

International Intelligence

Mafia threatens 'bloodbath' in Dominican Republic

The drug mafia in the Dominican Republic has threatened a "bloodbath" in Santiago against any who oppose their murderous operations.

At the end of January, numerous lawyers, journalists, leaders of clubs, and sports teams, were threatened with death by drug traffickers. The president of the Association of Lawyers of Santiago, the Dominican Republic's second largest city, reported that he, his wife and children were threatened with death by the mob. They were told that if he persisted in his attacks on drug trafficking, he and his loved ones "are running the risk of death."

Attacks on drug traffickers intensified following the freeing of 21 prisoners accused by the police of trafficking in drugs.

Historian hits handling of Kurt Waldheim affair

U.S. military historian and retired general James Collins, the American member of the commission investigating the war record of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, has issued a challenge to the U.S. Justice Department's handling of the Waldheim affair. The Justice Department banned Waldheim from entering the United States, on unproven charges that he is a Nazi war criminal.

Collins was reacting to a statement by the new U.S. ambassador to Vienna, Henry Grunwald, who told the Austrian daily *Die Presse* Jan. 26 that he could not imagine the commission coming up with any other conclusion than that of the U.S. Justice Department.

Collins retorted that the Justice Department had not offered any evidence. Nor, he said, had the commission's contact with the World Jewish Congress, Waldheim's original accusers, been very useful or fruitful.

According to a report in the British newspaper the *Independent* on Jan. 27, other members of the commission are ignoring

the testimony of retired Yugoslav archivist Ducan Plenca, who has suddenly emerged with new charges implicating Waldheim in "war crimes"; Plenca is "like many of Mr. Waldheim's Johnny-come-lately accusers," comments the *Independent*.

Brezhnev's son-in-law faces 'corruption' trial

Yuri Churbanov, the son-in-law of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, will go on trial for "corruption," the Soviet news agency TASS announced on Jan. 26. Churbanov was a former deputy interior minister, and has been in jail since 1983. He is charged with "accepting bribes" and "abuse of office."

According to TASS: "At present the accused is being acquainted with the material of the investigation, after which he will be brought to trial." Most sources are convinced that he will receive the death penalty.

Earlier in January, Brezhnev's former private secretary, Gennadi Brovin, was sentenced to nine years in prison for having received 19,000 rubles in bribes, and having misused "off limits" Kremlin telephones.

"Anti-corruption" show trials will also soon begin in Uzbekistan, involving former high-level Communist Party functionaries. Previous trials in Uzbekistan under Mikhail Gorbachov's perestroika regime have resulted in at least five death sentences to date: the former interior minister and three of his deputies, and the former cotton minister.

Shamir to meet Reagan on West Bank unrest

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will come to Washington, D.C. on March 16 for discussions with President Reagan and other U.S. officials, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater announced on Jan. 22. "It is fair to say that the problems of the West Bank and Gaza have given new urgency to this," he said.

Other officials indicated that the trip had been in the works since November and should

be viewed as part of continuing U.S. consultations on the Middle East.

Among the new latest developments in the crisis, Arab East Jerusalem was put under military rule at the end of January, for the first time since 1967, to prevent further demonstrations. The move was sharply criticized by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who said that he had not been consulted, and warned that it would only increase tensions.

The *Jerusalem Post* on Jan. 22 commented that the "hidden hand" behind the West Bank and Gaza demonstrations is represented by the growing cooperation between Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Islamic fundamentalists of the Jihad movement. It quoted one Jerusalem Palestinian that, despite Israel's efforts to play the Islamicists against the PLO, the PLO-Islamicist relationship has grown over the year, especially inside Israeli jails. The cooperation was made official last April, when two Islamicists were elected to the Palestinian National Council.

Prime Minister Shamir denounced the PLO-Jihad collaboration in an interview in the West German daily *Bild Zeitung* published on Jan. 22.

Unrest grows in Argentina's Army

As many as 300 Argentine Army officers are under arrest and facing court-martial for supporting Lt-Col. Aldo Rico's uprising in January, including about 60 commissioned and 220 or more non-commissioned officers. But most of the military, although sympathizing with Rico, refused to be drawn into his suicidal action. As a result, despite the defeat of Rico, observers are reporting that the Army is now more unified than before around demands for better treatment.

The dissatisfaction against the government of President Raúl Alfonsín is being fed by the fact that, in the past two years, the officers of the Argentina Army have suffered a 50% decline in real salaries due to budget cuts for the military. Military spending has fallen from 4.6% of the GNP to 2%, and the number of conscripts is down from

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85,000 to 25,000. There is a serious lack of spare parts that has grounded a great deal of military equipment, especially airplanes.

Arson attack targets Franco-German alliance

Two heavy arson attacks destroyed offices of the French Renault corporation in Hamburg, West Germany on Jan. 25, causing several million deutschemarks of damage. The move comes as French and German leaders have been mapping out a program for increased military and political cooperation.

The Institut Français in Hamburg found a letter in its mailbox, which stated that the two attacks had been carried out by supporters of the Direct Action terrorist gang, leading members of which are on trial in Paris. The letter referred to the developing Franco-German cooperation as "repressive" and announced more such attacks to come.

The incident corroborates warning statements one week before by German anti-terror police, that attacks on "political-economic and military institutions of the new Franco-German cooperation" are to be expected.

NATO commander wants new missiles for Europe

NATO Supreme Commander Gen. John Galvin has charged that the Soviets began bringing short-range missiles into Eastern Europe, to replace those that are supposed to be dismantled under the INF accord, immediately after the pact was signed in December 1987. In a breakfast meeting with defense correspondents in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 23, he urged that the United States deploy new short-range nuclear missiles in Europe, to compensate for the firepower that would be lost by the withdrawal of intermediate-range nuclear forces.

Galvin underlined that the Soviet moves mean that charges which Soviet Foreign

Minister Eduard Shevardnadze raised on his recent visit to Bonn, against modernization of NATO short-range missiles, are "mere propaganda."

Galvin said he supports the INF pact, and that reductions by the Warsaw Pact and NATO could save money, but said that the agreement will carry "more risk than we ought to be ready to take" unless it is offset by upgrading NATO's nuclear and conventional arsenals.

Galvin recommended development of a nuclear-tipped successor to the Lance ground-based nuclear missile, which could be launched by fighter planes, and an increase above the current ceiling of 1,000 rounds on nuclear artillery, "because that makes the whole defensive setup less vulnerable." He also recommended modernizing existing nuclear bombs. He called for modernization of conventional forces and the development of new weapons, such as the Air Force's Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System.

AIDS scare reported in the Soviet Union

There is a growing "AIDS scare" in the U.S.S.R., accompanied by propaganda painting AIDS victims as inferior undesirables, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* reported on Jan. 27.

The Soviet trade union newspaper *Trud* recently revealed that Russians are afraid to go to laboratories, barber shops, manicure parlors, cafes, and public baths. Some bars and restaurants are now deserted.

Trud and other Soviet publications report that they have received hundreds of letters on AIDS. One contained a proposal for tattooing homosexuals, drug-addicts, and prostitutes. Another proposed testing all pregnant women, and forcing abortions for those testing positive.

Corriere reports that the Soviets are planning to create 1,000 laboratories for AIDS testing (20 now exist), despite the official claim that only 265 people in the Soviet Union are infected, and only 4 people have actually been sick with the disease.

● **BRITISH NUCLEAR** scientist Russell Smith, who worked at the Harwell nuclear research center, is reported missing. His case may be related to those of six British researchers involved in SDI-related research who died in 1987 under suspicious circumstances.

● **A NEW ROUND** of Soviet-Israeli negotiations was held in mid-January in Helsinki, Finland, chaired by Michael Novick of the Israeli foreign ministry. According to Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov, an agreement was reached for an Israeli consular delegation to visit Moscow soon to "inspect Israeli properties."

● **THE POLLARD** spy network will be the subject of a new *EIR* Special Report, scheduled for release soon. It will feature new material on the Soviet-Israeli "false flag" espionage operation originally exposed with the November 1985 arrest of Jonathan J. Pollard, and will analyze the December 1987 arrest in Israel of accused Soviet spy Shabtai Kalmanovich.

● **U.S. INTELLIGENCE** agencies are convinced that Soviet laser attacks have damaged American spy satellites deployed to monitor missile and spacecraft launchings at the Soviet space center at Tyuratam, according to a UPI wire of Jan. 24.

● **PALESTINIAN** moderate leader Hanna Siniora, editor of the Arabic Jerusalem daily *Al Fajr*, proposed a new initiative for dealing with the crisis in Israel, in a commentary in the *Washington Post* published Jan. 28. He called for a political combination of the Palestinians, a faction of the Labour Party, and a faction of the Likud to achieve peace, with the leadership and mediation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Siniora gave an exclusive interview to *EIR*, Aug. 8, 1986.