

International Intelligence

Kenneth Kaunda's son assassinated in Zambia

In a politically targetted murder, Wezi Kaunda, the son of former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, was gunned down outside his home on Nov. 5. As the chief adviser to his father, Wezi Kaunda had been expected to take over the leadership of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), and Kaunda had also announced that he would again run for the Presidency when President Frederick Chiluba steps down next year. Kaunda has already lost two sons to AIDS, which continues to ravage his country.

Zambia's two rival leaders both acted to ease tensions in the wake of the murder. President Chiluba announced that there would be full investigations, and that one suspect had already been apprehended and was cooperating with police. According to wire services, former President Kaunda pointed the finger at members of his own party, saying that the UNIP was wracked with divisions that might have led to his son's death. During the funeral services, Kaunda appealed for calm in the country, and stressed that members of all political factions were invited to attend the services at the Anglican Cathedral in the capital city of Lusaka.

'Al-Arab' runs feature on LaRouche campaign

Al-Arab International, a London-based Arabic daily, published a feature on the U.S. Presidential campaign of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and called on Arabs to cease standing on the sidelines of U.S. electoral politics. Headlined "LaRouche Calls for a New Economic World Order to Save the Developing Nations," *Al-Arab* summarizes LaRouche's opening statement at his Oct. 13 webcast press conference, which emphasized the current financial collapse, and his idea to have a New Bretton Woods emergency session to solve the crisis. The article describes LaRouche's political fight to change U.S. foreign policy as being "in conflict with American traditional politics.

LaRouche regards these policies as pure British imperial policies that have nothing to do with the political principles upon which the United States itself was built."

The article goes through a number of the important contributions which LaRouche has made to world history, such as the Strategic Defense Initiative, his fight against the International Monetary Fund, especially in Ibero-America, the Mideast Oasis Plan, and the Eurasian Land-Bridge. However, "one of the most important of LaRouche's works is his analysis and forecast of the current financial disintegration" and his New Bretton Woods proposal. The article concludes with a challenge to all Arab citizens to interfere in internal American affairs to change U.S. policy. It says that "Arabs, who have not yet cared about investigating how American policies are made and affected from within and without, have yet a great deal to learn. However, one can say that in the person and ideas of Lyndon LaRouche, the Arab citizen has a true ally in the United States. LaRouche does not merely consider himself an American, but a world citizen too."

Family seeks to reopen Rabin murder inquest

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres told Associated Press on Nov. 5 that he backs the efforts of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's family to re-open the investigation into his murder during an election rally on Nov. 4, 1994. "If it remains unanswered, the unanswering will remain the standard," Peres told AP. "If there are questions, let's put an end to it." The assassin, Yigal Amir, who was tied to the radical Zionist settlers' movement, confessed to the killing. However, the ease with which Amir approached Rabin continues to trigger suspicions that he did not act alone, despite the findings of a special government commission ruling out a conspiracy.

Although Peres stated that he agrees with the commission's findings, he believes that the Rabin family's request should be honored. "The family feels that there are still items that need to be investigated." However, says Rabin's daughter, Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, the family has questions, such as,

why Shin Bet agents told her mother, immediately after the shooting, that Rabin was not dead, and, why the driver of Rabin's car did not call ahead to the hospital to alert it that they were coming.

A Shin Bet informer, Avishai Raviv, who knew Amir, is now on trial for not preventing the murder, even though he allegedly knew about Amir's plans.

Blairite group threatens Commonwealth members

A report by the Foreign Policy Centre, published by the London *Daily Telegraph* on Nov. 8, says that the Nov. 9-12 British Commonwealth summit in South Africa, should threaten to expel Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, and Sri Lanka, if their governments do not stop alleged human rights abuses. Although the Centre is an independent think-tank, its president is Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, and its patron is Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The report was dismissed as "utter rubbish" by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe. "The report was prepared by young toddlers trying to come to grips with important international relations," said Zimbabwe Foreign Affairs Minister Stan Mudenge. "I saw the report. There was no substance to it, and all I did was crumple it and throw it into the trash can. That is where it belongs."

The targetting of Zimbabwe and Zambia in southern Africa leaves no doubt that the British are behind the wars in Angola and Congo, in order to break the members of the neighboring Southern African Development Community, whose member-nations, weak as they are, still have governments, and not warlord-mercenary forces, ruling them. Both countries are democracies, unlike Britain's "model democracy" Uganda, which regularly carries out human rights abuses against its opponents.

The British Foreign Office claims that the report will not be discussed at the Commonwealth meeting. However, the summit is to propose that the eight-member ministerial action group, set up to negotiate with the military regimes in Nigeria, Gambia, and Sierra Leone, should become a standing tribunal investigating all accusations of hu-

man rights abuses in Commonwealth countries.

In a related development, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, who decisively broke ranks with Britain's imperial oligarchy when he slapped on currency controls last year, called off his trip to South Africa for the British Commonwealth meeting, citing "matters at home." No other reasons were given.

Mexico's PRI succeeds in first primary elections

Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) survived its first Presidential primary election on Nov. 7, despite efforts by the U.S. Project Democracy crowd to "order" the PRI to disintegrate. Much to Project Democracy's chagrin, voter turnout was much greater than expected: 10 million people went to the polls, as opposed to the expected 6-6.5 million. Former Government Secretary Francisco Labastida defeated his three opponents, winning in 91% of the election districts.

The voting was such, that Labastida's main contender, former Tabasco Gov. Roberto Madrazo, was forced to accept the results. Madrazo was widely reported to be a front-man for former President Carlos Salinas, whose Harvard economics had wrecked the country. Madrazo, as would anyone who hopes to be elected in Mexico, hotly disputed the charge. Unlike the other PRI contenders, Madrazo stated in his campaign that, if elected President, he would consider privatizing the country's state oil company, Pemex. It was also an open secret that Madrazo was negotiating with various leaders of the São Paulo Forum's Party of the Democratic Revolution, headed by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, to split the PRI and ally with the opposition, should he lose the primary.

In fact, before the primary voting had ended on Sunday afternoon, Madrazo's spokesman called a press conference to announce that he had won an "indisputable triumph." The spokesman claimed Madrazo had taken 200 of the 300 election districts, and promised a fight against vote fraud. For the next several hours, Madrazo remained silent, while rumors swept the country, that

he was preparing to leave the PRI; it was late Sunday night before he acknowledged that he had lost the election, and said that he will stay within the party.

Labastida's first statement as the official PRI candidate was: "The new PRI which is born tonight distances itself from the path of Salinas. This new PRI will revive the ideas of [Donaldo] Colosio," the PRI Presidential candidate who was murdered in 1994.

The national election will be held in July 2000, and the new President will take office in December.

Russia's Ivanov speaks on leading world threats

Nuclear proliferation and regional wars are the biggest threats we face, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said in an interview published in *Moskovsky Komsomolets* and *Moskovskiy Novosti* on Nov. 2. Whereas, a year ago, Moscow considered the problem of nuclear proliferation as a possible danger, "today it is a tangible threat," Ivanov said. He said that the second serious threat to mankind comes from regional wars which "were in the shadows in the past, but now have moved to the fore. . . . The third threat is everything that is connected with organized crime: drug and arms trafficking, corruption, money laundering."

On the U.S. "National Missile Defense" offensive, Ivanov said that if the United States "virtually secedes from the ABM Treaty and revives the star wars program, it will feel invincible at some point and then they may try to dictate conditions to Russia and China."

"What should Russia's and China's response be like?" Ivanov asked. "Very simple: Either they deploy their own missile defense system, which is extremely hard and expensive, or they create such means that will downgrade the U.S. 'umbrella,' which is much cheaper." The interviewer asked whether there were a possibility that the United States and China may lock in an armed confrontation. Ivanov responded, "In principle, we cannot rule out such a scenario. . . . Diplomats always consider many options, and subconsciously we should get ready for the worst scenario."

QUEEN ELIZABETH was booed during a speech to Ghana's parliament on Nov. 7, such an uncommon occurrence from one of her Commonwealth countries that she stopped speaking and looked dazed for a moment. Ghana is the only former British colony that rejected retaining Her Majesty as its head of state when it became a member of the Commonwealth.

A BOMB, apparently intended to blow up a train carrying 400 Serbs, destroyed part of a railroad bridge on Nov. 5, in the ethnically divided town of Kosovska Mitrovica in Kosovo. The bomb exploded prematurely, and there were no casualties. The city, 25 miles from Pristina, has been the scene of Serb-Albanian clashes, and there are heavy deployments of KFOR forces.

GEORGIA'S Defense Minister David Tevzadze has rejected a request from Moscow to re-activate Russian military bases on its territory for deployments into neighboring Chechnya, according to a Nov. 5 report from Reuters. "We don't consider as acceptable Moscow's request . . . because we think it could drag Georgia into undesirable consequences," he said on state television.

BANDA ACEH, the capital of the Indonesian province of Aceh, was the scene of a huge demonstration of up to a million people on Nov. 8, who were calling for an East Timor-style referendum on self-determination, organized by the Aceh Referendum Information Center (Sira). Not a single uniformed Indonesian soldier or police officer was near the rally.

EHUD BARAK, Israel's Prime Minister, in Paris for the Socialist International conference, said on Nov. 8 that now is the time to seek peace with Syria. Barak described Syria's President Hafez al Assad as a "strong and serious" leader who put his country on a modern path. "I am sure we will find an end to this conflict and a peace accord between Israel and Syria," Barak said.