

# International Intelligence

---

## ***Dr. Mahathir: Sharon 'Assures Terrorism'***

Speaking to the annual conference of United Malays National Organization (UMNO), Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad hit the U.S. "war on terrorism" and Israel's policies as immoral failures in stopping terrorism, and linked this to the failure of the world to implement a new financial architecture since the 1997-98 breakdown crisis.

"Faced with this unprecedented threat" of Sept. 11, Mahathir said, "the big powers appear to have panicked and lost their direction. Unused to handling attacks by terrorists, they resorted to conventional warfare. . . . Afghanistan . . . was attacked with weapons which recognize no one. Many innocent people, civilians, old and young women, children, the sick, were killed or wounded and millions of the people of this unfortunate country fled to neighboring countries where they live in miserable conditions. . . . But terrorism has not been stopped. . . . Defeating Afghanistan has not given any effect in the fight against terrorism. Actually the possibility of terror attacks has increased, because Israel, which oppresses Palestine, used the war against terrorism to upgrade its terror attacks against the Palestinians. Ariel Sharon, the Prime Minister of Israel, believes that terror can be stopped by more terror, against those whom he claims are sponsors of terrorists. . . . But the Israeli action not only fails to reduce terror attacks, it actually causes much greater anger among Muslims, which can cause even more terrorism. Israel must realize that it is surrounded by Arab and Muslim countries. Until when does it expect to counter terror with more terror against the Palestinians? Even if the Israelis kill all the 6 million Palestinians, there is no guarantee that other Muslims and Arabs from the surrounding countries will not terrorize like the Palestinian suicide bombers. . . . Israel should understand the futility of its methods.

"The only thing that will stop their terrorism is the removal of the cause or causes of their struggle.

"The truth is that the economic recession in these countries was caused by the rogue currency traders dumping so much of the

currencies of these countries and the stock market players short-selling their shares. Although it is clear that this caused the economic disaster, the relevant authorities still refuse to change the international financial regime. They wish to perpetuate this regime in order to continue to rake in profits for themselves."

---

## ***Russian Nationalist 'Ready for Battle'***

Leading Russian economist and Duma (lower house of parliament) member Sergei Glazyev announced his campaign for Governor of Krasnoyarsk region in Siberia, on June 19, declaring himself "ready for battle" against free-trade oligarchs dominating Russia's current economic policies. In a strategic assessment published in May in the newspaper *Zavtra*, in reaction to the latest yearly address to the Duma by President Vladimir Putin, Glazyev had called for a reorientation of "national-patriotic forces" away from narrow focus on the center in Moscow, toward building up their in-depth political and economic base in the Russian regions. This reorientation, he said, was necessary in a situation where, due to the evidently unbroken grip of Russia's so-called "oligarchs" on national decision-making, no positive changes in economic policy could be expected from the side of President Putin. Earlier this year, Glazyev was removed as chairman of the Economic Commission of the Duma, which had last year invited Lyndon LaRouche as the keynote speaker in a hearing on the global financial crisis.

The governorship of Krasnoyarsk, considered the richest of all Russian regions in terms of accessible natural resources, was left vacant by the sudden death of Gen. Alexander Lebed—with whom Glazyev had once worked very closely—in a helicopter crash on April 28. The election of Lebed's successor is scheduled for Sept. 8.

"Right now the wealth of the Krasnoyarsk region is neither benefitting the population, nor Russia as a whole, but is enriching criminal structures," Glazyev said in his announcement. "This is absurd: The richest region of Russia has the lowest rate of growth of average income."

---

## ***Beijing Internet Café Fire Shows Social Problem***

To the shock of the nation of China, two boys, aged 14 and 13, set the fire in a Beijing "Internet café," which killed 25 people and injured another 12 on June 14. The two boys confessed to police that they used gasoline to set the Lanjisu Internet Café on fire, because the manager would not allow them to use the computers.

The unlicensed "café" also violated fire regulations, with blocked windows and doors, contributing to the high death toll. Beijing has now shut down all its 24,000 Internet cafés, of which only 10% are licensed.

According to the Beijing city government quoted in *China Daily*, both boys had "admitted they often went to play in the Internet café. Two weeks ago, they had a disagreement with the owner of the Lanjisu Café and in revenge they bought gasoline and set it on fire." Only the 14-year-old can be tried. One boy was wearing a "punk"-style dyed hairdo.

There were shocked responses on Chinese Internet chatrooms, which pointed to the "problem in the education of our youth."

On June 19, Beijing's Vice Mayor Liu Zhihua condemned Internet cafés as an "opium" for China's youth, while state media have criticized the cafés as a bad influence on young people.

---

## ***Africa Can't Grow Food, Because of Wars***

Large tracts of arable land in Africa cannot grow food because of wars and free market economics, writes John Mbaria in the Kenyan publication *The East African* on June 24. The Democratic Republic of Congo, "a country that holds more than a quarter of the freshwater resources of Africa," he says, can no longer grow any food because of the on-going war. Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, and Somalia have similar conflicts.

Where there are lesser conflicts, food production is confined to arable land that is watered either by natural means or by irrigation. Unfortunately, such soils comprise

only 22% of Africa's total land surface. Of the rest, 66% has hostile climatic conditions, while 21% is covered by forests.

"As if to compound the problem, the contemporary African farmer may have lost his ability to determine what use to put his land to. Such decisions are increasingly dictated by the whims of the market—the international market—and by the rising tyranny of Western capital, through so-called globalization," Mbaria writes.

"In addition, a disproportionate share of land in Africa is held not by the hungry poor but by well-fed rich people to whom food production is not a priority."

Peasant farmers are left to engage in season-after-season cultivation of the same types of crops on envelope-sized pieces of land; such farmers constitute the biggest proportion of hungry people in Africa.

---

## Film Triggers Teen Murders in France

Teen-aged addicts of the cult-film "Scream" have committed a number of multiple murders and attempted murders in France in recent months. Youth who have become "immersed" in the film have donned capes and masks like those worn by killers in "Scream," and killed or tried to kill their parents or friends, with no warning.

"Scream" is a three-part series by Wes Craven. The plot, according to *Le Monde's* June 23 report, is about a group of killers who hide behind the same mask. In this role-playing game, anyone wearing the mask can be a false killer or a real one.

One 15-year-old who killed his parents on Sept. 25, 2000, by stabbing them 30 times in their sleep, said he received messages from the movie and heard voices telling him to eliminate his parents.

In the most recent case, on June 3, a 17-year-old "Scream" follower watched the movie to prepare himself to kill one of his girlfriends, while wearing the cult-film's cape and mask. He told his lawyer he wanted to "kill a maximum of people and then die or be killed" himself, as in the movie. After killing his victim, he calmly waited at home, and when arrested, asked to be allowed to "rewind his acts" like a video player. He has

since not mentioned the victim or the murder, as if having erased them from his memory.

This latest death has sparked a debate in France over banning or restricting such movies and video games. The parents of the young girl have launched their own initiative against killer movies and video games.

---

## FARC Threatens To Kill All Elected Officials

The narco-terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has dramatically escalated its offensive against the Colombian nation as a political entity. Flush with success at using death threats to force out of office, or into hiding, at least 100 mayors or other officials in 12 political departments (provinces), the FARC has now issued a general warning to the mayors, city councilmen, inspectors, judges, and prosecutors of cities in nine other departments, including Cundinamarca, whose capital city is Bogotá. "Those who do not comply with this order, can be captured or executed," says the FARC statement, which adds that its intent "is to not allow a single state representative to function in any municipality."

The mayors and other threatened officials are between a rock and a hard place, as there is insufficient security to defend them if they choose to stay in office, but the governors of their respective provinces are refusing to accept their resignations under pressure of death threats. Further, in southern provinces such as Arauca and Caqueta, the paramilitaries are reportedly threatening mayors who yield to FARC death threats and resign!

Large numbers of these pressured mayors are planning to meet with the FARC, despite warnings from Defense Minister Gustavo Bell that they may be taken hostage and used to pressure for an exchange with imprisoned FARC terrorists.

Nonetheless, the Green Party of Germany recently invited FARC leader Raúl Reyes to Germany for meetings—ostensibly on the subject of releasing kidnapped Colombian Green Party leader Ingrid Betancourt.

**UNCTAD** reported on June 18 that poverty is on the rise in 34 Sub-Saharan African countries, a trend that the UN agency blames squarely on World Bank and International Monetary Fund policies. The report says poverty has doubled in many countries over the last decade, and that 800 million people—nearly 20% of the region's population—live in poverty now.

**PHILIPPINES** President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's poll ratings have collapsed in the national fight over electricity privatization and price-gouging. With a national movement against privatization growing daily, the Philippine Social Weather Station polling service found on June 20 that Arroyo's support has fallen dramatically since the end of last year. Arroyo identified the "public dismay over the electricity rates" as the cause, and said, "These are difficult times for our country; and they are difficult times for me as a leader."

**INDIAN** Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said on June 24 that there has been no change in Pakistan's policy so far as cross-border infiltration into Kashmir from Pakistan is concerned. "Every day we are getting reports that infiltration continues unabated," Vajpayee reportedly told *Newsweek*. The statement contradicted his Defense Minister, George Fernandes, who had said on June 20 in Srinagar that the infiltration of rebels and terrorists had nearly ended.

**THE MONTENEGRO** Parliament has abolished the death penalty, clearing the way for Yugoslavia's admittance to the Council of Europe. Yugoslavia, made up of Montenegro and Serbia, had previously applied for admission to the Council, but abolition of capital punishment is a condition for acceptance. Both the Yugoslav federal parliament and the Serb parliament had already banned the death penalty.