

# International Intelligence

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## ***Anti-British Ecevit wins Turkish voters' mandate***

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party emerged as the leading party in the April 18 national elections, winning 23% of the vote. The National Action Party came in second with 17%, followed by former Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's Motherland Party with 15%, the Virtue Party (former Welfare Party) with 14%, and former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party with 11%. It is expected that Ecevit will form a coalition government with the National Action Party or his former coalition partner, the Motherland Party, which would have enough votes to override a no-confidence vote.

Ecevit's victory is a mandate by the Turkish military, and population, in favor of Ecevit's opposition to the Anglo-American war in Iraq and in the Balkans, Turkish sources emphasized to *EIR*. (His victory was also the result of Turkey's success in capturing Kurdish Workers Party leader Abdullah Ocalan, and of his vocal opposition to privatization.)

In February 1998, Ecevit denounced "British manipulation" as being behind U.S. Iraq policy, which provoked an outburst from the British Ambassador to Ankara. In January 1999, he said that U.S. Iraq policy threatened every state in the region. In February, the Foreign Ministry republished an *EIR* article making the same charges, even after the British Ambassador threatened that media prominence given to *EIR*'s charges was harming British-Turkish relations. On March 28, Ecevit charged that "there is a danger of world war" because of the NATO war on Yugoslavia—the only NATO Prime Minister to say so—and endorsed Russia's effort to negotiate a diplomatic solution.

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## ***Retiring Mandela plans China and Russia visits***

South African President Nelson Mandela planned to visit both Russia and China in April, before he retires after the June 2 elec-

tions. "It was important that we should visit Russia and China before retiring from public life, given their strong support for our freedom and for the anti-colonial struggle in general," Mandela said on April 13.

Mandela said that economic relations with these two countries are important to improve the lives of millions of South Africans. "There is emphasis in our developing relations with Russia in our common interest with regard to mineral resources, and the application of science and technology," he said. Mandela was to arrive in Russia on April 27. He said that cooperation with China, as one of the largest economies, and given its relationship with the Non-Aligned Movement, was important to South Africa's effort to address the negative aspects of globalization and enhancing positive aspects.

Mandela said that South Africa regarded China and Russia as important partners for cooperation in the multilateral arena. "They can help reorient the international and multilateral institutions that regulate the world's political, social, and economic systems, so that they better serve the needs of development and better reflect the democratic ideals of our age; . . . so that they support, rather than hinder the rebirth of Africa."

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## ***London-based terrorists kill Iranian official***

Following the assassination of Iranian Deputy Chief of Staff Ali Sayyad Shirazi on April 11, Iranian political leaders have been pointing at the British role in supporting the Mujahideen e-Khalq (MKO) terrorists who claimed responsibility for the murder. On April 19, the Iranian news agency IRNA accused the London-based "charity" Iran Aid of funding MKO operations. "Receivers called in nearly a year ago to investigate a charity, believed to be a front group for anti-Iran MKO terrorists, say they do not know how or when the investigation will be completed," reported IRNA. The Charity Commission put Iran Aid into receivership last July, and later had its bank accounts frozen to ensure that none of its funds go overseas

without authorization.

IRNA has also covered the international outrage over the murder, reporting that on April 13 the U.S. State Department "condemned the assassination of Brig. Ali Sayyad Shirazi." The MKO is one of the 30 terrorist groups on the State Department's list of banned international terrorist organizations—three-quarters of which are based in Britain. IRNA also quoted a Vatican press spokesman describing the assassination as "a terrorist act carried out by the MKO aiming at the disruption of Iran's attempts to open a dialogue with the international community."

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## ***Tulchin demands 'global jail' for Ibero-America***

One-worldist Joseph Tulchin, director of the Latin American program of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, penned an article for Argentina's *Clarín*, hailing recent actions against Chile's Gen. Augusto Pinochet and Paraguay's Gen. Lino Oviedo as "similar and important steps toward a new international regime." Tulchin is a leading activist in what *EIR* has made famous as "the Complot" to destroy the armed forces and nations of Ibero-America.

In his twisted mind, the "new regime" requires that countries submit to new international treaties which lay out "specific codes of conduct," enforced by whoever takes it upon themselves to do so. For example, the British Law Lords, in ruling that Pinochet can be tried in a foreign court for violating the international treaty against torture, "arrogated to themselves the defense of human and legal rights—the good conduct of the international community—in the name of all."

That lesson, argues Tulchin, must now be applied to Paraguayan patriot General Oviedo, whom, since April 1996, the "Complot" gang has tried to frame up on some "international crime" in order to overthrow the government. On March 23, 1999, they succeeded, by blaming the assassination of Vice President Luis María Argaña on

**TONY BLAIR'S** government has stalled the Northern Ireland peace process, by issuing a "Hillsborough Declaration," setting out new conditions for decommissioning arms and governance. This came in the wake of the Ulster Unionist Party's demand that the IRA decommission its weapons before elected Sinn Fein representatives could be seated in the Northern Ireland Assembly, to which London would turn over powers.

**INDIA'S** Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee agreed to head a caretaker government at the request of President K.R. Narayanan, after the coalition headed by Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party lost a no-confidence vote by 269-270 on April 17.

**THE VATICAN** condemned the April 14 arrest by Rwanda of Gikongoro Bishop Augustin Misago on charges of "genocide." On April 7, President Pasteur Bizimungu had threatened him during a reburial ceremony of 20,000 genocide victims, saying, "The Rwandan state did not place Bishop Misago above the law and is not afraid of him." The Vatican called the arrest "an act of extreme gravity"; Kigali is now holding 19 Catholic priests.

**THE INDONESIAN** government is setting up a Steering Committee for the Composition of the Draft of the Autonomy Plan for East Timor, which includes the ministers for political and security affairs, for economy, finance, and industry, for people's welfare, and for development and supervision, as well as the ministers for home affairs, for defense, for justice, and the state secretary.

**IRANIAN** Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazmi will be in Bonn on April 15, returning the visit to Tehran of Chancery Minister Bodo Hombach, who invited President Khatami to visit Germany. The German Embassy in Teheran also hosted a Classical concert of opera singers from Berlin and Düsseldorf.

Oviedo and President Raúl Cubas (see *EIR*, April 9). Oviedo sought asylum in Argentina, while Cubas was forced to resign and received asylum in Brazil. But, says Tulchin, "if evidence surfaces that [Oviedo] was involved in the assassination . . . what supranational mechanisms could be fabricated to deal with such an attack on the rule of law, without returning him to Paraguay?" Tulchin asks. Paraguay is not necessarily Haiti, he argues, but "will the hemispheric community propose an action plan to help the Paraguayans build democracy?"

## **Peres warns Israelis about 'ethnic cleansing'**

During a special session of Israel's parliament, the Knesset, on the Kosovo crisis, former Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned that the lesson for Israel is that "whoever does not want ethnic cleansing must not bring about ethnic confusion," according to the April 15 issue of *Ha'aretz*. He specified that "what is going on in the [Jewish] settlements [in Palestinian territories] is ethnic confusion." Peres contrasted "the way of Oslo with the way of Kosovo. The way of Kosovo is that of 'transfer,' of ethnic cleansing, but the way of Oslo is that of a diplomatic solution."

Peres then challenged Knesset member Rechavam Ze'evi, whose Molodet party calls for the "transfer" of Palestinians to Jordan: "Say the truth for once. Transfer? Ethnic cleansing? Don't generate ethnic confusion, so we won't have to implement ethnic cleansing. . . . Don't try to rule another people by force—arrogantly and brazenly. There is only one solution to situations like these—political, not brute force."

## **Li Peng: human rights means development**

Chairman of China's Parliament Li Peng is on a six-nation tour of Asia. During his stop in Bangladesh on April 12, he was quoted by a Bangladeshi spokesman as saying the Western understanding of human rights is

different in Asia: "We mean economic development of an individual as human rights." In talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Li Peng was further quoted as saying, "We hoped conflict would end and peace would prevail after the end of the Cold War, but conflicts rage on in some parts. . . . Despite different political and economic systems, the world should move forward for economic development and peace."

Li told Prime Minister Wazed, "We appreciate and praise the role of Bangladesh in the Non-Aligned Movement." She, in turn, thanked China for its continuing assistance, including a Chinese loan that is funding construction of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Conference Center, which will be the venue for the Non-Aligned Movement summit in 2001. (Her father, Sheikh Mujibur, Bangladesh's founder and first President, was assassinated on Aug. 15, 1975.)

## **Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif makes visit to Russia**

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif began a four-day visit to Russia on April 19, the first visit of a Pakistani Prime Minister to Russia in 25 years. The visit does not mean any change in Russian policy on Kashmir or arms sales, the Russian Foreign Ministry told the Indian daily *The Hindu* on April 13. India, which has close ties to Russia, was informed about the visit well in advance.

Russia's position regarding Kashmir remains, that the problem must be resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan within the framework of the 1972 Shimla agreements. Russia opposes internationalizing the issue.

During the visit, Nawaz Sharif was to meet the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, and Chairman of the Upper House of the Russian Parliament Yegor Stroyev. The agenda was extended at the last moment to include a trip to Tatarstan, to discuss establishment of direct ties between this predominantly Muslim republic in European Russia and Pakistan's Punjab province.