

International Intelligence

Australia Rules, Drug Addiction a 'Disability'

In the latest move toward legalization of narcotics, under the ideological cover of "harm minimization," a federal judge has ruled that drug addiction is a legally recognized "disability" under the Disability Discrimination Act, as it applies to companies, clubs, landlords, etc. The Nov. 23 issue of *Australian Financial Review* quoted Dan Williams, an attorney specializing in discrimination cases, saying, "What this means is that if you want to discriminate against someone who is addicted, you can't do so simply on the basis that they are an addict. If at the recruitment stage, if all you know is that the person is an addict and don't have evidence that they stagger around or abuse people, you cannot deny them a job."

The ruling is the latest insanity to come from the 15-year-old policy of "harm minimization" in Australia, the doctrine propounded internationally by George Soros, under which the government ostensibly seeks to protect society from the worst effects of stupefying "recreational" drugs, rather than waging war against the traffickers and, especially, their bankers, who, *EIR* has demonstrated, run a \$500-billion-a-year business. The utter failure of the harm minimization approach to drug policy, was highlighted by official statistics released in late November, showing that the number of heroin addicts in Australia has doubled over the past decade. Scientists from the University of New South Wales National Drug and Alcohol Research Center said that about 74,000 Australians, or 7 out of 1,000 adults between the ages of 15 and 54, use heroin daily. The figure represents a 118% rise on 1984-87 estimates of 34,000 dependent heroin users nationwide.

China's President Jiang Meets Iraq's Tariq Aziz

Chinese President Jiang Zemin met in Beijing with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Nov. 28, and reportedly conveyed the message that he supports lifting sanctions against the embattled country.

China Central TV quoted Jiang saying, "A just and rational solution to the Iraqi issue at an early date is conducive to the peace and stability in the Gulf region and to the progress and development of the world as a whole." Jiang also called on Iraq to "take measures to effect the removal of sanctions," without further explanation. In response, Aziz told Jiang, "Iraq cherishes its relationship with China, favors the multi-polar world concept advocated by China, and hopes Iraqi-Chinese relations could be further consolidated and advanced."

Aziz also met with Vice Premier Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan on Nov. 27. Qian was quoted by the *People's Daily*: "To control another country's policies on the international stage will not win the hearts of the people." Tang was quoted on Central China TV condemning the air attacks "that have caused great civilian casualties and property losses and intensified the situation." Tang also said that "the establishment of the no-fly zones by some Western countries violates the UN Charter and norms of international relations and ignores and tramples on the sovereignty of Iraq."

Classical Sculptures To Adorn Athens Subways

Athens' white marble "Akropoli" station, the most spectacular in the city's new \$2.5 billion Attico Metro subway system, will be located only 1,000 feet from the Acropolis, where the jewel of the Fifth Century B.C. Greek Golden Age, the Parthenon, is located. The *Washington Post* reported on Nov. 12 that Greek commuters and others will enjoy exhibits in several underground stations, including statues by Phidias, the greatest Classical Greek sculptor of his time. But, in the Akropoli station they will also be able to view replicas of the famous Parthenon Marbles. These extraordinary relief sculptures had adorned the Parthenon, built by Pericles as a temple to Athena, until a British lord by the name of Elgin, hacksawed them off the face of the Parthenon. It is believed that Socrates, who was a trained sculptor, worked on the relief sculptures that decorated the exterior of the Parthenon.

The Marbles were hauled back to England, where Lord Elgin used them to decorate his country estate. When he went bankrupt, the British government took them off his hands for £35,000.

Since then, the Greeks have campaigned to have the reliefs returned to Athens, where a new, state-of-the-art museum is being constructed to hold them. Now, with the new underground museum, the Greek government is sending the message that it is ready to repatriate some of the greatest treasures of Western civilization. Public opinion has begun to turn against the British as well: The European Union put up half the cost of the Attico Metro, and will also help with support of the new Acropolis Museum.

Canadians Vote in Chrétien for Third Term

The Liberal Party government of Jean Chrétien won 173 seats out of a total of 301, thus becoming the first Canadian Prime Minister in 55 years to win three consecutive majority victories (1993, 1997, and 2000). In the industrial heartland, the Province of Ontario, the Liberals repeated their success of 1997 and won 100 seats out of 103. In the French-speaking Province of Québec, the Liberals won 38 out of 75 seats, beating, for the first time, the separatist Bloc Québécois party, which lost 6 seats and now stands at 37. The right-wing Alliance Party, based in Western Canada, gained 8 seats, and, at 66 seats, will remain "Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition" to the government. The social-democratic New Democratic Party lost seats in both Atlantic Canada and in the Western Provinces and now has 13 seats in the Canadian House of Commons.

The once-powerful Tory machine of Sir George Bush's close ally, former Conservative Party Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, now has only 12 seats in the Parliament in Ottawa.

When Chrétien cast his hand-written ballot on the morning of Nov. 27, in his home riding (district) of St. Maurice, Québec, he told reporters, "I'm always a very confident man," adding, as he dropped his ballot into the box: "It is easier than in the United States."