

# International Intelligence

## **'Deep-rooted' plot in Gandhi murder try?**

Indian Home Minister Zail Singh charged before the parliament on May 4 that the sabotage of Prime Minister Gandhi's plane recently was part of a "deep-rooted conspiracy."

Contradicting rumors circulated in the press, the Home Minister said that Mrs. Gandhi's aircraft had definitely been selected for her foreign visits prior to the sabotage. Noting that the plane would have made several trips before Gandhi boarded for her flight to Europe, he stated that the sabotage had been specifically arranged such that the cut cables would cause a failure after a time lapse.

The Home Minister also commented that it was too early in the investigation to tell if a "foreign hand" were involved, as had been suggested when four arrested Air India mechanics were arraigned.

Following the May 4 arrest of a fifth Air India mechanic, investigations are continuing. Investigators are concerned, however, that given the widespread press coverage and lapsed time since the sabotage, the trail of the conspiracy may cool. Nevertheless, the reference to a "foreign hand" provides useful hints as to lines of investigation.

## **Schmidt's Saudi trip reported to Bundestag**

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt delivered his report on May 7 to the Bundestag on the results of his trip to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He refused to respond to the rantings of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin that he is a Nazi.

"The Arab states expressed their interest in a long-term permanent relation with the Western industrialized countries. Discussions concerned collaboration beyond the 'age of oil,'" he said. "These countries see long-term collabo-

ration not only in terms of trade but also in terms of global economic and political collaboration. . . . The Saudis think they can ask Europe to help them, because of their moderate oil policy and their contribution to reducing tensions. . . .

"The Saudis and I believe that the more the West isolates the PLO, the more they will be pushed into the arms of the Soviets."

The chancellor also proposed that the European Community's Venice declaration could become a basis for renewed peace efforts "in case" the Camp David arrangement fails.

## **East African disintegration set**

The withdrawal of 10,000 Tanzanian troops from land-locked Uganda gives the green light to a further decade of bloodshed and chaos in the three East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Tanzanian troops have ostensibly been providing security in much of the lawless northern areas of Uganda following the overthrow of dictator Idi Amin, and oversaw the election of President Milton Obote last December. Now bankrupt and famine stricken, Tanzania can no longer afford to maintain troops in Uganda and President Julius Nyerere is being forced to withdraw them. This withdrawal has sparked loud predictions that Uganda is set for civil war and the Obote government will fall.

For two years, tribal and guerrilla fighting in the north and on the Tanzanian border have been festering. Obote's chief opponent is Yoweri Museveni, who claims he has launched a civil war and has raised the banner for a united front of all guerrilla groups, including the remaining bandits loyal to Amin.

Obote's problem is that the underpaid and undisciplined Ugandan army is incapable of providing military support against such brigandage. Their response to the hit-and-run tactics of the guerrillas is to terrorize and loot civilians. Obote is seeking outside support from Sudan and

is calling for reconciliation. His minister of information, who opposes reconciliation, has told reporters that "If Kampala [the Ugandan capital] has to be reduced to the level of Ndiamea [the capital of war-torn Chad], so be it."

## **Mitterrand gets dubious backing for bid**

Following the televised debate between incumbent President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Socialist International candidate François Mitterrand, in which the latter made a fool of himself by, among other things, admitting he didn't know the value of his nation's currency, Mitterrand picked up some dubious support for his presidential bid.

The first endorsement came from the Corsican autonomist party, headed by Edmond Simeoni, the Union du Peuples Corses (Union of Corsican Peoples—UPC). The UPC, tied to British intelligence through the wartime resistance *maquis*, includes the support networks of the terrorist Franc-tireurs et Partisans that claimed the bombing attack on the island's airport in an attempt to kill Giscard.

The second endorsement comes from the New Royalist Action Party chief, Renouvin, who denounced the president as an "impostor."

## **Powdered milk row aimed at population control**

The decades-long battle initiated by veteran Malthusian Margaret Mead to promote breast feeding over powdered milk for infants as a cheap and effective method of birth control has finally caught a victim.

The East African country of Kenya has made a concession to the birth control advocates who promote breast feeding because lactating women are less

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likely to conceive. Kenya's birth rate is one of the highest in the world and is viewed by population control agencies as a situation that must be brought under control immediately.

For five years the United Nations has been urging Kenya to act at the government level to encourage birth control through breast feeding.

Last week the government issued a code of ethics which claims that breast feeding is best and that the makers of baby formula should say so on the label. This will in effect work as a ban on all powdered baby food and set an international precedent.

The basic argument against infant milk power is that it endangers children, because most Third World women are illiterate and cannot read the instructions regarding the amounts of formula to give their babies; moreover, hygienic conditions are such that bottles and nipples cannot be sterilized. The same illiterate mothers who cannot read baby formula instructions, of course, also cannot read the new warning against using the products.

### *Soviet systems analyst stumps for Peccei*

Djerman Gvishiani, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee on Science and Technology, publicly joined the Global 2000 club at a recent meeting of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Vienna, Austria.

Gvishiani introduced Aurelio Peccei, head of the Club of Rome, by praising his "humanistic approach to the problems confronting the contemporary world. His conviction is that humans are essentially good."

The Russian systems analyst is also pushing the recently published Russian translation of Peccei's book *The Human Quality*, which he helped edit. "I hope more of his work will be published all over the world, thus contributing to a

better mutual understanding and a closer cooperation among peoples and nations," he said.

The Vienna-based IIASA was established in the 1960s through collaboration among Peccei, Gvishiani, and McGeorge Bundy. It has served as a conduit for zero-growth ideology into the Soviet Union through systems analysis methods applied to economics.

### *U.S. enforcement group: 'stop drugs at source'*

The State Drug Enforcement Alliance, (SDEA) comprised of 20 state drug enforcement agencies, called for the U.S. to commit itself to international cooperation in stopping the drug plague at its May 5-6 conference. The President should "give strong direction to our State Department to negotiate foreign agreements" to include "effective eradication programs in the source countries," said a conference communiqué. The SDEA also urged that Congress "express the resolve of this country to control illegal drug trafficking" by promptly passing legislation to allow the use of foreign aid monies for paraquat spraying of marijuana fields, currently prohibited under the Percy Amendment.

State Department official Diego Asencio, former ambassador to Colombia, spoke on his efforts to stem drug exports from that country. "My basic thought in interdiction is to go where it grows. . . . There is roughly \$1 billion spent per year by the U.S. on drug control . . . and 95 percent is spent domestically. There is something drastically wrong with that approach." The former ambassador said that, collaborating with the government of President Turbay and operating on a mere \$16 million budget, they were able to seize three times as much marijuana and six times the cocaine that the U.S. had been able to capture.

Asencio pointedly noted that this international success went uncovered in the U.S. press.

● **THE ITALIAN** government may soon come under pressure from the Reagan administration to expel Libyan diplomats from Italy, reported the Italian newspaper *Giornale Nuovo* May 7. This would be a major blow against the pro-Libyan head of the Socialist Party, Bettino Craxi, who is now seeking to become Premier.

● **FRANCE**, which recently surpassed Japan in installed nuclear power, is also making rapid progress toward the 1984 completion of its 1,200-megawatt Super-Phénix at Créys-Malville, which will be the world's largest fast breeder reactor. At the end of 1980, 22 percent of France's electricity was supplied by nuclear, the highest of any country. By the end of 1985, when the Super-Phénix will be operating, 43 percent will be nuclear-generated.

● **MOOREHEAD KENNEDY**, former American hostage in Iran, has just been appointed director of a new Cathedral Peace Institute established by the Episcopalian St. John the Divine cathedral in New York. Top fundraiser for the Institute will be former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

● **GEORGETOWN'S** Center for Strategic and International Studies is holding a secretive conference on the creation of a new "Middle East Development Fund" potentially involving the World Bank and similar institutions. Speakers and participants at the meeting will reportedly include Felix Rohatyn, Evelyn Rothschild, Arthur Burns, Robert McNamara, Israeli central bank chief Arnon Gafny, Washington consultant Robert Nathan, Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft official Walter Hesselbach, and French bankers Pierre Uri and Bernard Escombart.