

# International Intelligence

---

## ***Drug legalizer elected President of Colombia***

Ibero-America's foremost advocate of drug legalization for the past two decades, Ernesto Samper Pizano, was elected the President of Colombia on June 19, beating Conservative Party rival Andrés Pastrana by less than 2 percentage points.

One day after his election victory, Samper Pizano told the press that he had no intention of attacking the Cali cocaine cartel, and that he would expect consumer nations to bear the burden of any war on drugs. Throughout his campaign, he had fully endorsed his predecessor César Gaviria's "politics of surrender" toward the traffickers. Although a long-standing advocate of drug legalization, Samper claimed during his campaign that the time was not ripe for such an initiative.

The *Washington Times* on June 21 quoted a "midlevel member of the Cali cartel" saying that the cartel had wanted Samper to win, and that the only reason they didn't celebrate Samper's victory on election day was that the bars were forbidden to sell alcohol that day. Said the *Times*, "The cartel member declined to discuss what the traffickers hoped to gain by Mr. Samper becoming President."

---

## ***Russian defense sector mad about budget cuts***

There is a growing mood of revolt in the Russian military-industrial complex over moves toward budget cuts in the defense and defense-industry sector, the *London Guardian* reported on June 15.

Several examples are given of this revolt. First, the Russian daily *Izvestia* reported that the first strike ever was conducted in Severomorsk, headquarters of the Arctic Fleet. Second, 35,000 workers demonstrated at an aircraft and missile plant in Novosibirsk, Siberia, to protest the dismantling of industry. Third, a meeting was scheduled for June 21 of the All-Russian Union of Defense Industry, the head of which, Vladimir Filipchuk, has declared: "It is not excluded

that at the conference, the question of a nationwide strike will be discussed."

Further, the military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* reported that the crucial Kazan aviation plant has stopped production of the Tupolev 160 aircraft. In the same newspaper, one Colonel Belousov warned that a whole generation of the military officer class is being lost, because of the horrible situation in the Russian Army.

The Russian arms industry is suffering 45% per year cuts in production, according to the *London Guardian*.

---

## ***Brits invade Italy, bring in lawyers***

"The Brits Invade Italy" was the headline of an article in the *London Times* on June 14, advertising that "British Law Week" had taken place during the week of May 24 in Milan. The aim of the operation was thus described: "Last week's endorsement of the Berlusconi cabinet was the final act in what has been a bloodless revolution, initiated by judges. Italy's political class, like Britain's, is full of lawyers, and, as the country completes its renewal and begins to look abroad for fresh inspiration, the legal dimension is important."

The organizer of the event, Martin Rose from the British Council in Rome, explained that "the importance of legal services as a source of invisible earnings to Britain is enormous, and we are holding a series of seminars, led by leading British law firms, to address commercial issues of interest to both countries."

A major issue in the seminars was the privatization of Italy's state-owned industry. A seminar on "the British experience" in privatization was organized by Michael Nathanson, from the law firm Penningtons, and Victor Ukmar, a member of the Italian financial establishment. Nathanson, according to the *Times*, received Margaret Thatcher's support in a letter stating: "Italy has embarked on an ambitious privatization campaign which, coupled with political reform, will re-invigorate the economy and generate new prosperity for all of her people."

Another organizer of the affair, Andrea di Castri, a lawyer from Penningtons, reported that mock trials were held to show how the "British-style adversarial element" in the criminal trial works, to fit in with the recently reformed Italian criminal system.

---

## ***Britain rejects claim of Lockerbie suspect***

The British Foreign Office denounced as "gibberish" the statement by Abu Nidal group/Fatah Revolutionary Front member Youssef Chaban that he bombed Pan Am 103 flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988. This is reported by the *London Independent's* Robert Fisk from Beirut on June 17. He comments that the Foreign Office statement "appears to be presumptuous, not least because no British embassy official was in court to hear the rest of Mr. Chaban's testimony."

Fisk quotes a "mysterious" aspect of Chaban's statement: "There is a [peace] process under way in the region and they want to eliminate us because we are against it—furthermore, some people want to be crossed off the international terrorist list." The "some people" referred to are the Syrians.

On June 12, the head of Britain's MI-5 intelligence service, Stella Rimington, gave a speech in which she boasted that MI-5 had played a key role in establishing Libya's sole guilt for the Lockerbie bombing. That Rimington admission indicates a prominent MI-5 role in covering up for Syria.

---

## ***'Tiny Rowland' book is hot item in South Africa***

EIR's book *Tiny Rowland: The Ugly Face of Neocolonialism in Africa* (1993, now out of print) is creating quite a sensation in South Africa, according to reports received by this news service. A British intelligence source recently commented to an acquaintance in South Africa, "It is impossible to overestimate the damage that that book did to Rowland and Lonrho. It finished him."

In a review in the *Natal Witness* newspaper of June 2, city councilman Duncan du Bois wrote, "In the wake of the euphoria surrounding events in South Africa this past month and with the country now rejoining the Commonwealth, the OAU has declared that 'Africa's political liberation is now complete.' But when the history of post-colonial Africa is taken into account, the transfer of power to blacks has emerged, sadly, as a new form of colonial exploitation. . . ."

"A publication entitled *Tiny Rowland: The Ugly Face of Neocolonialism in Africa* . . . provides the clearest insight yet to the forces which have looted Africa and reduced it to misery and servitude. The origins of that ruinous direction emanated from within the corridors of the British Colonial Office itself. Aware that they would be unable to keep their empire intact after World War II, a strategy was developed to maintain colonial control under changed circumstances. . . ."

"Central to the British long-term plan for Africa was the need to establish a new type of East India Company to pursue economic exploitation. The Lonrho Company and its chairman, Tiny Rowland, became the instrument to that end."

## ***Mozart's Requiem performed in Sarajevo***

In one of the more heroic events of the tragic war in Bosnia, Zubin Mehta, José Carreras, and others performed Mozart's *Requiem* on June 19 in Sarajevo, as a mass for the 10,000 who have died or disappeared during the bombardment of Sarajevo since the war began in Bosnia more than two years ago.

In the charred shell of the National Library, which was destroyed by Serbian bombing, Mehta conducted Sarajevo's orchestra and chorus in a televised benefit performance of the *Requiem*, using pensioners to fill in for musicians killed in the war. Several men in the choir wore front-lines fatigues, having been pulled off duty to participate.

Joining José Carreras, who along with Mehta and the others donated their time, were soprano Cecilia Gasdia, mezzo-so-

prano Ildiko Komlosi (a former member of the Budapest Opera), and bass Ruggero Raimondi. The performance organizers said they hoped to raise more than \$5 million for refugee aid from donations called in during the live broadcast and also to sell videos of the concert.

Mehta was quoted by the *New York Times*: "We just hope that when we leave something will happen, something to stop this madness. Maybe we'll come some day and play the Second Symphony of Mahler, the 'Resurrection.'"

## ***Crazies gear up for Arafat's return***

The impending return of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat to Israeli-occupied territory, under the Israel-PLO accords, is being threatened by a mobilization of Jewish fundamentalists and related groupings.

The *Washington Post* reported from Jerusalem on June 19 that West Bank settlers are distributing handbills labeling Arafat a mass murderer, and calling for demonstrations against his planned visit to the city. Posters are up depicting Arafat with a swastika-emblazoned helmet sitting atop his Arabic kaffiyeh. The council of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories asked the Israeli government for permission to publish a newspaper advertisement promising a reward for the delivery of Arafat, dead or alive. The attorney general refused permission.

Some Jewish groups are planning to "block roads and prevent Arafat from making it to Jerusalem," according to the *Post*. The main issue of the threatened demonstrations, is the question of who will control Jerusalem.

This mobilization in Israel coincides with hysteria appearing among the Lubavitchers, now in mourning for their Grand Rebbe Menachem Schneerson. This sect, based in Brooklyn, has been a funder of the anti-peace propaganda circulated among the Jewish settlers movement, in association with Ariel Sharon and British intelligence's Hollinger Corp.

● **JORDAN'S** Crown Prince Hassan had a secret meeting in London in May with Israeli Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel Television reported. Netanyahu reportedly told Hassan that the Likud supported peace efforts with Jordan.

● **THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** must take a look at the darker sides of its own history, said Pope John Paul II in an address before the congregation of bishops at the Vatican on June 13. He said that the approach taken should be a thorough and uncompromising one, one that would look at the role of the church in respect to the origins of religious fanaticism in recent human history.

● **A LEADING MUSLIM** cleric in Kashmir, Dr. Kasim Nissar, was murdered on June 19. Dr. Nissar was tortured and then shot, according to press reports. The hundreds of mourners who gathered to bring his body back into the nearby town blamed the warring militants attempting to end Indian rule in Kashmir, and the Pakistan-trained mujahideen, for his death.

● **PHILANTHROPIC** organizations are putting population control at the top of their agendas, according to the magazine *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. "Rapid growth of the world's population is becoming a major topic of public discussion in the United States after a decade of neglect, thanks in large measure to several major American philanthropies and the charities they support," the piece asserts.

● **RUPERT MURDOCH**, the international media magnate, said that his Star TV's decision to drop BBC World Service Television from its satellite broadcast to China was due to pressure from Beijing. Last year, Murdoch sold part of his controlling share in the Hongkong daily *South China Morning Post* in an effort to avoid confrontation with China.