

International Intelligence

Sri Lanka officially outlaws Tamil Tigers

The Sri Lankan government has banned the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), following a bombing near Sri Lanka's holiest Buddhist temple at Kandy in late January. At least 13 persons were killed and 25 injured. Rioting nearly broke out a few hours after the blast at the temple, which is the high seat of Sinhala-Buddhist culture (the Tamils are Hindu).

Although the terrorist organization has been leading a bloody insurgency for years—including the assassinations of Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi—it had not been formally banned. Colombo had resisted such a move on the grounds that parleys would eventually be needed for a final settlement of the ethnic war.

The blast occurred in a "highly classified" security zone, close to the site where Sri Lanka's Golden Jubilee celebration was to be held on Feb. 4, which was to have been attended by Prince Charles.

Izetbegovic tells OIC: 'Cooperate with West'

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic made a powerful intervention into the Organization of Islamic Conference meeting in Teheran on Dec. 12, 1997. According to late-January reports from high-level sources, his speech was addressed in particular to Iran. Izetbegovic reportedly intended his speech to help the process of mediation between the United States and Iran, among other critical issues that the Islamic world is struggling with.

"I shall briefly talk about one subject only," he said: "East and West and my Bosnia between them. . . . I believe that I know to some extent both parts of the globe. . . . Please forgive me for being very open. Sweet lies do not help us, while bitter truth can heal.

"The West is neither corrupt nor degenerate. The 'Rotten West' was the dangerous communist propaganda and illusion. The

West is not rotten, it is strong, educated, and organized. Their schools are better than ours and their cities are cleaner. . . . the care for the poor and less capable is better organized. The Westerners are usually responsible and serious in their work. . . . Islam is the best—that's true—but we are not the best. These are two different things. We often confuse them. Instead of hating the West, let's compete with it. Let's have a dialogue with it. Let's proclaim cooperation instead of confrontation. Joining faith and science creates the biggest power in the world, and we have to follow this way. It is true that it is a long and difficult road—it is like the mountain climbing the Koran speaks about—but there is no other way.

"Therefore, we must establish education funds everywhere. Not one child should be left out of school. . . .

"Some people think that terror can help them to reach some advantage. That illusion is dangerously spreading. Terrorism is an expression of weakness. It is not only immoral, but also unproductive. Immoral because it kills innocent people, unproductive because it has never solved any real problem. Terrorism was rejected by any serious political movement in history. . . . The Holy Koran has strictly forbidden it in the well-known sentence: 'Killing one innocent man is like killing the whole of mankind. . . .' There are, unfortunately, people who have forgotten that important message."

Algerian opposition: EU should promote dialogue

Algeria's opposition, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), issued a communiqué on Jan. 21, after a three-man European Union delegation had visited the civil war-torn country, characterizing the visit as a "symbolic event of primary importance, though the official press tries to cover it up." Still, stressed the FIS, "the taboo has thus been lifted," against outside intervention into the deteriorating situation.

The FIS said that Europe still hasn't come to terms with what is going on. Europe sat back and watched as the 1992 elections were

annulled, opposition figures jailed, killed, and forced into exile. "When part of the representative Algerian political class had taken the initiative to propose a peaceful, political solution on the basis of the Rome Platform, official Europe preferred to turn a deaf ear. . . . On the contrary, the dictatorial power was encouraged. . . . to pursue a security solution, the militarization of the country and engagement in a series of useful, rigged elections, to lend itself a façade of credibility."

The FIS called on the EU to take up contact with all the opposition parties, to push for a peaceful, political solution.

Meanwhile, the Rome-based Catholic lay organization *Comunità di Sant'Egidio*, which, in 1995, had brought all the Algerian opposition groups together to hammer out a program for peace—the "Rome Platform"—has relaunched its initiative, calling for an international conference involving all parties. Sant'Egidio head Andrea Riccardi told the Jan. 22 issue of the Paris daily *Libération* that this would not constitute interference in Algeria's internal affairs, but would be a gesture of solidarity. He stressed that there was no way the situation could be pacified from within.

Garang mounts new attack in south Sudan

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army of British puppet John Garang launched an attempt to retake the city of Wau, the capital of the state of Bahr al-Ghazal, on Jan. 28. According to the Sudanese Deputy Chief of Staff, Gen. Abdul Rahman Siral-Khatim, about 500 SPLA troops took part in the attack, which was launched simultaneously with attacks on Gogrial and Aweil, in the same state.

The three aims of the renewed attacks, according to a spokesman for the Khartoum government, are:

1. to sabotage the peace agreement with the other southern rebels and try to pit the government against the former rebel leaders who have signed the peace;
2. to weaken the government before peace talks reconvene in April;

3. to stop the flow of SPLA military and civilians to the government side.

By now, 8,400 of Garang's rebel forces in the south have gone over to the government, 4,000 of them in the area of Wau. Garang knows that if this process, which began on Dec. 22, continues, he will be isolated, and has mounted the attack to try to reverse it. Garang has apparently infiltrated some of his people into the ranks of rebel fighters who have surrendered, in an attempt to subvert them. The government will, as a result, change the rules of dealing with the defectors, no longer leaving them in control of their arms.

Zepp-LaRouche tapped as lead BüSo candidate

Germany's Civil Rights Movement Solidarity Party (the Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität, or BüSo) elected Helga Zepp-LaRouche to be its candidate for Chancellor in the September elections, at its Jan. 31 party congress. Altogether, 14 people were elected to the slate, a cross-section of Germany's voters, including a student, a machine-tool engineer, a businesswoman, a farmer, a teacher, a soldier, and others.

Mrs. LaRouche gave a strategic briefing, first demonstrating how the Asian blow-out is a manifestation of the global financial crisis. She stressed that all the European elites and governments know what the LaRouche movement knows about the severity of the crisis, but only we tell the truth. She said that people close to Chancellor Helmut Kohl will talk about a crisis of civilization, but only privately. We can not solve this crisis with tricks, she continued; therefore, we have to tell the truth and activate the 1% of the population who want to think and change the world for the better. Because we tell the truth, the authority of the international LaRouche movement has dramatically increased in the last month.

After outlining two aspects of the solution—the Eurasian Land-Bridge development project, and the principles underlying a New Bretton Woods system, she concluded that the reason for the collapse of civilization

is not wrong economic policy, but the paradigm shift of 30 years ago, which produced the Baby-Boomer ideology, or the '68ers, as they are known in Europe. In Germany, unlike China, she said, we still have Maoism, with such "politically correct" movements as environmentalism and consensus politics. This is what we have to overcome, if we are going to save civilization.

Fifteen nations sign on to Int'l Space Station

U.S. Undersecretary of State Strobe Talbott and representatives from Russia, Japan, Canada, and the 11 European nations participating in the world's largest civilian science and engineering project, signed the 1998 Intergovernmental Agreement on Space Station Cooperation in a ceremony at the State Department on Jan. 29. The agreement covers the development, operation, and utilization of the station, which will begin assembly in orbit in June. The major modification to the previous agreement from 1993, is the addition of the Russians as a full partner.

Talbott singularly praised Russian Space Agency head Yuri Koptev (who has been attacked by anti-Clinton neo-con forces, who allege that he was involved in giving missile technology to Iran), stating that he has made "many contributions to a new era of international cooperation."

Speaking later at the National Press Club, Koptev countered the attacks against him, telling one reporter, "The first of your questions reminds me of a meeting of the Anti-American Activities Commission in the past"—a reference to the McCarthyite House Un-American Activities Committee.

Koptev continued, "Sometimes the idea of putting pressure on Iran takes the form of the idea of terminating all contacts with Iran. Russia cannot agree with it, in any way. This country is our neighbor. It has strategic influence in some countries, which are in turn of vital importance to Russia . . . and I mean Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and other countries in the area. We are interested in the joint program of exploiting the resources of the Caspian Sea."

A NEW DELHI COURT convicted 26 people on Jan. 26 in the murder of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 in Tamil Nadu. Ironically, the New Delhi correspondent for Britain's Reuters news agency sought a reaction from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam terrorists by phoning their headquarters—in London.

THE TRILATERAL Commission will hold a meeting in Berlin on March 20-23. The agenda is to include sessions on a "united Germany," and "meeting the leadership challenges of the 21st century." Henry Kissinger is to chair a discussion on "Europe's international role," and "comments" have been solicited from George Soros.

A UNHCR official was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Vladikavkaz, in the Russian region of North Ossetia overnight on Jan. 29-30. President-elect Aleksandr Dzasokhov was to be sworn in on Jan. 30. High-level delegations from Moscow and neighboring Georgia were expected to attend the ceremony.

VERONA PROSECUTOR Pappalio has officially requested indictments against Umberto Bossi, head of the separatist Lega Nord, and 40 other leaders of the Lega Nord-Lega Veneta, for an "offense against the unity of the State." The Lega has asked Britain's Amnesty International to intervene in their defense.

SOUTH KOREA'S largest union group has pulled out of talks with government leaders, in protest that the IMF is going ahead with mass layoffs without taking any "safety net" measures as promised in January. On Feb. 2, a special session of the National Assembly opened to discuss new IMF-run laws allowing layoffs in the financial sector, as a prelude to general layoffs. This is the same legislation which led 1 million workers to protest in the streets of Seoul a year ago.