

# International Intelligence

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## ***Britain, Cuba ink 'anti-drug' accord***

The British government, already backing the narco-regime of Ernesto Samper Pizano in Colombia, against Clinton administration efforts to stem the tide of drugs, has now teamed up with Fidel Castro's Cuba, in an "anti-drug" alliance.

Thomas Sackville, British deputy minister of the Home Office, signed a cooperation agreement with Cuban Customs Chief Gen. Pedro Pupo on Oct. 1, during his visit to Cuba. The agreement includes provisions for the exchange of information, British training of Cuban drug officers, and the donation of eight motorscooters for Cuba's anti-drug police.

Equally important, is the strengthening of political relations: Sackville hailed "the commitment of Cuba in the fight against drugs" as "absolute," claiming that "the use of information we have provided Cuba has been exemplary and has led to some very significant arrests." Such lies fit nicely into the Castro regime's current propaganda campaign, wherein they "rebut charges coming from the United States that Cuba condones drug-trafficking," by trumpeting drug seizure and arrest statistics.

Cuba may arrest a few traffickers at home, but as *EIR* has documented, the Castro regime maintains tight control over a centralized, continent-wide, narco-terrorist apparatus known as the São Paulo Forum, whose Colombian member-organizations, alone, constitute one of the world's leading drug cartels.

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## ***Velayati condemns 'new totalitarianism' at UN***

In his statement before the UN General Assembly on Sept. 23, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati harshly attacked the emergence of a "new international totalitarianism," pointing specifically to propaganda campaigns waged to distort the image of Islam and U.S. legislation "to allocate money for subversive and terrorist activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran. . . ."

Dr. Velayati further condemned the "recent unilateral sanctions enacted by the United States" as well as the ambiguity with which the nuclear non-proliferation policies are being pursued, depriving some countries of "their inalienable right of acquiring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

Velayati contrasted this "new international totalitarianism," to the expanding cooperation for economic development among countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus, including the "expansion of transportation networks, including the revival of the Silk Road providing the possibility for a dramatic increase in the volume of trade not only among member states, but also between them and other countries of Europe, East Asia, and the Persian Gulf."

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## ***S. Africans widen probe of Palme murder***

In early October, the Angolan government arrested South African intelligence operative Craig Williamson and three other men, in the latest development in the probe of the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. Late last month, two former South African secret agents publicly testified that Williamson, and another British SAS-linked mercenary, Anthony White, were responsible for planning and executing the Palme murder.

South African President Nelson Mandela announced on Oct. 7 that Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth Commission, established by Mandela to investigate the crimes that took place under apartheid, will be pursuing other South African leads into the Palme murder. Last month, during the sentencing phase of his murder trial, Eugene de Kock, the head of one of the apartheid-era assassination squads, charged that Williamson was involved in the Palme murder. De Kock's claims were later confirmed by Dirk Coetzee, who in addition named White as the trigger-man.

During the 1980s, both Williamson and White were part of an extensive British-American-run intelligence apparatus, directed from the U.S. side by Vice President George Bush. This apparatus ran the mas-

sive illegal arms trade that was fueling the Iran-Iraq War, at the time that Palme's commission was seeking to stop it. This same apparatus was trading weapons to the Nicaraguan Contras, who paid for them with proceeds from "crack" cocaine sold in the U.S. ghettos.

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## ***Senior Tory defects to Goldsmith's party***

On the eve of the Conservative Party's last major convention before Britain's general elections, former party deputy chairman and treasurer Lord Robert McAlpine announced over BBC, that he was defecting to Sir Jimmy Goldsmith's new Referendum Party, on Oct. 6.

This could not come at a worse time for Prime Minister John Major, with the party feuding over corruption scandals, and suffering deep divisions over Britain's relationship to the European Union. Multimillionaire Goldsmith's populist gang is demanding a referendum on Britain's future under the European Union's Maastricht Treaty, which he opposes. Goldsmith holds dual French citizenship, and has a populist, dark horse party in France, called "The Other Europe." While both his Referendum Party and The Other Europe talk up opposition to Maastricht, globalization, the World Trade Organization, etc., Goldsmith enjoys heavy backing from politicians who support free trade.

Sir Jimmy is threatening to field candidates in the election (which must be held by May) against any Tory not sympathetic to his stance.

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## ***'Christian Zionist' cult backs Netanyahu's tunnel***

A conference of 5,000 members of the Christian Zionist cult, meeting in Jerusalem in early October, has pledged its support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's provocative opening of a tunnel beneath the the Muslim holy site of Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. Likud leader and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert drew wild ap-

plause when he told the conference, "The tunnel will remain open!"

The Christian Zionists came from 102 countries, for a convention which coincided with the tunnel's opening. The apocalyptic cult is based on the belief that the establishment of Israel signals the beginning of the "end-times" and the second coming of Christ. Conference spokesman Charles Levin, a Jew, boasted: "We're talking about hundreds of millions of people out there whose Bible beliefs can be translated into support for Israel. This is something Jews could never do on their own." Although the cult believes that Jews will ultimately accept Christ as the Messiah, the cynical realpolitik of many Likudniks are typified by Olmert's remark that, "We share the same values. We share a common belief that we are doing the right things for this great city of Jerusalem."

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## More Muslim groups open peace talks with Manila

China's Xinhua agency reported that representatives of the Philippines government of President Fidel Ramos were to sign a ceasefire agreement with leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Sept. 19, to be followed within 10 days by the start of peace talks. Other sources suggest that the more radical group, Abu Sayyaf, would also be party to these talks. Both organizations had previously insisted on the secession of Mindanao, and creation of an independent Islamic state. On Sept. 2, the government signed a peace accord with the Moro National Liberation Front, whose leader, Nur Misuari, became governor of a four-province autonomous region on Sept. 9.

On Sept. 23, President Ramos appointed retired Gen. Fortunato Abat to take over as the top government negotiator in a new round of peace talks. In an interview with *Business World*, MILF Vice Chairman for Political Affairs Ghazali Jaafar said the appointment was an advantage for the MILF, because Abat "used to be a field commander of the Central Mindanao Command during

the 1970s, when the MILF (totally) controlled Maguindanao. He knows our problems firsthand since he was involved with us on the ground." At a press conference in North Cotabato, Mindanao, on Sept. 24, President Ramos announced that he would give Nur Misuari "a free hand" to recommend members of the government panel that will work with General Abat in peace negotiations with the MILF and other Muslim groups.

At his Sept. 30 swearing-in ceremony as the first governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Nur Misuari described his "break with the past" as going from *jihad* to war against backwardness and poverty. President Ramos has earmarked \$1.2 billion in aid to Misuari for the next year, with promises to build up infrastructure in ARMM, home to 2.1 million people.

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## UN seeks to halt aid to Rwandan refugees

UN Assistant High Commissioner Sergio Veira de Mello is calling for an end to aid to the 1.7 million Rwandan refugees currently in Zaire and Tanzania, if they do not return to Rwanda. Under the so-called Cessation Clause, declaring the refugees no longer "legitimate," food and other aid would be stopped. After meeting with leaders of the British-Ugandan-backed Rwandan Patriotic Front in Kigali, Rwanda, de Mello offered, "My own assessment is that a return to Rwanda would be safe. . . ."

Less than a week earlier, on the night of Sept. 24-25, the Rwandan Patriotic Army fired shells on the refugee town of Bukuvu, Zaire. Zairean troops responded with light fire. The UN Security Council has lifted the arms embargo on the RPF, while maintaining it for all non-government groups—that is, the refugees. De Mello's "assessment" notwithstanding, the RPF-Zaire exchange of fire has prompted the UN refugee agency to begin evacuating its "non-essential staff" from Bukuvu. Hence, Rwandan aggression will become the pretext for UN abandonment of the refugees, whom the RFP wants immediately repatriated.

**OSMANA BIN LADEN**, the Saudi terrorist financier, was reported by *Al-Hayat* newspaper to be in the Taliban-controlled section of Afghanistan. Bin Laden was expelled from Sudan several months ago, after which he went to London. Bin Laden has issued terrorist threats against the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia.

**ANGOLA** and Portugal, its former colonial master, signed a military agreement on Oct. 3, which includes cooperation in training and technical assistance for the Angolan Armed Forces. The agreement was signed by Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Sebastião and his Portuguese counterpart Antonia Vitorino in Luanda.

**QUEEN BEATRIX** of the Netherlands completed a four-day visit to South Africa on Oct. 3, the first by a Dutch monarch to the country that was ruled for more than 45 years by Dutch Afrikaners. She was accompanied by Crown Prince Willem Alexander, and a high-level business delegation. Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo summed up the visit, saying: "Holland wants to give all moral and financial support on the road South Africa has chosen to walk."

**A BOMB EXPLODED** at the Bordeaux mayoral office of French Prime Minister Alain Juppé on Oct. 5. The blast took place after Juppé had left for Paris. It caused significant damage, but no casualties, outside the reception hall where a Franco-British summit was to take place Nov. 7-8.

**GREAT BRITAIN** is harboring the Iraqi hijackers who seized a Sudan Airways plane on Aug. 26, according to *EIR*'s sources. The hijackers, identified only as "Iraqi opposition figures," threatened to blow up the plane, which was en route from Khartoum to Amman, unless the pilot flew it to London. The Sudanese government has reportedly demanded that they be extradited, in accordance with international law, but the British are refusing, claiming the Iraqis are political refugees.