

International Intelligence

'Jewish mothers' blamed for Israelis' poor shape

Jewish mothers are to blame for the fact that Israel "can conceivably claim the worst record on earth for the physical condition of its teenagers," charges Israeli Gen. David Gerstein, who is responsible for the fighting fitness of Israel's soldiers, in statements in the *Jerusalem Post* Sept. 14. The *Post* reports:

"Gerstein lays a major part of the blame with the Jewish mother, and the 'People of the Book' syndrome. 'The Jewish mother wants her son to become a doctor, a lawyer, banker, computer expert, rabbi, or at least a teacher, but she has no ambition for him to win medals in a sport,' he said. 'My mother used to ask me 20 times a day: 'Dudu, are you hungry?' he recalls."

General Gerstein told the *Post*: "Seven out of every 10 new recruits joining the army are overweight, flabby, fat and bent. . . . Even with the lowest criteria set by the Israel Defense Forces for physical fitness, half to three-quarters of the new recruits fail to meet the minimum standard. Only between 20 to 30 percent can be considered okay."

The article is headlined, "Physical condition of Israeli youth 'worst in the world'/' Army general blames the Jewish mother."

Colombian killed after urging death penalty

The assistant editor of the Colombian newspaper *El Occidente*, Raúl Echavarría, was murdered at his home by mafia assassins on motorcycles Sept. 17, one day after writing an editorial supporting U.S. congressional action for the death penalty in some categories of drug-related crimes.

"Any form of drug addiction is genocide," wrote Echavarría. "Those who produce cocaine and its derivatives, those who plant marijuana, those who bring these tox-

ins into their nations and put them within the reach of the public are executioners; they kill and bestialize. And in addition, they form a class of criminals who assassinate in cold blood, with a cruelty never before known to mankind."

The same day that Echavarría was slain, Monsignor Gustavo Ferreira, president of the Colombian Church's Superior Ecclesiastical Tribunal, called for the death penalty for drug traffickers. He declared that the drug trade "is a crime that has not been limited to a single society, but has transcended the limits of any one nation. Thus, there has to be an equivalent sentence, because I do not believe time in prison would be sufficient. The maximum penalty is justified . . . because the death penalty is applicable to any horrendous crime."

Ferreira added that this did not contravene church doctrine, since that doctrine argues that society has the right to "extreme defense." Ferreira acknowledged that establishing the death penalty would require a constitutional reform, but added he would not object in the slightest to such a reform.

NATO study warns of Soviet spetsnaz

According to *Welt am Sonntag*, Germany's second-largest Sunday newspaper, the member governments of the Western Alliance have received a report pointing to the existence of special sabotage units operating within the Red Army, known as spetsnaz (special forces). The study says that 90 such units are stationed at posts in East Germany, and indicates that at least some "terrorism" attributed to home-grown radicals may in fact be direct Soviet spetsnaz operations.

The units are trained to deploy against special targets such as energy and transport grids, nuclear power stations, radio and television stations, key industries, and NATO installations, as well as leading political and military personnel—predominantly in West Germany.

The spetsnaz units operate on the direct orders of Gen. Valerii Belikhov, the commander of the 400,000 Soviet troops stationed in East Germany. The article points out that spetsnaz are sometimes deployed into West Germany clandestinely, "just for rehearsal practice."

Canada's Mulroney favors drug testing

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, in a Sept. 18 interview in *La Presse*, said he favored the idea of imposing anti-drug tests in Canada, "for the best interests of the nation." Mulroney noted that any new such laws would have to be framed within the context of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, whose terms might actually prohibit measures such as mandatory drug-testing as a threat to individual liberties.

Although Mulroney does not presently have a clear strategy on how to win the "war on drugs" in Canada, or even how the Charter (like the U.S. Bill of Rights) can be changed, he is apparently seeking "guidance" on the matter.

In a Vancouver interview, published Sept. 18 by the *Montreal Gazette*, the Canadian prime minister was a bit vague about his plans. When asked "where would this testing take place?" Mulroney responded: "We're looking at a . . . Perhaps I could just limit it to this today, is that we're looking at a number of things including some that have a legal import, and we're examining it. We know full well the Charter implications are such that if you get half way down the road—poof!—you could be cut-off if you're in violation of it."

On the idea of waging a nationally coordinated "war on drugs" in Canada, long a center for money-laundering because of its lenient banking laws, or even implementing legislation to mandate drug testing, Mulroney admitted: ". . . It's new, it's brand new for us. For Canada, unlike the U.S. where a lot of these have been much more accurately

defined with judicial decisions and traditions and so on. We don't have that. It's brand new . . . and so we're trying to get some guidance."

Peres: East bloc harbors terrorists

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres has accused Eastern European countries of harboring terrorists, but he notably refrained from directly blaming the Soviet Union.

In an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* published Sept. 18, the Israeli leader said that in his view, the Soviet Union "secretly objects" to terrorism, but nevertheless, terrorists maintain bases and receive support from East bloc countries.

Peres predicted closer U.S.-French-Israeli cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

He said that he hadn't expected that his proposals to set up an international anti-terror force would be accorded "such a serious reception," when he brought them up during recent meetings with President Reagan and other U.S. and Canadian officials in Washington.

Drug-fighter shot in Sinaloa, Mexico

A Mexican political leader who told *EIR* correspondents he could not travel to Sinaloa state because the mafia had put out an order to kill him, was shot by gunmen there on Sept. 14.

Saul Rios Beltran, the most outspoken anti-drug fighter in the state, had a bullet put into his brain during a kidnap attempt by a team of three gunmen. He fought back and was shot. His cousin escaped during the fight. If Rios survives, he will be paralyzed in at least half his body, doctors say.

In July, Rios told *EIR* he could not go to the state because there was an order out to

kill him. He is a former congressman and peasant leader in the northern part of Sinaloa. During his congressional term, he distinguished himself by his denunciations of the growing power of the dope mafia in Sinaloa and the passive attitude of state Gov. Antonio Toledo Corro.

When *EIR* correspondents were jailed in Venezuela in February 1985 in relation to the publication of the book, *Narcotráfico, S.A.*, Rios dispatched a telegram demanding their release.

During March of this year, Rios and several other federal congressmen issued a statement demanding federal government action against the mafia in Sinaloa. The national uproar that ensued almost led to the resignation of Gov. Toledo Corro.

Rios has many friends in the hierarchy of Mexico's ruling PRI party. The attempt on his life has produced a sensation nationally inside the party.

Peru may build new capital city

Discussion is under way inside the government of Peru on building a new capital city—as part of the nation's desperate war against the savage narco-terrorist guerrillas called Shining Path (*Sendero Luminoso*).

Retired Gen. Mercado Jarrín, president of the Institute of Political and Strategic Studies, met with President Alan García on Sept. 18 to discuss a proposal to transfer the capital to the Mantaro Valley in the Central Sierra Mountains.

"Lima is vulnerable to be destroyed" by the guerrillas, because the food supply of its 6 million inhabitants could be cut off, Mercado told the press afterward.

In the Mantaro Valley, 3 million hectares of land could be opened for agriculture, and mining and hydroelectric facilities could be established nearby. The valley could easily be secured against attack.

He and the President, Mercado Jarrín stated, would soon inspect the proposed site of the new city by helicopter.

Briefly

● **GNOSTICS** are planning "spectacular provocations" against Pope John Paul II's scheduled visit to Lyon, France on Oct. 4, according to Swiss sources. By way of preparation, on Sept. 24, the "memoirs" of Father Krohn, who tried to kill the Pope in Portugal in 1982, were published in Geneva under the title, *The Crazy of God*.

● **TONY NEGRI**, accused supporter of Italian terrorists now living in France, spoke to Italy's *Il Giornale* about the current terrorist wave in France. "We are looking at an attempt to transfer Beirut to the European heartland," he stated. He called the current wave "promotional terrorism . . . action organized like when you launch a new product onto the market. . . . These are promotional bombs. . . . Remember well what I am saying: This will be the terrorism of the future."

● **CIA DIRECTOR** William Casey, in a speech before veterans of the OSS, predecessor of the CIA, Sept. 19, stated: "What we face again has much in common with what we faced in 1944. The West again is faced with the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—famine, pestilence, war, and death."

● **'STING,'** the satanic British rock star, has suddenly renounced his brand of non-music for another. Interviewed by the Italian *Corriere della Sera*'s Mario Luzzatto Fegiz, he stated: "I do not believe I am materially capable of writing rock or pop. For a while I have not been able to bear listening to rock-and-roll. All my interests are addressed to classical music of the 20th century [sic], in particular Shönberg, Lutoslavsky, and Stravinsky."