

International Intelligence

Malaysian media cover EIR interview with Mahathir

EIR has received reports from Kuala Lumpur that its interview with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad (EIR, Feb. 19), was reported on nationwide television on Feb. 22. Bernama, the state press agency, issued a release on the interview, which was picked up by the largest Malay-language newspaper, *Utusan Malaysia*, and the leading English daily, *New Straits Times*, on Feb. 23.

In other developments, Dr. Mahathir gave his Chinese New Year's Day message to the nation on Feb. 16, warning that certain groups within and outside the country have been spreading confusion and disinformation aimed at instigating conflicts among the major ethnic groups, with the intent of provoking race riots. He said, "They know that there will be riots which will halt the economic recovery in the country if instability prevented the people from earning a decent living." At a Chinese New Year's luncheon, Dr. Mahathir announced that he would make a nationwide tour, obliquely referring to a holiday message issued by his former deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, as an example of the disinformation being circulated with the intent of inciting racial conflict. He compared the tour to his earlier trip, during which he explained the economic crisis and the nature of the selected capital controls imposed on Sept. 1, 1998.

Sierra Leone 'rebel war is run by mercenaries'

Sierra Leone President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah charged on Feb. 2 that "the [rebel] project to capture Freetown in January was meticulously planned and funded and its execution directed by a multinational mercenary force." He declined to say which mercenary outfits or governments were involved, however.

This view has been corroborated by sources in the region, who say that both the attacks on the Zambian government, for allegedly supplying Angola, and the attacks on the Liberian government, for allegedly supplying the rebels in Sierra Leone, are

covers for the British Commonwealth mercenary coordination of the war. In the case of Sierra Leone, one source said, when Kabbah forced the Executive Outcomes outfit out of Sierra Leone, they simply switched sides, and are being paid diamonds. The same is the case for Angola, which had kicked out Executive Outcomes.

Further exposés appeared in the Feb. 3 issue of Johannesburg's *Sowetan*. According to its South African "intelligence sources," former South African mercenaries have moved to eastern Europe, whence they are supplying Jonas Savimbi's UNITA in Angola and the Sierra Leone Revolutionary United Front. In Sierra Leone, Ecomog commander Maj. Gen. Timothy Shelpidi has alleged that the mercenaries come from Israel, Burkina Faso, and eastern European countries, such as Ukraine. It is alleged that former pilots of the South African National Defense Force are ferrying in supplies to UNITA.

According to South African sources, the hiring hall and coordinator for these operations is the British Commonwealth's Sandline.

Australian hysteric slams direct Presidential vote

Australian academic Kanishka Jayasuriya rang the alarm bells over the proposal for Australians to directly elect a President, denouncing it as "fascism," because it threatened the country's "parliamentary democracy," which he terms "representative." He musters the arguments of Nazi legal theorist Carl Schmitt against popular democracy, for his proof.

Kanishka, a research fellow at the Asia Research Center at Murdoch University in Perth, was weighing heavily into the present debate over whether Australians should become a republic. Pro-"republicans" are split into two camps: The British Crown front, called the Australian Republican Movement, is working for only cosmetic changes. Those who want direct Presidential elections, against whom Kanishka is railing, include Lyndon LaRouche's co-thinkers, the Citizens Electoral Council. Underlying Kanishka's hysteria against popular democracy, or direct election, is the fact that the

parliamentary system is deeply distrusted, which he admits. Direct election "reflects a deep hostility to the principles and practices of representative democracy. . . . The debate on direct election is not about the republic; it is about the values and institutions of Australian democracy. Populist democracy reflects a distrust of the values that underlie parliamentary democracy."

Yemen leaders split over British terrorist acts

The government of Yemen, whose Interior Minister accused the British government of direct involvement in sending British "Islamists" to destabilize the country, is facing a dramatic internal conflict. Sheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar, Speaker of the Parliament, leader of the Al-Islah opposition party, and chief of the biggest group of tribes (Hashid), insisted that "Britain has nothing to do with terrorist schemes in the country," and that the statements of the Interior Minister "were exaggerated."

On Feb. 3, Interior Minister Hussein Arab had accused London of backing the terrorists, who had kidnapped several tourists and carried out bombings in December. The ministry discovered that eight of them are British subjects, and found blank British passports that could not have been obtained without help from the British Home Office or the British Consulate.

In the midst of this, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al-Iryani suddenly went to Germany, ostensibly to be treated for malaria. It is unknown how political this "illness" is, but last year he headed a week-long seminar in Britain with the Royal Institute of International Affairs, to promote Yemen's relationship with Britain and Europe.

On Feb. 4 President Ali Abdullah Saleh expressed Yemen's desire to have a strategic relationship with the United States, during a meeting with Assistant Undersecretary of State Ronald Newman. Saleh underlined the importance of "Yemeni-American relations based on cooperation and mutual respect and interests." Yemen's news agency reported that the President reiterated to Newman his country's backing for lifting the embargo on Iraq, in light of its commitment to the implement the UN resolutions.