

International Intelligence

East Timorese protest mistreatment by Norway

Thirty East Timorese youth staged a demonstration outside the Norwegian Embassy in Jakarta Dec. 16, protesting the mistreatment of two East Timorese in Oslo, who had come to denounce the Nobel Peace Prize award to terrorist spokesman Jose Ramos-Horta. Joao Mota and Octavio Soares came to expose "evidence that Ramos-Horta committed murders from 1974 to 1976," but they were arrested at the Oslo airport, despite having valid visas; they were interrogated, stripped of their clothes, and denied food for 10 hours.

Mota and Soares, who led the Dec. 16 Jakarta protest, filed a complaint with the Norwegian Embassy, demanding a public apology for this violation of their human rights.

Ramos-Horta, overseas head of the East Timor Liberation Front (Fretilin), pledged eternal allegiance to the island's former colonial power, Portugal, in his acceptance speech in Oslo. He delivered the speech in Portuguese, although he lives and teaches in Australia.

In sharp contrast, the other Peace Prize laureate, East Timor Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, wrote a commentary in the *New York Times* that appeared one day before the award ceremony, calling on the Indonesian government to release all political prisoners held in East Timor, in time for Christmas, as "a modest first step" toward ending the tragedy there once and for all, and in the same spirit that Indonesia's independence leaders were freed in 1949 after a UN initiative toward its colonial power, the Netherlands. Belo has been careful to distance himself from Ramos-Horta, and refused to hold a joint press conference in Oslo.

Sun Myung Moon under attack in Poland

Polish media have been filled with attacks on Rev. Sun Myung Moon, including the involvement of "the Moon sect" in the international drug trade. Beginning mid-Novem-

ber, a nationwide controversy broke out, when the director of Gdansk University decided to cancel an event of Moon's followers. On Dec. 6, the newspaper *Weekly Solidarnosc* launched an attack on Moon, and many details of the exposé have been also reported in other papers, including references to an unspecified earlier decision of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, declaring the Moon group to be a "dangerous sect" that is involved in "the drug trade." Polish MP Richard Nowak wrote an open letter to the Parliament, demanding that it pass a similar resolution.

This controversy comes amidst a vast expansion of the Moon sect throughout Poland. Among the Moon fronts that have established bases in Warsaw, Krakow, and other cities, are the University Association to Realize Universal Values; the Unification Church; and the Women's Federation for World Peace. Another Moon front, the Polish Federation of Families for World Peace, has just held a meeting in Warsaw. Furthermore, the "reformed Communist" prime minister of Poland, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, when he was Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, travelled to South Korea, to attend a Moon mass wedding, involving some 5,000 couples.

Geniuses' portraits won't appear on 'Euro' currency

The technocrats at the European Commission in Brussels have rejected the idea of using portraits of Europe's great thinkers—Shakespeare, Mozart, and Leonardo da Vinci—for the new single currency, the "Euro." An Italian member of the commission designing the banknotes told *Corriere della Sera* on Dec. 17, that Shakespeare was rejected because his appearance might offend Jews who think *The Merchant of Venice* is anti-Semitic. (It's more likely that the EC is concerned that the Venetians would be offended.) He continued, "Not even Mozart could pass the test! I would have never believed that the divine Amadeus could run up against opposition. He was perfect: a universal artist. Instead, at a certain point, another member jumped up and said, 'Doesn't any-

one have anything to say about his freemasonic compositions?' . . . Not even Leonardo da Vinci made it. And what is worse, what killed his candidacy, was the fear that somebody could pull out the old saw about his being homosexual."

Moreover, he said, "At close examination, the banknote is full of errors: The European silhouette includes Russia and Switzerland, two countries that are not part of the European Union."

Anti-Iraq 'Hammer Force' ends—but, not really

Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan formally announced in mid-December that the Anglo-American-run "Operation Hammer Force" (also called "Provide Comfort"), which polices northern Iraq out of Turkish bases, would leave Turkey when its mandate ended on Dec. 31. However, Erbakan told the Council of Ministers on Dec. 13, that British, American, and Turkish overflights "will be maintained to check whether or not Iraq fully complies with the UN resolutions. Nevertheless, the Hammer Force mandate will end. It will be withdrawn from Turkey. So a new era will begin."

The Turkish daily *Al Jumhuriya* pointed out that this was a distinction without a difference: "What has changed if the U.S., Turkish, and U.K. aircraft, continue to fly in Iraq's airspace?" The paper voices "deep regret, over the fact that U.S. pressure has succeeded in making the Turkish government renounce its numerous promises to drive the Poised Hammer Force out by the end of 1996. . . . Changing the name or the structure of these forces, while maintaining their rejected role intact, namely, to conduct flights in Iraq's airspace, will not change reality."

Ter-Petrosian invited British into Armenia

According to reports from *EIR* sources, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian brought London's Midland Bank into

Briefly

MUHAMED SACIRBEY, Bosnia's UN ambassador, greeted the election of Kofi Annan of Ghana as UN Secretary General, saying: "We are pleased, though the view of Mr. Annan . . . sometimes differs from Bosnian government official view. Yet, the views of Mr. Annan were far closer to ours than the views of the (so far) Secretary General Boutros-Ghali. Mr. Annan is familiar with the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and ex-Yugoslavia, as he was in charge of peace operations and for some time UN special envoy in the Balkans. . . ."

PHILIPPINE Communist hit squad leader Arnold de la Cruz was arrested in a "buy-bust" drug sting, run jointly by a Philippines counterinsurgency force and the National Police Narcotics Command. De la Cruz is the head of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, an assassination squad affiliated with the "reform" wing of the Communist Party.

THE VATICAN convened a meeting of Catholic bishops from Africa's Great Lakes region in Nairobi on Dec. 17, chaired by Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the head of the Vatican Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace. All the bishops of Burundi and Rwanda were to attend, as well as several bishops from Zaire, and church representatives from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

IRAQ announced on Nov. 28 that it is ready to normalize relations with the United States. Addressing a news conference in Baghdad, Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said: "We now hope that the United States will realize that it is better to enter into political talks with Iraq with the view to resuming relations between the two countries."

FRANCE'S former First Lady Danielle Mitterrand, patroness of synthetic insurgencies and indigenous movements throughout the world, attended the inauguration of "her" Brazilian Indian candidate, João Neves, as the mayor of Oiapoque, in Amapa. Neves had sported her photo on his campaign posters.

Yerevan well in time for him to win reelection in September 1996 through vote fraud. Midland Bank is the only foreign bank operating in the country. With all the imperiousness of his British masters, Ter-Petrosian emptied out the National Museum to hand the building over to Midland, and had his son David placed on the bank's board.

In the September elections, the united opposition, which ran on a platform of economic reconstruction, had in fact racked up 60-70% of the vote, after Armenians suffered five years of devastation under Ter-Petrosian's Thatcherite "shock therapy." Even official figures say that only 11% of Armenians earn more than \$80 a month. Following the vote fraud, as many as 200,000 would gather in protests in Yerevan, only to be put down by armored vehicles and troops, followed by a wave of arrests of political opponents.

The regime's cosmetic concession was to appoint a new prime minister, who decreed a "stop" to shock therapy, and made noises against the International Monetary Fund. The rhetoric is designed to create a break between Armenia and the United States, which, stupidly, has made its aid to Armenia contingent on "reforms." Eliminating the U.S. role would give Britain hegemony over this vital part of the Caucasus, and complement the already strong British position in neighboring Azerbaijan.

Emirates, U.K. sign 'defense pact' vs. Iran

After years of negotiations, Britain signed a "defense cooperation agreement" with Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, in November, aimed to "deter aggression if the oil-rich Gulf state, nervous about an Iranian arms buildup, is threatened," according to British wires. The U.A.E. was a British protectorate, called the Trucial States, for 150 years, until 1971. The British capitalized on some hysteria that arose, when Iran's armed forces were engaged in 10 days of war games involving 100 ships and 40 aircraft in the Gulf. The U.A.E. and its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council,

earlier this year said Iran's plans to acquire more sophisticated arms posed a threat.

British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo, who signed the accord, demurred that the timing of the accord and the Iranian war games was coincidental. Portillo said exact terms of the accord, which he described as "quite precise and quite frank," were confidential, but, he continued: "It covers the development together of a deterrent so as to ensure there is no aggression against the United Arab Emirates. It allows us to draw up joint military plans and in certain circumstances to implement those joint military plans in the event of an aggression against the U.A.E."

Radio Free Asia to begin Tibet broadcasts

Radio Free Asia, a broadcasting station established by the U.S. Congress and based in Thailand, began Tibetan-language broadcasts on Dec. 1. Unlike the existing Tibetan-language service on Voice of America, RFA will include only news pertaining to Tibet and Tibetans. The head of RFA Tibetan service, Jigme Ngapo, said his program will strive to provide "unbiased, timely and accurate information on Tibet and Tibetans." This might be difficult, as Ngapo is a top officer in the self-styled Tibetan government-in-exile's official U.S. lobbying organization, the International Campaign for Tibet.

Radio Free Asia was incorporated in March 1996, and began its Chinese program in September 1996. Tibetan is the second language to be broadcast by the station, which has plans to broadcast into Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and North Korea. In response to the inauguration of the Tibetan programming, the Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that "this move by the U.S. side is, in essence, aimed at further interference in other countries' internal affairs by means of the media." Britain's Prince Philip, a decades-long controller of Tibet's Dalai Lama, attended the official ceremony opening the station, when he travelled to Thailand in early November.