

# International Intelligence

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## ***Iran plots 'Islamic' takeover of Iraq***

The creation of an "Islamic Republic of Iraq" was the main subject of discussion between Iran's Prime Minister Mir Houssein Mousavi and the Syrian leadership in meetings in mid-October, according to the *Foreign Report* of London.

Iran's Supreme Defense Council is planning a massive ground offensive against Iraq. Led by Revolutionary Guards (Pasdaran) Minister Rafiq Dost, one faction is advocating the immediate creation of a Khomeini-style fundamentalist "republic" as soon as Iran succeeds in breaking Iraq's defenses and reaches the outskirts of Basrah. Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, on the other hand, has been advising that Libya should be consulted first.

Under pressure from Saudi Arabia, the Syrians have hitherto made their support for Iran conditional on the demand that none of Iraq's territory (hence, "Arab" territory) should be occupied by the Iranians. But now, preparing for such a step, the Iranians have beefed up their "Badr 9 Unit," which includes ten of thousands of Iraqis opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Badr 9 Unit has recently been deployed, together with pro-Iranian Kurds, in the northern front of the war.

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## ***Pope backs Peru's bid for economic justice***

Pope John Paul II, in a greeting to the new Peruvian ambassador to the Vatican on Oct. 19, called for the creation of a "new international financial order," and hailed Peru's efforts to overcome its economic crisis in an international context.

Peru has taken the lead among developing countries in opposing the austerity conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund, and President Alan García has limited debt payments to 10% of export earnings, and nationalized the banking system in order

to stop drug-money laundering and capital flight. García is facing a furious counterattack by the bankers, drug traffickers, and the Shining Path terrorists, all committed to bringing Peru to its knees.

The Pope told Ambassador Hubert Wieland Alzamora that to realize the new financial order, all nations must "commit themselves to appropriate reforms, which are important to overcome the problems of marginalization, violence and underdevelopment."

"You have a very valuable patrimony," he said, "received with great sacrifice, which is worth defending. For that, one must count on the honest and loyal participation of those who are part of the great Peruvian family, since political life, in its maximum expression, is an army of rights and obligations to which citizens are called up, in an inescapable and responsible way, to work for the common good."

Attacking the terrorists—and their supporters from the ranks of liberation theology—he said, "It must not be said that violence is a moral act, because wherever it comes from, it attacks human dignity. It must be considered morally bad, and so, rejected."

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## ***Soviets deploy new mobile ICBM***

The Soviet Union has begun deploying the SS-24 rail-mobile ICBM, the West German daily *Die Welt* reported Oct. 19, in its lead article. The deployment has been confirmed in the Moscow Military District, from satellite photographs.

The SS-24 is the most powerful totally mobile missile in existence, with its minimum of 10 independent warheads. It is also variable in range—between 3,000 km and 9,000 km—thus making it a formidable medium-range successor to the SS-20, which the Kremlin has offered to withdraw from Europe as part of a "Euromissile" (INF) arms control deal.

*Die Welt* comments that the deployment makes a mockery of the INF treaty, which

will leave Russia with far more medium-range warheads than now, and the United States with zero. The paper describes the SS-24 deployment as providing an added objective impetus to speeding up the American Strategic Defense Initiative program.

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## ***Noriega seeks military role in peace talks***

Gen. Manuel Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, in a discussion with foreign journalists at an army training camp on Oct. 16, demanded that Central America's military leaders be included in any peace negotiations with the guerrillas. If the negotiations fall apart, he said, it is the military which is going to be doing the fighting.

He stated his support for the Arias peace plan for Central America, stating that Panama backed Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, when "nobody else believed in this plan."

General Noriega also criticized Panama's liberal economic planners for creating a "dependent model of a service economy" in recent years. This has made Panama vulnerable to the economic warfare being thrown at the country by the United States, he said.

Noriega said that Panama must develop production, to reduce its dependence on the outside. The one thing that U.S. economic warfare is accomplishing, he added, "is feeding Latin American resentment against the United States."

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## ***Trouble for the Queen: Fiji breaks with Crown***

Queen Elizabeth's policy toward the British Commonwealth ran aground on Oct. 16, when Fiji, an island nation in the Pacific, announced its formal break with the British Crown. The Queen accepted the resignation of her Governor General Sir Penaia Ganilau. Now, some are blaming Elizabeth for stepping out of line.

## Briefly

Fiji came under British domination first in 1874, when the islands' cannibal chiefs converted to Methodism and made Queen Victoria their "chief of chiefs." On Sept. 25 of this year, Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka staged a military coup and declared the creation of a republic.

The crisis dominated the just-concluded summit of Commonwealth leaders meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. It is unclear whether Fiji will remain in the Commonwealth.

The Queen drew fire when she warned Fijians that they would be committing treason to the Crown if they supported Colonel Rabuka. The British Foreign Office promptly distanced itself from this position, and the Queen's involvement in the crisis has drawn criticism from the British press. Columnist George Gale warned in the *Daily Mail* on Oct. 16 that the Queen "should watch her step." "She has more than once thrown her weight around in Commonwealth matters. She has sometimes allowed it to appear that she is taking sides against her British Prime Minister. . . . It would be a great misfortune if, by insisting on a role within the Commonwealth which is more than merely honorific, she were to put in jeopardy her role as Queen of the United Kingdom."

### *New leader could stabilize Tunisia*

After a long period of uncertainty, the political situation in Tunisia is now moving toward greater stability, with the naming of Gen. Zin el Abedin Ben Ali to the post of prime minister and secretary general of the ruling party. He will keep his post as interior minister, which will allow him broad powers to deal with domestic problems.

Informed sources report that General Ben Ali is widely respected, and will seek to conduct a dialogue with all democratic components of Tunisian political life. At the same time, he will seek to neutralize the fundamentalist networks, and the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) in particular.

Some relief is discernable in both Paris

and Washington, the two principal allies of Tunisia. Both have been concerned about: 1) Tunisia's rapprochement with Libya; 2) popular discontent over the economic crisis, which the MTI has exploited; and 3) uncertainty concerning the succession to the elderly President Habib Bourguiba.

*EIR's* sources report that the new government will go after the MTI, by exposing its financial and logistical support from the Iranian secret services.

### *Hammer sees progress toward Afghanistan deal*

Armand Hammer, the chairman of Occidental Petroleum and friend of the Bolshevik Revolution for 70 years, reported on the results of his recent trip to Afghanistan, in an interview published in the *Jerusalem Post* Oct. 18.

A deal to get the Soviets out of Afghanistan, he said, would be most successful in the context of a successful U.S.-Soviet summit. This would also abet Jewish emigration from the U.S.S.R. and a resumption of Soviet diplomatic ties with Israel. "Everything will follow the summit. . . . We have an opportunity with Gorbachov. . . . I hope Mr. Shamir will be invited one day to go to Moscow and meet Mr. Gorbachov and then I think there will be recognition of Israel, full recognition. And I think we are entering a new era of goodwill for Israel, the U.S., and Middle East peace, all of which will stem from a successful summit."

Hammer reported that he arrived in Kabul on Oct. 12, and met with Afghan leader Dr. Hajib Ahmadzai, who was receptive to Hammer's Kremlin-endorsed plan for the former King of Afghanistan to play an "active role" in Afghanistan's future, and for the King's son-in-law to be prime minister.

The Soviets need help in leaving Afghanistan, according to Hammer. There would be a "bloodbath" against their troops if they left without a framework for peace, "because they've killed so many Afghans that people will get revenge. . . . There would be a terrific civil war."

● **CARDINAL RATZINGER** denounced the radical-environmentalist Greens, in an interview with the Catholic weekly *Il Sabato*, reported Oct. 22 in the Italian press. The Greens are "a combination of an undefined romanticism, which takes elements from the Marxist current and is also linked to features of liberalism," he said. They base themselves on a conception of Nature which is "anti-rational," and represent a "new animalism, and the wish of man to be a pure animal."

● **AT LEAST THREE KGB** centers in the U.S.S.R. train agents to infiltrate freemasonic circles in the West, sources report. These are in Feodosia (Crimea), Lvov (Ukraine), and Lithuania. Josef Stalin had the centers set up as early as 1936. English and Swiss freemasonic groups are said to contain the highest number of KGB agent infiltrators.

● **FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS**, the leader of West Germany's Christian Social Union party, criticized the U.S. role in overthrowing the Shah of Iran in 1979 and installing Ayatollah Khomeini as "just another great disaster brought into this world under the banner of so-called democratization." "Now," he said, "we have one of the worst dictatorships the world has ever seen in recent times in power in Iran."

● **THE WEST GERMAN** military intelligence service (MAD) is investigating illegal deliveries of tanks from Kiel to the Middle East, the Oct. 18 *Wien Kurier* of Austria reports.

● **THE WORLD COUNCIL** of Churches is planning a conference in New Delhi, India Nov. 22-28, to discuss "religious identity in a pluralistic society." Attendees will include Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Jews, and Christians. The conference will "unofficially" promote the setting up of councils on religion in each community in India, to attempt to deal with religious problems.