

International Intelligence

Arafat: Washington is the new Rome

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat charged that the Bush administration's "new world order" is a replay of the policies of the Roman Empire, in an interview with the Jordanian newspaper *Sawt Al Shab* published on June 2.

"The Arab nation is now facing a new set of facts represented by the new world order," he said. "The United States leads the new world order like Rome had done in the past. However, they forget that Spartacus was a Palestinian, and that Christ and his disciples were also Palestinians."

Arafat added that "had it not been for the boundless U.S. support on the economic, political, diplomatic, financial and information level, Israel would not be able to defy the international community's consensus, continue with the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab lands, and with its crimes, massacres, and its human rights violations in the occupied territories, not to mention its recurrent aggression against southern Lebanon, and against the Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages."

Seineldín: 'We will not take down our flags'

Argentine nationalist leader Col. Mohamed Alí Seineldín declared, in an open letter to the nation issued from prison early in June, that "despite imprisonment and lies, we will not surrender and we will not take down our flags."

Colonel Seineldín wrote that the failure of the nationalist uprising of Dec. 3, 1990 against the Army high command has resulted "in the extension of the dependency that has emerged due to unemployment and starvation wages."

He continued: "Our national assets are being unscrupulously abused; we are once again becoming dependent on the multinational enterprises. There is a 50-year lag in labor and social legislation; and we are re-

turning to a merciless exploitation of the worker, a situation we thought had been overcome for good. . . .

"Regrettably, the leadership of our Armed Forces has suffered the same wear and tear as the country's leaders. . . . This is why every day, we see rich businessmen with bankrupt enterprises, rich labor leaders with workers who have descended to the subsistence level, and rich politicians with a majority of forgotten people. . . .

"We have seen many of our generals negotiate their small sinecures with the political branch, while the Armed Forces suffered the shrewdest attack in their history, with the goal of dismantling the military and finally making it disappear.

"We tried to prevent this on Dec. 3. . . . We wanted to restore the Army, to bring it alongside the people within a national and popular project of liberation."

Brits call for ousting the leaders of Africa

The *Financial Times*, mouthpiece of the City of London, on June 7 spelled out in an editorial British colonial plans for Africa, including the ouster of the current leadership of the continent:

"The destiny of Africa is in your hands, Mr. Barber Conable, the World Bank president, told leaders attending this week's summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Abuja, Nigeria.

"Fortunately for Africa, he is wrong.

"The continent's destiny lies not in the hands of the long-discredited and unrepresentative leaders who have dominated OAU summits for nearly three decades. The future belongs to their successors: the opposition politicians, trade unionists, human rights activists, academics, lawyers, students, and other frustrated citizens who are at the forefront of the continent's search for democracy.

"Such is the tumult of change in Africa that their time may be coming. Old hands such as President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia . . . will have looked around the Abuja

summit and noticed a sign of the turbulent era. No less than nine African leaders have lost office since last year's meeting in Addis Ababa—the highest turnover since the OAU's creation in 1963."

Norway charges Soviet buildup on Kola Peninsula

The Norwegian government has charged that the Soviet Union is building up its military presence on the Kola Peninsula near the Norwegian and Finnish borders, reported the May 29 *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, a Russian daily.

On the eve of Mikhail Gorbachov's visit to Norway, Norwegian Defense Minister Jorgen Holst let it be known that Norway will not sign the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) unless something was done about the military buildup. Norway also wants amphibious assault force units to be negotiated within the CFE Treaty. Holst said Norwegian officials would discuss this with Gorbachov when he arrived. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* pointed out that after World War II, Norway had tried to build up anti-Soviet groupings in Finland.

The Soviets denied Holst's charges on Radio Moscow the next day, and said that the only military forces in that area were two tank battalions (171 tanks) in regions bordering Norway, as compared to 205 Norwegian tanks.

Harsh sentences given to Chinese activists

The continuing crackdown on pro-democracy activists in the People's Republic of China has led to some of the harshest sentences seen in years, says an Amnesty International report released on June 3.

"It's not uncommon for people out of the spotlight—ordinary activists or those tried outside Beijing—to be jailed for 10 to 20 years, sometimes simply for making dissident speeches," the report said. It cited the example of Chen Lantao, sentenced in northern Shangdong province to 18 years in

prison for joining the 1989 protests. The report said that several hundred activists are believed to have been secretly executed shortly after 1989.

The report noted that torture of prisoners, usually to extract pre-trial confessions, had increased, and that methods included severe beatings, shocks with electric batons, and the use of handcuffs, shackles, or ropes to inflict pain.

Kuwaiti kangaroo courts issue death sentence

An alleged Iraqi collaborator was sentenced to hang by the courts set up by the U.S.-backed oligarchy in Kuwait the first week in June. Mankh al-Shamiri, a radar technician with the Kuwaiti Air Force, was impressed into service by the Iraqi occupiers, and is now going to die as a result of a court proceeding in which there were no witnesses presented against him, and no evidence presented in the courtroom.

These proceedings and their sentences are under the direct authority of the martial law regime established by the U.S. occupation, and have been sanctioned by the U.S. ambassador.

The convicted man is a Bedouin, one of the 200,000 members of a stateless community descended from nomads who inhabited the area prior to the establishment of the Sabah family protectorate. Like others who are not part of the Sabah mafia, the Bedouins do not have citizenship papers in the kingdom which is passing judgment on them.

Turkey and Iraq take steps to restore ties

Upon arriving in the Turkish capital on June 12, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz stated that there were historic ties of friendship between the two countries, and that Iraq wants to normalize and develop further its relations with Turkey.

Despite Turkey's enthusiastic participation in the war against Iraq, there are indica-

tions that the government there is open to such a restoration of relations. Turkish President Turgut Özal made it known, on the occasion of the Aziz visit, that he is against maintenance of sanctions. He told the Turkish press that sanctions do more harm than good, and "won't bring about a real change in Iraq's political situation." Turkey says that it has lost \$7 billion because of the sanctions against Iraq.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin welcomed Aziz, saying, "We would like to get first-hand information about the situation in Iraq." He said the information to be obtained from Aziz is "very significant" to Turkey. Aziz was later received by Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and President Özal.

En route to Turkey, Tariq Aziz made a 24-hour stopover in Amman, where he held talks with senior Jordanian officials.

Soviets deny 'sphere of influence' deal

The Soviet government newspaper *Izvestia* reported on June 6, that Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin denied that the United States and the Soviet Union had reached an agreement on a "redistribution of spheres of influence" whereby Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia are in the U.S. sphere of influence, while Romania and Bulgaria are in the Soviet zone.

"We know about these foreign press reports," Churkin said. "A number of articles have said that a redistribution of spheres of influence in Europe between the Soviet Union and the U.S. took place even earlier—during the Soviet-U.S. Malta summit in early December 1989. I think that those familiar with the details and philosophy of the Soviet policy of new thinking do not need to be told that nothing of the sort could have happened at summits or other meetings anywhere between Soviet and U.S. officials. The question of a redistribution of spheres of influence was never raised by anyone nor discussed. That is why any articles on this score are either malicious fabrications or the result of a sick imagination."

● **POLISH PRESIDENT** Lech Walesa has refused to sign the Polish parliament's new electoral law, on the grounds that it is too confusing, hampers the organization of a normal political system based on parties, and discriminates against the Catholic Church. "I'm surprised," Walesa said, "that such magnificent people worked on, yet made such a mess of, the electoral regulations."

● **ISRAELI** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir seemed to indicate a willingness to negotiate over the Occupied Territories, in a statement quoted by Israeli Radio on June 5. "We agreed that sovereignty over Judea, Samaria, and Gaza will be subject to negotiations despite our belief with all our heart that these areas are an organized part of the land of Israel," he said.

● **SOUTH KOREAN** officials announced on June 8 that North Korea has agreed to sign an accord allowing international inspection of its nuclear facilities. A Foreign Ministry official said the announcement was made by North Korea's roving ambassador Jin Chung Guk, during a visit to the Vienna headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Association.

● **THE U.N. SANCTIONS** Committee has suspended its consideration of an Iraqi request for the lifting of sanctions, under enormous pressure from Britain, the United States, and France. Several countries on the Security Council support the lifting of sanctions as a way of bringing about Iraqi compliance with the cease-fire agreements, but their views have not prevailed.

● **ISRAELI** fighter planes staged "warning" bombing raids on Palestinian refugee camps over southern Lebanon on June 12, Reuters reports. A number of people were wounded in the shelling of agricultural areas east of the port of Sidon.