

# International Intelligence

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## ***Northern Ireland exposé author wins libel suit***

Sean McPhilemy, the author of *The Committee: Political Assassination in Northern Ireland*, was awarded £145,000 plus court costs by an English jury against the *Sunday Times* on March 30, according to a press release from the Truth in Ireland Legal Defense Fund. His book alleges that there was a “secret committee made up of members of the Northern Ireland security forces, Protestant leaders, and loyalist terrorists . . . [which] carried out the brutal murders of dozens of Irish Catholics and republicans in an effort to terrorize the Catholic community in Northern Ireland.” McPhilemy has now renewed his call for a full independent, international investigation into the murder networks he exposed. In *EIR*'s review of his book (July 24, 1998), we pointed out that an investigation should look into “threads suggested in the book which, if pulled, will likely lead to the boardrooms of the Club of the Isles and the Queen's Privy Council.” *EIR* also interviewed McPhilemy in its Aug. 7, 1998 issue.

According to the press release, “The *Sunday Times* alleged that McPhilemy, in his reporting, had perpetrated a hoax upon the public. The English jury ruled unanimously that the *Sunday Times* had failed to prove its allegations. . . .

“McPhilemy, who previously won an apology and substantial damages from the *Sunday Express*, was ‘delighted’ with today's verdict against the *Sunday Times*.” McPhilemy stressed, “Although I am happy to have my reputation for integrity restored, my thoughts remain with the victims and their families, and I call again for an independent, international inquiry into allegations raised in the documentary and in my book.”

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## ***Nigerian governors seek peace, unitary state***

The 19 governors of the Nigeria's northern states resolved to harmonize their implementation of Islamic law, *sharia*, with the existing penal code, in a meeting in the na-

tional capital, Abuja, on April 3, and reaffirmed their commitment to maintain the integrity of the Nigerian state. The decision to implement *sharia* served as an excuse for Muslim-Christian sectarian and separatist violence, which wracked the country for months.

The governors' communiqué reads: “Realizing the differences between the 1979 and 1999 constitutions of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with regards to *sharia* law in Nigeria, we have resolved to constitute a committee made up of Muslim and Christian leaders to dialogue on those aspects of *sharia* not included in [the] penal code and arrive at consensus for adoption. . . .

“We have resolved to uphold the whole north as one indivisible and geopolitical entity within the Federation of Nigeria. . . . We uphold the Federal structure of Nigeria and condemn the call for a Sovereign National Conference in its entirety and we reaffirm our total support to the Federal Government under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo.”

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## ***North, South Korea leaders announce summit***

South Korea and North Korea issued joint announcements on April 10 that South Korean “President Kim Dae-Jung will visit Pyongyang at the invitation of North Korea's chairman of the National Defense Commission for a historic summit from June 12-14.” South Korean Unification Minister Park Jae-Kyu told a press conference, “It will end the Cold War confrontation and will mark a starting point to open a historic new era of reconciliation and cooperation, writing a new chapter in our history.” Park said the summit would tackle economic cooperation and the reunion of families separated by the fortified border between the North and South.

North Korea made an identical announcement through the Korean Central News Agency and all radio stations, adding that the unprecedented meeting would help reunify the divided Korean peninsula and end 50 years of hostility.

The pact came after President Kim said he would seek a summit with Kim Jong-Il

after the April 13 Seoul general elections if his party won a majority. Seoul officials said contacts had been made between the two sides in China since March 17. The agreement was signed in Beijing on April 8 by Seoul's Culture and Information Minister Park Jie-Won and Pyongyang's vice-chairman of the Korean Asian and Pacific Peace Committee Song Ho-Gyong.

Kim Dae-jung is an honest patriot in his “sunshine policy” of opening ties with North Korea, but he has also allowed the International Monetary Fund to wreck the South Korean economy, and stood to lose control over the government in the April 13 election. North Korea has thus given Kim a boost, since the summit will be immensely popular. Pyongyang obviously realized that it was time to agree to Kim's many calls for a peace summit—lest Kim be replaced with a “greater evil” regime.

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## ***Brits threaten Europe over ‘Echelon’ debate***

Great Britain is warning continental European countries that, if there is debate in the European Parliament on the British role in the global surveillance network known as Echelon, then other countries' secrets could be exposed, reported the London *Guardian* on April 8. With Portugal planning to raise concerns about Echelon, says the *Guardian*, the British government “signalled yesterday that EU member-states should think carefully before allowing any discussion.”

“The Portuguese said they wanted a general exchange on interception,” the article quotes an unnamed British official as saying. “But it would need to be a discussion that would cover the issue in the round rather than focussing on just one member-state.”

Although the *Guardian* does not go into it, France—which has been complaining the loudest about Echelon—has communications-intelligence listening posts around the world, including some operated jointly with Germany.

Although there were some reports the previous week that Socialist Members of the European Parliament had blocked the creation of a committee of inquiry, the *Guardian* story and other accounts say that the Par-

**ISRAELI** National Police told prosecutors that there is insufficient evidence to prosecute President Ezer Weizman on tax evasion charges, according to the April 5 *Washington Post*. Various allegations arose against Weizman, a strong peace partisan, and also members of Prime Minister Ehud Barak's cabinet.

**IRAN** seized 55 tons of narcotics in its northeastern province of Khorasan bordering Afghanistan, during the Iranian calendar year which ended on March 19. Speaking to foreign envoys in Tehran, Commander of the Provincial Security Forces Bahram Norouzi called for international cooperation to help Iran, which is a major transit route for drugs smuggled from Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**COLOMBIAN** soccer fans in Bogotá erupted into a spontaneous demonstration against the narco-terrorist FARC, on March 29. At the opening of a world elimination match with Brazil, Bogotá Mayor Enrique Penalosa requested a moment of silence for 29 Colombians (21 of them police officers) whom the FARC had massacred in a small, impoverished town that week, provoking the entire stadium to pick up a chant: "Guerrilla, Guerrilla, sons of bitches!"

**FRANCE AND CHINA** both condemned the recent U.S.-British bombings against Iraq, killing at least 20 civilians. The French Foreign Ministry said on April 7, "We greatly deplore them." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Yun Yuxi stated, "China . . . feels deeply uneasy for the civilian casualties caused by the bombing."

**LEE TENG-HUI**, whose term as Taiwan President ends on May 20, is going to visit Japan in November, shortly after Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visits Japan. Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said earlier in April, that a visit by Lee (who had been advocating Taiwan independence), "under whatever name or title . . . would fundamentally undermine Sino-Japanese relations."

liament will create such a committee soon, and that there will also be two plenary debates on Echelon in May.

A scandal exploded earlier this year when it came to light that Echelon, involving global signals and communications intelligence collection, led by the U.S. National Security Agency and Britain's equivalent, had been routinely intercepting personal communications of Europeans and others. *EIR* covered this pernicious aspect of the U.S.-British "special relationship"—including possible involvement in surveillance of the late Princess Diana—in its April 14, 2000 issue.

## ***Pakistan's Sharif sentenced to life***

The Anti-Terrorism Court No. 1, set up by the military regime of Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharraf, sentenced deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to life imprisonment on April 6. The verdict will be challenged in the Supreme Court. The prosecution had sought a death sentence on three charges against Sharif: hijacking, kidnapping, and attempted murder. On March 25, President Bill Clinton, during his visit to Islamabad, had requested General Musharraf to save the former Prime Minister's life, should the court decide to impose the death sentence.

A day before, at least seven people including three lawyers, were injured in a bomb blast at a court in Hyderabad, the second major city in the Province of Sindh. Sharif's trial was in progress at that time in Karachi, the capital of Sindh. A few weeks earlier, Nawaz Sharif's main lawyer and personal friend Iqbal Raad, was gunned down in his office by "unknown" assassins.

Sharif was overthrown by the military on Oct. 12, 1999, after he removed Chief of the Armed Services Musharraf from his post, while Musharraf was out of the country. Sharif and the military were set at odds over three main factors: his regime was thoroughly corrupt; he had politicized the judiciary; and, most important, he had entered into diplomacy with India over Kashmir, without consulting the military.

The odd criminal charges against Sharif,

stem from orders refusing landing rights to Musharraf's commercial jet, as it was coming into Karachi airport.

## ***Yoshiro Mori to replace ailing Obuchi in Japan***

Japan's parliament, the Diet, on April 6 voted in Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Yoshiro Mori as the new Prime Minister with a clear majority of 335 out of 488 votes, replacing Keizo Obuchi, who has been in a coma since suffering a stroke a few days earlier. Mori, a career LDP centrist and Obuchi's 40-year friend since Waseda University days, said he is not considering calling a general election much before the Oct. 19 deadline. Preparations for the July 21-23 Group of Eight (G-8) summit in Okinawa and the economy take priority, he said. "The economy is at a delicate stage, and it is important to monitor the economic direction by keeping Parliament open," he added.

The LDP has thus been able to retain its coalition government, which also includes the Buddhist New Komeito party and the new Conservative Party. The coalition had included the Liberal Party, but its leader, Ichiro Ozawa, walked out, trying to bring down Obuchi's government just days before his stroke. Instead of following Ozawa out of the government, however, his party split, and those who remained renamed themselves the Conservatives.

Mori has reappointed all of Obuchi's cabinet, including Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who have been key to some of Japan's recent moves toward an Asian Monetary Fund and rapprochement with North Korea.

On the negative side, Mori pledged to continue Obuchi's economic policies of hyperinflation, in order to keep the Nikkei stock market above 20,000. On April 4, U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers again urged Tokyo to continue hyperinflation, saying, "What is crucial in economics and finance continues to be movements to promote domestic-demand-led growth." At the G-8 meeting, he said, the United States will press for Japan to continue that policy.