

International Intelligence

British Army turns thumbs down on 'Randy Mandy'

The British military rejected any possibility that Peter Mandelson might replace George Robertson as Defense Secretary, when the latter assumes his post as NATO Secretary General in October. Mandelson was forced out as Minister of Trade and Industry on Dec. 23, 1998, after several of his outlandish homosexual escapades in Brazil came to light, earning him the name "Lord Mandy of Rio." According to the Aug. 22 issue of the *Sunday Telegraph*, Britain's top brass won't have Mandy, even though he is said to be Prime Minister Tony Blair's first choice.

While Mandelson was key in developing what became known as Blair's "Third Way" for Labour (and Al Gore's Democrats), he was also on the executive committee of the New Atlantic Initiative project of the right-wing Mont Pelerin Society's American Enterprise Institute. The NAI pushes direct confrontation with Russia, and global expansion of NATO.

Gen. Bedoya's office burglarized in Colombia

During the night of Aug. 19, the headquarters of the Fuerza Colombia Movement, a political association led by Gen. Harold Bedoya Pizarro (ret.), was broken into and burglarized. The attack took place while General Bedoya was in Lima, Peru, where he was attending to academic and political commitments. Despite the fact that General Bedoya had repeatedly called on the Colombian government and relevant authorities to provide security to his movement's headquarters, this was never provided. The consequences of such governmental neglect are now evident.

Taken from the headquarters in Bogotá, were, among other objects, computers, telephones, fax machines, documents, and files of the Fuerza Colombia movement. At present, the perpetrators and motive of the attack are unknown, but knowledgeable sources consulted by *EIR* state that it was an act of political intimidation, and that the criminals were "after the documents and the files,"

in particular. These sources also expressed concern that this attack might be only a prelude to still more serious attacks against General Bedoya and his associates.

General Bedoya, former commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, former Defense Minister, and former Colombian 1998 Presidential candidate, has been one of the most intransigent enemies of the drug trade, and of its narco-terrorist groups, the FARC and the ELN, also known as the "Third Cartel." General Bedoya opposes the policy of President Andrés Pastrana, of handing national territory over to the narco-terrorists, for the sake of an illusory and impossible "negotiated peace" with the Third Cartel. Bedoya proposes, instead, an Ibero-American alliance against drugs, and greater cooperation with the United States against this evil. General Bedoya had just completed a successful tour in Argentina and Uruguay on Aug. 8-14, where he spoke on these issues.

France to fight in UN vs. Iraq bombing, sanctions

France is preparing to lead a fight in the UN Security Council to get the sanctions against Iraq lifted. French Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine's office has issued four statements in the last month, the most recent on Aug. 20. Védrine's ministry objected to the continuing U.S.-British bombing raids, which violate the rules of engagement initially set by the U.S., Britain, and France, within the framework of UN resolution 688. Air power was to be deployed to stop the Iraqis from using their own air force against the Kurdish or Shiite populations inside the exclusion zones.

The French contend that Iraq's capability to produce weapons of mass destruction has been dismantled. Therefore, the UN should establish a "control commission" to monitor Iraq, and ensure that it does not produce these weapons or pose a threat to the region. In return, economic sanctions should be lifted and reviewed every 100 days.

A summary statement says, "By making the lifting of sanctions subject to a condition that cannot be fulfilled, any possibility of

lifting sanctions is made impossible. The present situation where the authority of the Security Council is undermined and challenged, the Iraqi people continue to suffer, and the Iraqi regime continues not to be under control, is not satisfactory."

Ramos Horta issues war cry over East Timor

Nobel Peace Prize laureate, East Timor's José Ramos Horta, issued a blood-curdling cry for war against Indonesia in East Timor, in the Aug. 18 issue of Australia's *Sydney Morning Herald*. Ramos Horta warns that "full-scale violence before or after the Aug. 30 [autonomy] vote is now almost certain." He states that the only "fair" vote on Aug. 30 will be a rejection of autonomy, paving the way for an independent East Timor. He then details an international war plan against Indonesia by the "peace-loving" pro-independence faction: "The next phase of resistance will be much more desperate and ferocious and will not be contained to East Timor.

"To start with, no Portuguese government would ever recognize the result of a fraudulent ballot. Domestic opinion would force it to secure a mandatory arms embargo and economic sanctions against Indonesia by its European and NATO partners.

"The UN Secretary General would be pressed to seek an ad hoc war crimes tribunal on East Timor to indict Indonesian military officers (past and present) and militia leaders. The World Bank . . . would be under extreme pressure from many quarters to freeze new funds for Jakarta. The U.S. Congress would vote against allocating funds. . . .

"Indonesian diplomatic and trade representatives in Australia and Europe would be targeted by demonstrations, picketing, and sit-ins. Indonesian peace-keepers sent to other areas of conflict would be in danger and ostracized. . . .

"More than 100 computer wizards—mostly teenagers—in Portugal, Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Brazil, the U.S., and Canada are preparing a plan targeting the computer network of the Indonesian government, army, and banking and finance institutions

QUEEN ELIZABETH was furious at Prime Minister Tony Blair when she found out about Britain's involvement in the bombing of Yugoslavia from the television, according to the Aug. 20 issue of *Private Eye*. "After 46 years on the throne, the Queen has become accustomed to being the first to know about important national events." Blair had been dodging his weekly audience with the Queen, at which he is supposed to brief her on the realm's doings.

GEORGIA'S State Minister Vazha Lortkipanidze told journalists in Tbilisi on Aug. 18 that the Georgian leadership has no reason to doubt the sincerity of the official apology received earlier that day from Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, for the Aug. 9 incident in which Russian planes dropped mines on the village of Zemo Omalo, close to the Georgian border with Dagestan, Interfax reported.

AN UZBEKISTAN provincial town court on Aug. 18 handed down sentences ranging from 8 to 15 years imprisonment against six men accused of participating in Feb. 16 bomb attacks in Tashkent. Two of the accused are brothers of Mohammed Solih, one of the leaders of the banned Erk opposition party, whom President Islam Karimov has accused of masterminding the attacks.

BRITISH COLUMBIA has become the leading producer of marijuana in North America, according to the London *Financial Times* of Aug. 21. Since the decriminalization of marijuana, the Canadian province has outstripped the Netherlands for allowing possession and production of marijuana. In fact, Dutch growers seem to be flocking to British Columbia to raise pot crops there.

IN MYANMAR, a spokesman for the State Peace and Development Council warned the opposition, led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, not to attempt to mount "internal riots" on Sept. 9, 1999, a numerologically significant date for Buddhists.

to create chaos. A dozen special viruses are being designed to infect the Indonesian electronic communications system, including aviation.

"One computer wizard recently told me: 'We will terminate their banking system. We will invade their sites and destroy them. People will be scared to travel to Indonesia when they know that we are also infecting their air communications. We will cause them to lose hundreds of millions of dollars.'

"My concluding message to the Indonesians is: Back off before Indonesia is plunged into a new round of an even more costly war."

UN war crimes trials set Cambodia up for new war

EIR has confirmed key features of the latest proposal submitted to the Cambodian government by the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs of the UN Ralph Zacklin, to try Khmer Rouge war criminals, which was leaked to the *New York Times* of Aug. 12. The proposal, which was rejected by Prime Minister Hun Sen as a violation of Cambodia's sovereignty, calls for a "mixed" tribunal, including Cambodian and foreign judges and jurists. The trial is described as a joint trial of all key surviving Khmer Rouge leaders. The proposal fails to provide for an appeals process.

However, a majority on the panel of judges—comprised of five or seven members—would be appointed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, leaving foreign judges to effectively dictate the outcome of the proceeding. Annan will also appoint a foreign prosecutor. The UN has said it will withhold all funding for this cynical misadventure until the Phnom Penh government arrests and hands over to the yet-to-be-created tribunal the indicated surviving Khmer Rouge leaders. The wrinkle is that except for Ta Mok, the former Defense Minister, and Duch, the chief executioner at Tuol Sleng prison, none of those named has been charged with *any* crime. Ta Mok and Duch are being held in custody under a 1979 law that declared the Khmer Rouge an illegal organization.

Cambodia has been waiting since spring

for the UN to send legal experts to assist in drafting a law against genocide/crimes against humanity and a law that will allow foreign judges and lawyers to participate in proceedings in Cambodia. Zacklin's proposal is what they received.

Prime Minister Hun Sen told Japan's Kyodo News on Aug. 18: "If we arrest these people [Khmer Rouge], then it will frighten the others [10-20,000 Khmer Rouge loyalists] to go into the jungle and cause fighting again. And then who will be responsible for the fighting? In Cambodia there is still a possibility of war again, if we do not now handle the problem properly. . . . What we cannot agree with regarding the proposed plan is that they would like us to arrest these people before they have been charged by a court of law. . . . It is tantamount to a violation of the sovereignty of an independent country which is also a member of the United Nations."

Agence France Presse quoted Hun Sen as saying, "It is now high time for me to say Cambodia can solve its own problem and not allow outsiders to destroy it under the guise of justice. . . . The UN allowed the Khmer Rouge to go on killing for 20 years and allowed the Khmer Rouge to sit in the seat of the United Nations."

Algeria's Bouteflika continues peace overtures

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika continued his efforts at restoring peace in Algeria, which has been wracked by civil war since 1992, when the military seized the government to prevent the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) from winning elections. Twice in August, Bouteflika spoke favorably of the Jan. 9-13, 1995 meeting of all of Algeria's opposition groups, including the FIS, convened under the aegis of the Catholic lay organization, San Egidio Community. The platform adopted to restore peace became known as the "San Egidio proposals."

Bouteflika made his statements first in Oran, during a meeting with civilian representatives, then, a day later, before the African press corps in Algiers. His statements were broadcast on Algerian national television.