

International Intelligence

Soros in hot water in former East bloc

Charging that the Soros Foundation in Belarus has "made big profits through sales on the currency exchange, due to inflation and changes in exchange rates," the State Tax Committee of Belarus slapped the organization with \$2.9 million in fines earlier this month. The Soros Foundation has operated as a tax-exempt entity in Belarus since 1995, and says that it has spent \$13 million on "educational, ecological, and cultural programs" during the past four years. (See *EIR's Special Report*, "The True Story of Soros the Golem," for the content of such programs.) In March, Belarus barred the director of the Soros Foundation, a U.S. citizen, from the country.

The extensive activity of the Soros foundations in Central Asia has also drawn fire. In late April, George Soros, the arch-speculator and drug-legalization sugar-daddy himself, wrote to Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev to complain about press criticism of the Soros Foundation there. In the letter, leaked to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Soros touted his "activities in education, culture, pluralistic mass media, civil society, and economic reform," and objected to published articles that alleged a misuse of funds by his hand-picked local director, Chinara Jakipova. On April 30, President Akayev issued a statement that he will not get involved in "an internal affair of the Kyrgyz media"—i.e., its conflict with the Soros Foundation.

London's Osama Bin Laden threatens to kill Clinton

British terrorist financier Osama Bin Laden threatened to have U.S. President Bill Clinton assassinated, and also threatened further actions against U.S. soldiers and civilians, in an interview with Ted Turner's Cable News Network, broadcast May 11. Bin Laden spoke from his headquarters in Afghanistan, where, in his first interview broadcast in the United States, he again took credit for the terrorist acts against U.S. citizens in Saudi

Arabia. "The hearts of Muslims are filled with hatred towards the American President," he growled. "The President has a heart that knows no words. A heart that kills hundreds of children definitely knows no words. Our people in the Arabian Peninsula will send him messages with no words."

Bin Laden continued: "We declared *ji-had* against the U.S. government. We have focused our declaration on striking at the soldiers in the country of the Two Holy Places," referring to Saudi Arabia. The two bombings in 1995 and 1996 at U.S. military installations in Riyadh and Khobar, Saudi Arabia, left 21 U.S. servicemen dead. He also threatened blind terrorism against U.S. civilians, "because they chose this government and voted for it, despite their knowledge of its crimes."

Meanwhile, another London-based gang of cutthroats, Al-Jamma Al-Islamia, vowed in a communiqué published on May 5, to kill any Americans, including the President, it deems responsible for jailing Sheikh Omar Rahman, should he die in prison. The elderly sheikh's health is said to be deteriorating.

Tamil Tigers, JKLF hail Blair's election

The Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger separatists and their confreres in India's Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front are reportedly jubilant over the victory of Prime Minister Tony Blair in Britain. Both terrorist groups, which are responsible for tens of thousands of deaths, are headquartered in London. According to India's semi-official *Hindu* on May 6, Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, sent congratulations to Blair. He called for "an activist British role" in the current Tamil Tiger war in Sri Lanka, which has killed thousands.

Meanwhile, "Kashmiri separatist circles are jubilant over the Labour Party's stupendous victory in the British elections," according to India's *Pioneer* on May 3. The separatists praised the statements of two Labour MPs, Max Madden and Claire Short, before the House of Commons in July 1996, in which they voiced their concern over the situation in Kashmir. Short has just been

named to replace the bloodthirsty Baroness Lynda Chalker at the Overseas Development Administration (which Blair has re-named as the Department for International Development).

It is noteworthy that Cook, Short, and Labour Party foreign policy guru Alistair Lamb, are all considered experts on Kashmir. The detonation of Kashmir remains the optimal way to provoke Indo-Pakistani conflict.

Iranians launch May election campaign

The official campaign for the May 23 national election that will replace Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani started on May 10. The leading candidates are Nateq Nouri, currently Speaker of the Majlis (parliament); Hojjatoleslam Seyed Mohammad Khatami, an independent who reportedly has the support of the Rafsanjani Combatants of Reconstruction group; Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Mohahhadi-Reyshahri; and, Seyed Reza Zavarei, a lawyer, former parliamentarian, deputy head of the judiciary, and head of the Real Estate and Document Registration Organization. The results of the May 23 vote will be made public two weeks after the vote, and, if necessary, there will be a run-off within a month after that. By July 23, Iran will announce who its fifth Iranian President will be.

Seyed Mohammed Khatami told a group of teachers "that one of the principles he upheld was that a system should tolerate differing views, thoughts, and ideas, and should provide a suitable atmosphere where people are free to air their opinions and views and which are treated with respect as means to arrive at sound decisions."

Seyed Reza Zavarei, speaking to the *Tehran Times*, appeared to be more cautious about the ambitious development projects which have characterized the Rafsanjani Presidency, and pointed to their cost. To combat inflation, wrote the *Times*, Zavarei proposed measures "including the increase of economic security which paves the way for further investments in the production sector, directing the cash-flow into produc-

tion and greater privatization. He called for well-formulated programs, particularly in the industrial, agricultural, and mining sectors."

Book blames Kissinger in Aldo Moro kidnap-murder

Sergio Flamigni, an expert on the 1978 kidnapping and murder of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro, has written a second book on the subject, overtly pointing the finger of responsibility at Henry Kissinger, who, as Nixon's secretary of state, had threatened Moro because of his plan for a unity government of the Communists (PCI) and Christian Democrats (DC).

Reviewed in *Corriere della Sera* on May 9, Flamigni's book, *My Blood Will Be on Their Hands*, charges that the Red Brigades kidnapping of Moro was "a plot that began with the U.S. Secretary of State opposed to the government of national solidarity. . . . According to Flamigni, the 'Grand Old Man' in the Moro case has a first name and a family name: Henry Kissinger, at that time American Secretary of State. . . . The conflict between Moro and Kissinger is an old story. But in his book, the former MP [Flamigni] reports Giovanni Moro's version of a discussion with his father, soon after a Red Brigades action: 'He told me that in his opinion, the unity process which was ongoing in Italy among very different political forces, such as the DC and the PCI, and among the popular blocs which were represented by such forces . . . was disliked by the two superpowers which had split the world and kept it divided—as if to say, that there was a political connection between . . . the superpowers' desire [to keep the world divided] and terrorism, which aimed at stopping the process of renewal of political life, at that time taking place in Italy.' "

Flamigni, a former partisan leader and leading member the PCI, has been a member of all Parliamentary investigating committees on the Moro case and on the P-2 masonic lodge. The title from this, his second book on the Moro case, is taken from a charge that Moro made while imprisoned by the Red Brigade front men. Flamigni's work was in-

spired by the first-ever dossier on the Moro case, published in 1978 by the European Labor Party, co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche, which broke the controlled environment around the "terrorist action," and pointed to the higher level intellectual authors and political interests that wanted Moro—and his program for Italy—dead. Flamigni has given an interview to *EIR*, which will appear in a future issue.

Pope makes historic first visit to Lebanon

"*Salaam aleikum!* Peace be with you!" Pope John Paul II called out the traditional Arabic greeting on May 11 to over 500,000 Lebanese who attended the Mass he celebrated in Lebanon's capital Beirut, at a seaside landfill of levelled garbage and debris from the 1975-90 war.

It was the last event of the historic 32-hour trip to Lebanon by the Pope, the first visit he has ever paid to the Middle East. The Pope's arrival at Beirut Airport on May 10 was marked by a positive outpouring all over the country. At the moment his plane landed, church bells rang out across the country.

The Pope drove past the Shiite Muslim suburbs controlled by the Hezbollah, whose spiritual leader, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, had warmly welcomed the visit. "Lebanon's Shiites are waiting for the Pope with hearts filled with love. . . . We have been waiting for the Holy Father for a long time . . . [the visit] will help us to find here in Lebanon a better way for Muslims and Christians to live side by side," the Sheikh said.

The Pope also presented his Apostolic Exhortation, a 200-page document calling for the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon (the south is occupied by Israel, and 35,000 Syrian soldiers are deployed throughout the rest of the country). The papal document is an elaboration of the 1995 Special Synod of Lebanon, which called for the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops alike. "I came to Lebanon," the Pope said, to encourage "its sons and daughters so desirous of independence and freedom," whose territory is "recognized and respected by all."

Briefly

GERMANY should call early elections, Christian Democratic member of parliament Herbert Lattmann told the *Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung* on May 7. Crucial legislation is deadlocked between the government-dominated lower house and the opposition-dominated upper house, he said. It would be disastrous for Germany to wait for the October 1998 elections, to break this logjam.

NORTH KOREA'S deteriorating situation was described late last month by Dean Hirsch of World Vision International, who reported that the country may be only 90 days away from starvation. The catastrophe is exemplified by the fact that some peasants burying their dead until the corpses have putrefied, so as to the bodies from being disinterred and cannibalized.

TAJIKISTAN'S President Imomali Rakhmonov was wounded in an assassination attempt on April 30. A grenade was thrown at him as he was visiting a university in Khujand, killing two and injuring another 20. Russian television reported that suspects were detained immediately. Rakhmonov has been attempting to broker peaceful relations among the ethnic clans in the country.

TARIQ AZIZ, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister called for UN sanctions against his country to be lifted on May 9, after meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov. Aziz stopped off in Moscow on his way back from China. One week earlier, the UN Security Council voted to renew the murderous sanctions, on the recommendation of UN disarmament strongman Rolf Ekeus.

TONY BLAIR'S Northern Ireland Secretary Dr. Mo Mowlam will not finalize her "mission statement" regarding the Northern Ireland peace process, until after the May 14 "Queen's Speech . . . [which] will set out the program for Britain's new Labour government."