating committee into whether the 1992 "Clean Hands" prosecutions against leading political figures were politically biased. The initiators of the committee have indicated that it should establish whether the Milan-based "anti-corruption" prosecutors acted to destroy moderate parties, omitting to prosecute the former Communist Party for the same alleged crimes. The committee could expand its investigation to include the international connections of the Clean Hands prosecutors, i.e., to Transparency International, the brainchild of Britain's Prince Philip. Parliament Speaker Luciano Violante has supported the proposal.

Strong, indirect backing for the committee has come from President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, who on July 10 accused the judiciary of legal "violations" in the Clean Hands investigations. As an example, Scalfaro, who chairs the governing body of the Judiciary branch, pointed to the 1994 decision to issue a warrant against Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the same day that he was to open an international anti-crime conference in Naples attended by other heads of state and government. "If the warrant had been issued ten days later, nothing would have changed," Scalfaro said.

In reaction, former Clean Hands star prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, who is a Senator, grumbled, "We will not sit by and watch."

'Australia/Israel' prints stolen One Nation list

A recent issue of Mark Leibler's *Australia/Israel Review* created an uproar when it published the names of 2,000 members of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party. Numerous Jewish groups and Holocaust survivors have denounced the move. Leibler, who has made a name for himself as a hater of Lyndon LaRouche, employs one David Greason as his *Review's* leading writer.

Greason is a former editor for *Playboy*, and founder of the neo-Nazi National Action and National Front grouplets, who has been attacking LaRouche in Australia for over a decade. The *Australia/Israel Review* was founded by followers of Zionist fascist Vladimir Jabotinsky, a British intelligence asset.

The membership list was clearly stolen from One Nation, allegedly by disgruntled former members. Federal Privacy Commissioner Moira Scollay attacked Leibler's decision to publish the names, and said it "breached national privacy principles": "When people join a political party, they don't expect that information to be printed in a newspaper."

One Nation's national director David Ettridge said he would ask the Australian Federal Police and Victorian state police to investigate the theft. "This grubby magazine is not getting away with it," Ettridge said. "They have done an enormous disservice to the Jewish community, a fair number of whom are horrified at what they've done." Leibler has backed off publishing another 8,000 names.

Marika Weinberger, a survivor of Auschwitz and the president of the Australian Jewish Holocaust Survivors, told the Australian Associated Press: "Those of us who survived, came to Australia because privacy was something we cherished and didn't have. We know the implications of what happens when lists, any lists, are published."

Italian Speaker praises expanded ties with Iran

Italian Speaker of the Parliament Luciano Violante referred to Iran as a "bridge between Europe and the Islamic world," speaking of the recent visit to Iran by Premier Romano Prodi, and noted that "for this very reason, the Islamic Republic is the focus of special attention by Italy, Europe, and the world." Violante expressed his country's determination to expand political, economic, and cultural ties with Iran. "Italy's focus on small and medium-sized industries, its great expertise in oil and textile industries, as well

as its background in tourism, provide suitable grounds for cooperation between Iran and Italy," Violante said.

Welcoming the September visit of his Iranian counterpart, Majlis Speaker Nateq Nouri, to Italy, Violante stated that he has asked him to include cultural exchanges on the agenda of bilateral talks. Cultural exchanges can help reduce Western "fear of Islam," Violante remarked, adding, "I feel that the tendency to regard Islam as a danger is declining, partly because of some measures presently being taken in Iran."

Mandela, U.S. Congress meddle in Indonesia

According to Portugal's *Diario de Noticias* of June 23, South African President Nelson Mandela described East Timor's jailed terrorist leader Xanana Gusmao, of the Fretilin group, as the "legitimate leader of East Timor." Mandela has, for the past year, campaigned for Gusmao's release, and visited him in prison, with President Suharto's approval. While Mandela could play a constructive role in solving the long-festered East Timor problem at this moment of opportunity, his reported sponsorship of Gusmao as spokesman and leader of East Timor, rather than simply calling for his release, is potentially destabilizing. He is quoted saying: "Xanana's release alone is not enough. It is necessary that once freed, Xanana can participate in the peace negotiations. It would be inappropriate, unacceptable, for any of us, to propose, suggest, or draw up a solution at the moment, without the presence of the legitimate leader of East Timor. That is our position."

Compare this to Bishop Carlo Ximenes Belo. Belo was set up by the Nobel Committee when they made him share the Peace Prize with Fretilin spokesman Jose Ramos Horta, in exile. Belo refrained from attacking Ramos Horta, but refused to participate at any event with the terrorist spokesman. On June 24, after meeting with President B.J. Habibie, Belo was asked by the press about freeing Gusmao. He answered: "He is not the only East Timorese. We still have hundreds of thousands of East Timorese."

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed and Foreign Minister Anwar Ibrahim held separate talks with Indonesian Muslim leader Amien Rais earlier this month. Rais heads the Muhammadiyah, with 28 million members, and is a former official of the Indonesian Association of Muslim Intellectuals (ICMI), which was, at one time, chaired by President B.J. Habibie. ICMI also has close contact with Malaysia's Institute of Policy Research, a think-tank linked to Anwar.

MASHOOD ABIOLA'S autopsy showed that the Nigerian opposition figure died of natural causes, while meeting with a U.S. delegation, just shortly before being released from prison. The autopsy revealed that "there was severe long-standing disease of the heart of a type and severity that can cause unexpected death." Abiola's relatives continue to blame prison conditions for his illness.

SINGAPORE President Ong Teng Cheong became the first Singapore head of state to meet Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace on July 7, reports the *Straits Times*; but, there were no bows or curtsies, or even kowtows, just "warm handshakes" and lunch. Ong travelled to Liverpool University, his alma mater, to receive an honorary Doctor of Laws.

YASSER ARAFAT, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, began a visit to China on July 13, as the guest of President Jiang Zemin. The primary topic of discussion was the "peace process in the Middle East," according to Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqi.

INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER Atal Behari Vajpayee told press on July 10 that India wants to normalize ties with Pakistan. "There is peace and stability on the border. But we want speed in our discussions." Vajpayee also said he hopes that stalled talks with Pakistan will resume after he meets with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the end of July in Sri Lanka.

The Indonesian wire service reported on July 8 that 15 U.S. Congressmen have submitted a letter to President Habibie, asking him to give full autonomy to East Timor and Irian Jaya, the latter following violent incidents in the capital of Jayapura the previous week, and on the island of Biak on July 6, when the separatist flag of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) was raised over local legislatures. The rector of Cendrawasih University, where students and troops clashed recently, said the Congressional letter is misleading and "has aroused emotions and . . . stirred trouble among the Irianese."

According to the *South China Morning Post*, Indonesia took over western Papua New Guinea, naming it Irian Jaya, when the Dutch colonial power defaulted on a UN-sponsored decolonization agreement on May 1, 1963. Irianese who fled with the Dutch "took up the fight for independence from abroad, and the separatist OPM was formed in the jungles in 1964."

UNGA upgrades status of Palestinian Authority

By an overwhelming vote of 124-4, the United Nations General Assembly voted to upgrade the status of the Palestinian Authority to that of a non-voting member on July 7, just below that of a recognized nation-state. The new status allows the PA to raise issues of Middle East peace, introduce resolutions, and reply during the course of General Assembly debates. The four dissenting votes were cast by the United States, Israel, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. The PLO was granted observer status to the UNGA in 1974. In 1988, that status was upgraded, when the PLO designation was changed to "Palestine."

Led by France, there is growing support for recognizing a Palestinian state, if one is declared in the final status talks, whose deadline is May 1999. According to the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* on July 7, French President Jacques Chirac said that, after Hillary Clinton had broken the taboo on speaking publicly about a Palestinian state, it was easier to encourage support for the idea among European Union member states.

Afghanistan is turned into a wasteland

According to combined reports from Germany's *Handelsblatt* on July 8, and the Iranian IRNA news agency on July 1, Afghanistan has been turned into a wasteland by the civil war. An effort by the UN to produce a report fell flat, because there are no statistics available on the economy, and the only figures the World Bank could obtain came from a survey of the Afghanistan border region around Pakistan.

The industrial infrastructure is totally destroyed, industrial parks, cement factories, and textile mills are closed, and roads are destroyed; electricity production in the region around Kabul is at only one-fifth capacity. Skilled labor and the intelligentsia have fled, and the Taliban are utterly ignorant.

Drug trafficking is the only ongoing economic activity. Burnahuddin Rabbani, still officially President, reportedly denounced the Taliban, during a recent UN drug conference, for having expanded drug production, which the Taliban apparently acknowledged. It is estimated that 80% of all the world's heroin comes from Afghan opium.

Victoria expands drug legalization efforts

On July 6, police in Victoria, Australia expanded a local pilot project—a program of merely cautioning first-time cannabis offenders—to apply to the whole state. Beginning on Sept. 1, "cautions" will apply to first-time offenders found with less than 50 grams of cannabis in their possession. Chief Commissioner of Police Neil Comrie also said that the government had approved a \$600,000 pilot program for a cautioning system for other drugs, including heroin, to be undertaken in the Broadmeadows area of Melbourne, the site of the original program.

Two years ago, Premier Jeff Kennett's more overt attempt to legalize drugs was defeated by an anti-drug coalition led by the Citizens Electoral Council, Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers in Australia.