

# International Intelligence

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## ***Fidel Ramos meets with Philippines Muslim rebels***

Philippines President Fidel Ramos and Nur Misuari, chairman of the Muslim Moro National Liberation Front, met for the first time in ten years on Aug. 19, and called for support for a peace agreement to settle the state of war on the southern island of Mindanao, which has claimed 50-120,000 victims over the last two decades.

Government officials have leaked reports that a peace deal, being put together under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) will be initialed on Aug. 30 or 31, creating an autonomous Muslim region in Mindanao, under the authority of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, headed by Misuari.

However, the MNLF is one of three Muslim rebel groups in Mindanao; the other two are tied into the global afghansi network and they seek to make Mindanao a separate Islamic state.

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## ***Danes to challenge Maastricht in court***

In a remarkable turnaround, the Danish Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Aug. 12 that the Danish courts should evaluate whether the Maastricht Treaty, which established the European Union, is compatible with the Danish Constitution. The court has persistently rejected such challenges, since the country joined the EU's predecessor, the European Common Market, in 1972. In 1994, a lower court rejected the suit of 11 private citizens against the treaty, who argued that it involved a transfer of power (sovereignty) away from the Danish parliament.

A Danish source told *EIR* on Aug. 19 that "the decision . . . is a far more fundamental threat to Maastricht than the earlier German court challenge. I have it on good authority that the Danish government is already preparing to amend the Danish Constitution in event of a negative court ruling. The case is

likely to be decided, on a rush basis, about the time of the Summer 1997 EU Intergovernmental Commission final conclusion. The situation is very volatile, as the population could explode if the government were suddenly to change the Constitution to ram Maastricht through."

The ruling has sparked renewed interest in fighting Maastricht, which imposes deep austerity and industrial takedown on EU member countries. A spokeswoman for the Saxony Economics Ministry in Germany told *EIR*, that the state's lawyers are "looking into every such case there is in Europe."

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## ***More Sudanese desert Garang, seek peace***

Mohammed Kharun Kafi, the leader of the Nuba Mountains sector of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), signed a statement of principles with the Sudanese government on Aug. 6 in Nairobi, Kenya. He and others of his group, a split-off of John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army, arrived in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on Aug. 11, where they told the press that they had opted for peace. Kafi, who had indicated he might quit the insurrection in June, has consulted with his followers, who have agreed with him. Speaking to the newspaper *Al Muhtar*, he said the statement of principles was a good addition to the charter that the government had signed with rebel leaders in April. Kafi also reported that Yusuf Kuya, who used to head up Nuba Mountains forces within the SPLM-SPLA, no longer had any forces under his command. If this is true, it means that what is left of the insurrection against the central government is only a Dinka tribal group behind John Garang.

Apparently in response to these developments, the so-called Christian Solidarity International of Baroness Caroline Cox has beefed up its campaign against Sudan, with claims that the Bija ethnic group is being deliberately starved by the central government. The Bija, whom CSI says are in southern Sudan, actually live in the east, near the Red Sea.

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## ***'Mujahideen in Bosnia' is media scare story***

"The issue of the mujahideen [fighters] in Bosnia was invented," Bosnia's Vice President Ejup Ganic told the Croatian journal *Nacional* in August. "We had 250,000 soldiers; 50, 500, or 1,000 mujahideen made no difference. That problem was invented. The story is obviously very attractive, so when a CNN journalist meets five or six such 'individuals' with scarves around their heads, they take pictures of them immediately. On the other hand, 200,000 of our beardless soldiers are not interesting, because they look like Europeans.

"The mujahideen story is a planted cuckoo egg. We could not control our borders. How did they enter Bosnia? On one occasion, I was informed that some mujahideen appeared in Zenica, and I asked, 'How many?' 'Thirty,' they said. I said I would lead them when there are 300,000 of them, and I could drive Serbs back from the Drina River. I said that those 30 can pack their bags and go back to where they come from, because they only create problems. The religious war the foreign press is writing about is pure deceit."

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## ***Russian minister: 'No reason to expand NATO'***

In an interview with the Aug. 11-18 issue of *Moskovskye Novosti* (*Moscow News*), Russian Defense Minister Gen. Igor Rodionov argued strongly against the eastward expansion of NATO: "I don't want to drum up patriotic emotions, but as a military man I find it hard to understand the rationale of the NATO decision. Objectively, Russia is not today threatening anyone in Western or Eastern Europe. The Warsaw Treaty no longer exists. All our troops have gone home. Why should NATO troops be deployed along our borders?"

Although mistakenly attributing Anglo-French designs to Washington, Rodionov nonetheless addressed some of the geopolitical underpinnings of NATO's reorganiza-

tion: "If Brussels wants to turn NATO into an international pro-American policeman, that policy has no future as far as Russia is concerned. If Washington wants to strengthen its positions in Europe to offset the future growth of the influence of United Germany, why should this be done at the expense of the security interests of our country? One gets the impression that the desire to perpetuate its own existence pushes NATO into unconstructive actions. . . .

"We should give up the policy of confrontation and arrogance with regard to each other," he continued. "I am in favor of contacts aimed at all-round development of partnership with NATO. We have to cooperate in order to promote mutual trust, reduce tensions and increase international security. Russia, too, must abandon its megalomania, and stop declaring that no problem in the world can be resolved without its participation. The approach should be balanced, and should be based on the art of the possible."

## **Ethiopia bombs Somalia and Kenya**

Beginning the night of Aug. 8, Ethiopian military forces bombed, fired artillery, and sent in tanks, against areas in Somalia right on the Kenya border held by the Somali al-Ittihad al-Islam. The Ethiopians were reportedly invited in by the Somali National Front, led by Omar Haji Masalle.

Since January, when Ethiopia pressed for sanctions against Sudan, Ethiopia under President Zenawi, has become a stronghold of British and State Department operations. Former U. S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Africa David Shinn is now U. S. Ambassador to Ethiopia. Ethiopia is the second largest recipient of U. S. financial assistance in Africa, after South Africa.

Ethiopian troops with 30 tanks and helicopter gunships entered Somalia, taking the towns of Dolow and Luq, then retreating after a two-day battle. The Nairobi, Kenya *Daily Nation* said three Ethiopian bombs hit the northeastern Kenya border town of Mandera.

An unnamed "Western diplomat"

quoted by one British outlet, said that the Ethiopian attacks on the al-Ittihad al-Islam were made in retaliation for a bomb blast at a hotel in Adis Abeba on Aug. 4 and the attempted assassination of an Ethiopian minister on July 8.

The Ethiopian incursion was condemned by faction leader Ali Mahdi Mohammad.

## **Italian journal hails Schiller 'Music Manual'**

*Adesso*, an Italian monthly produced in Germany, carried a very positive article on the publication of *Canto e diapason*, the Italian translation of the Schiller Institute's *A Manual on the Rudiments of Tuning and Registration*, in its August issue. (*EIR* featured *Canto e diapason* in its Aug. 16 issue.) *Adesso* is distributed to foreign-language schools throughout Germany, and is widely used by Italian teachers in the public high schools.

*Adesso* writes: "Attention golden voices! Singing with the wrong tuning is damaging. That evaluation, a little bit alarming, comes from conductor Carlo Maria Giulini, on the occasion of the release of the book *Canto e diapason*. The problem of musical tuning and of the vocal registers is the subject of the work: The thesis, supported by many authors, with more than 1,000 examples from the classical repertoire, is that the right tuning for the human voice corresponds to the middle C at 256 vibrations. The Schiller Institute, which has produced the Italian edition of the book, originally published in the United States, promotes a return to the original tuning; otherwise, we could have imbalance of the vocal registers, and the disappearance of entire species of voices. According to the experts, the same negative result might also afflict old instruments like the Stradivari violins, that have been built for that tuning. The initiative of the Schiller Institute has already received the support of more than 2,000 singers throughout the world, among them Placido Domingo, Mirella Freni, Carlo Bergonzi, and Alfredo Kraus."

**MEGAWATI** Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's independence leader and first President, Sukarno, was invited to the Presidential Palace in Jakarta for the Aug. 17 Independence Day celebrations. President Suharto was expected to outline measures to address opposition calls for greater "democratization," following riots in Jakarta on July 27. Megawati has been being questioned by police investigating the riots.

**A RUSSIAN TRAIN**, traveling from Astrakhan to Volgograd, was bombed, killing one and injuring eight on Aug. 12. This is the third incident on this railway line in the last month. Two days earlier, bomb disposal experts defused a device found at an intersection near Moscow's Vnukovo Airport.

**MANGOSUTHU** Buthelezi, head of South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party and the country's Home Affairs Minister, vouched for the "character" of Mark Thatcher, during a parliamentary discussion on Aug. 13. The question had been raised as to why the "controversy-prone son" of Britain's former prime minister had been allowed to live in South Africa.

**THE DALAILAMA** visited South Africa on Aug. 18, at the invitation of the World Conference on Religion and Peace. He was to "immediately fly to a private game reserve, before holding meetings in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban."

**INDIA'S AIR CHIEF** Marshal Satish Kumar Sareen was in Israel at the end of July, where he visited several defense establishments. This is the first visit of an Indian service chief to Israel. The interlocutor for Israeli relations with the Indian military is believed to be Foreign Minister David Levy.

**PAKISTAN** Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto announced in August, that her government is prepared for a dialogue with India "to resolve our outstanding disputes."