

# International Intelligence

---

## ***Rabin defends Israel's right to deportations***

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin defended his government's illegal deportation of over 400 Palestinians, without trial, and said it had the right to take such actions in the future. He told the Israeli Knesset (parliament) on Feb. 4, "The principle of our ability to remove, for a limited time, hundreds of inciters, leaders, organizers, remains."

Rabin defended his proposal to allow the return of 100 of the Palestinians expelled last December, amid criticism from both the left and the right in the parliament. The deportees rejected the "compromise," saying that they should all be allowed to return.

In defense of the original decision to expel the 400, which has been seen by both left and right as a blunder, Rabin declared that he could be more hardline than the Likud Party: "I believe this decision was a correct one, an exceptional decision that in the last 20 years no government in Israel dared to take."

Yasser Arafat, speaking from Baghdad, denounced the so-called compromise and reiterated the refusal of the Palestinians to attend the next round of peace talks.

---

## ***World War III could start in Tajikistan***

"World War Three Could Begin From Tajikistan," headlined a late January article in *Argumenty i Fakty*, a Russian weekly with a circulation of over 12 million.

Author D. Makarov wrote: "Bloody as all the other armed conflicts taking place within the former U.S.S.R. are, whether in the Transcaucasus, Moldova, or the Northern Caucasus, the war in Tajikistan is the most unpredictable and the most dangerous. . . . From here, the Third World War could begin. If such a war begins, future historians will date it from December 1979, when four old marasmatics from the Politburo adopted the decision to send Soviet troops into Afghanistan. The war there turned from a na-

tional liberation war to a civil war, but it already clearly threatens to overwhelm Central Asia as well."

Makarov forecast how the forces of General Dostum in Afghanistan, if driven from Kabul, might regroup in northern Afghanistan, and seek to link up with fellow Tajiks and Uzbeks across the border in Tajikistan, "where a civil war is also raging. . . . Under certain conditions, political combinations could arise in this region, undreamt of by professional political scientists, which could explode the peace in this part of the world into pieces, and perhaps worldwide. It should not be forgotten, after all, that Iran, Pakistan, and Iraq are busily seeking access to nuclear weapons, while China and Kazakhstan already have them."

The Russian author called for reinforcing the Russian Army in the region, to act as a "peacekeeping force" and disarm all sides in Tajikistan.

---

## ***Rising chorus of attacks on U.N.***

As United Nations "peacemaking" efforts in country after country have proved to be total failures, press reports from developing-sector countries reflect increased debate over whether this institution has any value. "What is the point of bringing our problems before the United Nations?" visiting Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahlul asked in Malaysia on Jan. 28.

Malaysia and Sudan share many common views, "including on the role of the United Nations in the so-called new world order," the Malaysian news service Bernama quoted him. "The United Nations appears helpless to act. We need to ask how the Non-Aligned Movement can take on a bigger role. . . . NAM can indicate to the big powers that it will not stand by and leave the resolutions to be interpreted by them."

In Cambodia, a spokesman for the Hun Sen government Feb. 1 said of its military offensive against the Khmer Rouge guerrillas: "We are fighting because the U.N. could not control the Khmer Rouge and could only be trusted to run away!"

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi on Feb. 4 told a student demonstration against the U.N. in Tripoli that the U.N. Security Council is simply a "colonialist tool in the hands of the big states" and suggested sarcastically that "the Arabs join the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, because the United Nations does not respect them."

What is the alternative to the U.N.? Dr. Kassim Ahmad, a Malaysian author, floated his "modest proposal" in a letter to the *New Straits Times* published on Feb. 2: "We should begin with a few free and brave spirits, 5, 10, 20 countries first, break clean away from economic liberalism and the free market, set our own national monetary system and build our own infrastructure, set up our own fund to help each other create a new collective framework . . . link up and cooperate with as many friendly countries as possible, and expand as we go. Forget the United Nations!"

---

## ***Prospects for peace in Cambodia look dim***

"One can say now that the [Cambodian peace agreement] is dead. I do not see another way except war," Raoul Jennar, a European Community consultant on Cambodia, said in Phnom Penh on Feb. 5, according to Agence France Presse. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had already cancelled his scheduled trip to Cambodia.

"It seems difficult to have a recognition of the failure of their settlement by the big powers. . . . It was that magic world 'comprehensive.' The comprehensive character of the peace agreement has failed," Jennar said.

The "comprehensive" agreement specified that the Khmer Rouge, which killed some 3 million people during their brief rule (1975-79), be one of the parties to the settlement. "I think Cambodia will have to deal for the next 10 to 15 years with insurgents," he said. He estimated that Khmer Rouge strength is about 8-10,000 men, and there are 200-400,000 people in the areas it controls. "Let us let the Khmer Rouge

become outlaws or rebels and enforce the building . . . of democracy and the building of rehabilitation of the country," he proposed.

Cambodian government troops now appear to be withdrawing from the areas where they had mounted attacks on Khmer Rouge forces, although they did not appear to be driven back. The U.N. criticized the attack by the Cambodian government for going beyond the "self-defense" permitted under the 1991 accords. As in former Yugoslavia, the U.N. is critical of "both sides" in the Phnom Penh-Khmer Rouge clashes.

---

### ***Punishment of Iraq sows seeds of new war***

"By this collective punishment, the West is sowing the seeds of a new war in the region," warned an Iraqi professor who lived in the United States for 25 years, in an interview with the French daily *Le Monde* published on Feb. 4.

*Le Monde* presented various indications of the disaster that is being inflicted on Iraq:

- A Unicef official is quoted that "malnutrition is growing," and that diseases that "had completely disappeared here" have now returned.

- There is a drastic shortage of medicines. Iraq is only receiving 10% of the medical imports it was receiving before the war; hospitals are working at 50% of capacity; and surgeons are only performing emergency operations. A medical system that was one of the best in the Third World is virtually collapsed. One doctor says: "170,000 people have died since Aug. 2, 1990 of the direct or indirect effects of the embargo." A foreign infirmary worker commented: "Last week in Basra, operations were delayed because of a lack of surgical gloves. In one day, I saw a 52-year-old doctor die because of lack of insulin, and a baby who could not be resuscitated, [because] the respirator was no longer functioning."

- Richard Foran, coordinator of the U.N. aid program in Iraq, affirmed: "Short of progress in humanitarian aid, we are

heading toward disaster. Two hundred and fifty million dollars for six months is inadequate. In the south, the collapse of the sanitary system can lead to major problems. We need water pumps, spare parts for ambulances and vehicles that can distribute potable water, and medicine to counter the illnesses that are developing. . . . In the North, unemployment is 80-90% of the active population, and the remaining 10% earn less than \$10 per month."

A priest told *Le Monde*: "I don't accept that children must die to make Saddam Hussein leave power. There is, just the same, a range of values that must be respected."

---

### ***Is Serbia getting ballistic missiles?***

Serbia may be procuring ballistic missile technologies that would give them the ability to launch strikes at major European cities, according to speculation by informed sources in Europe. Several sources maintain that such technologies could be procured from Russia, China, North Korea, Israel, and elsewhere.

One well-informed European source of Balkans origin stated: "Why should anybody talk about Serbian 'attempts' to acquire ballistic missile technologies? They will get what they need from the Russians, if they insist on it, and they may be getting such technologies already. Nobody should be astonished about this; it's perfectly foreseeable."

Sources estimate that, were the Russians to provide such technologies to the Serbs, it would not be done on an official government-to-government basis, but would be conduited through Russian military networks "informally," combined with the arrival of "volunteers" from Russia to Serbia, to help in assembling the equipment.

A British strategist pointed out that, should evidence come to light that the Serbs are receiving such technologies, this would oblige western military powers to carry out preemptive attacks on Serbian targets. "No one would tolerate the Serbs receiving that kind of stuff," he said.

## ***Briefly***

- **AFRICAN** foreign ministers will discuss forming an elite squad to police the continent's hot spots, according to a Reuters wire from the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This will be discussed at a meeting Feb. 15-19, which will plan for the June OAU summit.

- **TAIWAN** Premier Hau Pei-tsun resigned on Jan. 30 under pressure from President Lee Teng-hui, the first native-born head of the island, and his supporters. Hau is a four-star general and former aide to Chiang Kai-shek. The announcement follows a month of open conflict between the old Nationalist faction loyal to Hau and the reformists backing Lee.

- **UNITED NATIONS** Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali demanded that Japan change its constitution so as to participate in supranational military operations, in an interview published by Japanese newspapers on Feb. 5. He added that such constitutional amendment would "facilitate" a "greater political role in the U.N." for Japan, alluding to Japan's becoming a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

- **ARMENIA** could become like Somalia if no help is forthcoming, Aram Sarkosyan, a leader of Armenia's Social Democratic Party (formed out of remnants of the Communist Party), told the *New York Times*. The energy crisis in the country worsened on Jan. 24, when Azerbaijani terrorists blew up the last remaining gas pipeline, which runs through Georgia. That forced Armenia to ration electricity and running water to two hours a day, during the worst of the winter cold.

- **ITALY** will recognize Macedonia shortly, Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato told parliament, after a meeting with Macedonian Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski in Rome.