

International Intelligence

Bosnian intelligence chief assassinated

The recently appointed deputy chief of Bosnia's civil intelligence, AID, was shot to death outside his Sarajevo home at 8 p.m. on Sept. 28. Nedžad Ugljen had headed up the Interior Ministry's intelligence services during the war. Ugljen and AID had become a target of the British-instigated campaign to smear President Alija Izetbegovic as a "Muslim fundamentalist" with ties to Iran (see *EIR*, Oct. 18, p. 42). The propaganda barrage is exemplified by a Sept. 22 article in the *Washington Post* to that effect, just as the President was arriving in New York for the UN General Assembly. The *Post* characterized AID as "a Bosnian Muslim secret service that is responsible only to Izetbegovic and to top officials of his party."

Although the full story around the Ugljen assassination remains unknown, *EIR* sources are calling attention to the escalation of British provocations against Muslims, especially in Israel. Those sources recalled that Izetbegovic referred to the same threat from the "Clash of Civilizations" crowd in his UN speech on Sept. 26: "Today there are more than 1 billion Muslims in the world. I don't know who, with this [*Washington Post*] and other articles, has an interest in pushing them into the extremists' embrace."

Sudan affirms Iran as mediator with Uganda

Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir affirmed, during a meeting with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and Islamic Affairs Hussein Shah Islam, that Sudan will abide by the Iranian-mediated settlement with Uganda, according to the official Sudan news agency SUNA. Under a Sept. 9 agreement, mediated by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Sudan and Uganda agreed to work to halt rebel activity in the border area. The Iranian minister said there is a good chance that his country's mediation "will succeed, if America lifts its hands and

does not practice pressure."

Problems arose in late September, after Uganda's Minister of State for Defense, Amama Mbabazi, said that two Sudanese MiG planes dropped bombs at army barracks in the northwestern town of Moyo, 10 miles south of Sudan's border, but missed their target. Sudan immediately denied the charge. Iran's deputy foreign minister visited Uganda to try and resolve the latest crisis. He said that Uganda is also committed to the agreement. The three parties met in Teheran on Sept. 30.

Executive Outcomes: model private mercenary army

The South Africa-based Executive Outcomes "security firm," which hires out private mercenary armies, represents a future trend, not only for Africa, but worldwide, a British military-intelligence journalist told *EIR*. He noted that Executive Outcomes doesn't simply provide security to oil and mining companies, but hires out "entire battalions of a private army. They provide, for a big price, sophisticated command and control, offensive operations against enemy targets," he said. They have already fielded a full battalion of 500-600 men, in Sierra Leone.

He added that unconfirmed information points to active involvement "in South America, in Sri Lanka, in Malaysia." There are rumors that operations modelled on Executive Outcomes, are active in Chechnya, and possibly Afghanistan.

The source continued: "You have to see this in the increasing trend toward what is called 'privatization,' toward 'corporate militias,' and the like. You hear a lot of talk, that governments have become redundant, that business now rules governments, so why not have these corporate armies?" He believes that George Bush's secret, parallel government, built up around illegal arms sales to Iran and the Contras' drugs-for-guns operations, was central to this trend, and that the role of British intelligence bears further investigation.

Belgians explode over pedophile ring coverup

Demonstrations erupted all over Belgium, after the Supreme Court decided on Oct. 14, to remove Judge Jean-Marc Connerrotte as the chief investigator into a pedophile ring, which has killed at least four young girls, and from which two were rescued. Angry protests spread throughout the country as workers, housewives, bus drivers, and students poured into the streets in every city.

On Oct. 15, in Liège, angry firemen turned their water hoses on the local courthouse, because, they said, the "justice system needs a good cleaning." Demonstrations continued at the high court in Brussels, and protesters began a vigil; throughout the country, spontaneous protests included a noontime shutdown of rail and bus transportation for 30 minutes, as well as work stoppages at factories. The families of the victims plan to hold a mass rally in Brussels against the dismissal on Oct. 20.

Connerrotte's investigation threatened to reach into the highest echelons of both Belgium's establishment and other countries' and intersects another unsolved case, the 1991 murder of Liège political figure André Cools, one of those who "knew too much" about the European dirty operations of George Bush and Oliver North. Connerrotte had been removed from investigating the Cools murder in 1992.

Further feeding Belgians' fury is the austerity imposed by the government, which is desperate to meet the European Monetary Union criteria, and which recently lost \$1 billion in international currency speculation.

Arafat, Weizman meet, try to salvage peace effort

In his first public visit to Israel, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat met Israeli President Ezer Weizman on Oct. 8, at the latter's home in Caesarea. Following the meeting, Arafat announced, "Violence is not our policy, nor is it our strategy," and added that he had given "permanent orders" to his

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police force not to fire on Israeli soldiers.

Weizman called for achieving "peace through dialogue," and said he was willing to serve as a "bridge," clearly meaning between the intransigent Likud party prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Palestinians. Palestinian spokesman Hassan Asfour said that the Israeli-Palestine talks at the Erez Crossing had "deadlocked," and that the Palestinians were counting on U.S. proposals to move them forward.

At the same time, the Jordanian government filed an official protest on Oct. 8 over Netanyahu's opening of the so-called tourist tunnel in Jerusalem, beneath the Islamic holy site of Haram al-Sharif. The Jordanian government has been the official guardian of the holy places since the 1967 Six Day War, and also by the 1994 peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

London IISS complains of China military buildup

"China is continuing its attempts to make qualitative improvements in its nuclear and conventional combat capability," the London International Institute for Strategic Affairs (IISS) said in its annual report on the world's armed forces Oct. 9. "The Peoples' Liberation Army is improving the mobility of at least six high-quality mobile formations, the so-called 'Fist' divisions, and to this end it carried out a major logistic exercise in south-west China in July 1998." IISS put China's 1995 military spending at \$32 billion, far above the official Armed Forces budget of around \$7.7 billion.

Gerald Segal of IISS is among the originators of a British plan to break up China. The institute has also been promoting the idea that China is the biggest military threat to the United States.

On Oct. 14, Hollinger's London *Sunday Telegraph* trumpeted, "China Plots a Course for Conflicts." The article begins: "The dragon has woken, and is turning away from its land frontiers toward the open ocean." China is now developing "a huge program of sea and air military expansion, aimed at making China the dominant naval power in

the South Pacific, within 20 years." The author, Graham Hutchings, also asserts that the Chinese are avidly studying the "Falklands war," and are determined not to repeat the "Argentine mistake," of having failed to sink the British Task Force to the bottom of the sea.

Nobel Peace Prize goes to E. Timor Maoist, bishop

The Nobel Committee awarded the 1996 Peace Prize to East Timorese separatist Jose Ramos-Horta, and the bishop of this largely Catholic, former Portuguese colony, Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo. East Timor is one of the hot-spots for the destabilization—even breakup—of Indonesia. The Indonesian government was stunned by the award, but Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls expressed "deep satisfaction" at the award given to Bishop Belo, "because it is a recognition of his activity as a man of the church, marked by his indefatigable search for dialogue that is always inspired by peaceful solutions."

Ramos-Horta, who heads the Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of East Timor (Fretilin), which is part of the Marxist-Maoist international, is employed as a university lecturer from his exile in Australia, although he spends nine months of the year globe-trotting to promote East Timor's independence. According to the *Washington Post*, he has been criticized within his movement for "an excessively rich international lifestyle," whereas his mother lives in a small apartment, above a Sydney "betting parlor."

Bishop Belo was appointed the Apostolic Administrator of the Dili bishopric in 1983, which the Vatican officially views as "empty," because of the dispute over who has sovereignty over East Timor. Jakarta has turned to Belo, an advocate of non-violent self-determination, to help negotiate an end to riots in Dili and other parts of East Timor. The continuing progress toward defusing the conflict, combined with substantial government economic investment, had significantly reduced tension, until now.

SOME ISRAELI SOLDIERS are threatening not to serve in a future Middle East conflict, and have accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of leading the country into an unjustifiable war, according to the London *Daily Telegraph* on Oct. 14. The protest letter was signed by 33 soldiers and officers, mostly reservists, of illustrious fighting units, such as the Sayeret Matkal commandos.

SIR PERCY CRADOCK, who was Margaret Thatcher's ambassador to China from 1978-84, and adviser on Hongkong from 1984-92, and who is now on the board of Rupert Murdoch's *South China Morning Post* in Hongkong, called Gov. Chris Patten "the principal author of the damage" between China and Britain. His new blast says that Patten "has no claim to stand as a champion of democracy in Hongkong. He has done it unique harm." Thatcher has used Patten as a whipping post to retain her "friend of China" posture.

JIANG ZEMIN, China's President, plans to visit India, the first Chinese head of state to visit in 40 years. The trip, scheduled unofficially for Nov. 28-29, will include substantive discussions on both economic and strategic issues, according to sources quoted by *Asia Times*.

IRAN'S PRESIDENT Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has rejected a Constitutional change that would allow him to extend his Presidential mandate, and said on Oct. 8 that such a change is not to Iran's benefit.

THE IUCN WORLD convention was held Oct. 12-23 in Montreal. With 2,000 delegates from 130 countries, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature convention was the largest environmentalist meeting since Maurice Strong's Earth Day in Brazil, in 1992. Speakers were to include Queen Noor of Jordan, Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand, Sir Shridath Ramphal, and, eco-fascist Maurice Strong.