

# International Intelligence

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## ***Missionaries arming African mercenaries***

Investigators from Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo found 11,000 rounds of ammunition at a house used in the Congo by three American Pentecostal missionaries, according to a May 27 report by the Zimbabwean daily *The Herald*. "Three Americans . . . [arrested] on allegations of sabotage are suspected to have been involved in supplying arms of war to [the Angolan rebel group] UNITA and D.R.C. rebels following the discovery of about 11,000 rounds of ammunition in an arms cache beneath a house they used in Lubumbashi in the D.R.C." The three men, John Lamonte Dixon, Gary Blanchard, and Joseph Wendell Pettijohn, were arrested by Zimbabwe officials earlier this year and face charges of plotting acts of terrorism or sabotage. They belong to a Pentecostal missionary group called Harvest Field Ministries, now based in Indianapolis.

*The Herald* wrote further, "The three saboteurs took cover of the Church" to buy presumed humanitarian aid. But, "no one in the D.R.C. could say where the large quantities of blankets and powdered milk went. They did not see these items being given to the poor. This suggests that the blankets and the milk were sent to the rebels," said the investigator's report.

The trial of the Americans is to begin on July 12.

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## ***China, Russia opening to North and South Korea***

North Korea's second-ranking political leader, Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, arrived in Beijing on June 3, for the first high-level meeting between the two nations in eight years. The talks are intended to demonstrate that the alliance between North Korea and China remains strong. They come as the Clinton administration has made its own offers of cooperation with North Korea.

North Korea was expected to ask China

for renewed commitments of food, energy, and other aid that has helped it survive the disastrous famine and concomitant constriction of its industries. China, in turn, was expected to press Pyongyang to moderate its behavior in areas that have threatened China's strategic interests, appealing to North Korea not to repeat its tests of a new long-range missile. China was also expected to urge North Korea not to develop nuclear weapons. There is no evidence that China has transferred advanced technology in either area.

China endorses cooperation between the two Koreas and the "four-party" international talks on a long-term peace settlement. A week earlier, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry visited North Korea as President Clinton's personal envoy, offering economic and diplomatic benefits if the country would agree to abandon its missile and nuclear weapons program.

In the meantime, the two Koreas have also discussed resumption of talks on the reunification of families and economic aid.

On May 28, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, after meeting in Moscow with President Boris Yeltsin proposed widening the four-party talks—North Korea, South Korea, China, and the United States—to participation by Russia and Japan. Kim was touring Eurasia to promote his "sunshine" policy for peaceful and "comprehensive" negotiations with North Korea.

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## ***Mahathir, Zhu Rongji mark 25 years of amity***

Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seria Mahathir bin Mohamad and China's Prime Minister Zhu Rongji marked their countries' 25 years of diplomatic relations on June 1 with an exchange of greetings. In a message forwarded by the Malaysian Foreign Ministry on May 31, Dr. Mahathir said, "During these years, we have nurtured a close relationship, built upon mutual understanding, co-operation and friendship. [This is] reflected in the frequent high-level exchanges between our two countries, the substantial growth of two-way trade and investment, the

increased interactions between our two peoples, the expansion of co-operation into new areas such as tourism and education, as well as the excellent co-operation existing between the two countries at the regional and international levels. . . ."

In his message to Dr. Mahathir, which was released by the Chinese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Zhu said, "Over these years, abiding by the spirit enshrined in the Joint Communiqué on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, both countries have treated each other sincerely and lived together in amity."

An included element of the visit of Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to Beijing, was the release, in Mandarin, of "The Selected Speeches of Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia." Some of the speeches address the challenges facing developing countries on the threshold of the new millennium.

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## ***Manila Senate passes 'visiting forces' accord***

The Philippines Senate voted up the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States on May 27. The 18 Senators who voted for the VFA expressed the victory in the anti-China idiom of the U.S. China-bashers, and stressed that the vote opens the way for strengthening Filipino military capabilities, through joint training exercises of up to 2,000 troops and transfer of matériel under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States. President Joseph Estrada has said that the VFA is "very necessary" to provide a "balance of power" in the region.

Sen. Sergio Osmena, one of the four who voted against the VFA, sharply rebuked the government for instilling "fear in the Filipino people that the nation now faces the immediate threat of an invasion by Chinese hordes from the mainland."

Former Defense Secretary Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile raised the specter of a conflict over the Spratly Islands, which are disputed by six countries, including the Philippines and China. He rumbled, "We have to provide

**RUSSIA** abolished the death penalty on June 3, and commuted all sentences to life or to 25 years in prison. Justice Minister Pavel Krasheninnikov told Federal News Service in Washington, D.C. that President Boris Yeltsin had signed the decree in order to bring Russia into line with the rules of the Council of Europe, which Russia has joined.

**TURKISH POLICE** shot and killed two members of the Turkish Workers and Peasants Liberation Army (TIKKO), as they were preparing to attack the U.S. consulate in Istanbul on June 3. According to Italian and Turkish press, TIKKO, which is allied to the Kurdish Workers Party, has established itself in Italy over the last few years, with close relations with remnants of the Red Brigades and other terrorist gangs.

**A GREEK GROUP**, with uncanny timing, landed on the tiny, uninhabited islet of Agathonisi, in the Aegean, and raised the Greek flag, according to Turkey's Anatolia News Agency on June 4. Athens says the rock belongs to Greece, while Ankara says its ownership is unclear. In 1996, a confrontation was narrowly averted after some Greeks raised flags over the uninhabited Aegean outcrop of Kardak (known as Imia in Greece).

**SAUDICROWN PRINCE** Abdullah told the London-based Saudi newspaper *Asharq al Awsat* on May 31: "Iran has the right to develop its military capabilities to ensure its security without harming or damaging the rights of others. . . . All the countries of the world follow the same path. Why should a question be raised over Iran?" The statement is without precedent in 20 years.

**RICHARD TOMLINSON** told the May 27 *Sydney Morning Herald* that the Australian Secret Intelligence Service actively provided Britain's MI6 with information on potential spy recruits. "It is done by a liaison officer in London," said Tomlinson, a former MI6 agent, whom Britain has been trying to silence.

our country and people with some degree of protection from such an audacious, unmistakable, and blatant act of aggression and threat" by China, which has built "extensive military fortifications." Enrile continued, "It may even be possible that someday, in the not too distant future, she will install guided missile sites over there to ensure her military power and entrench her position and control over the natural resources and sea lanes of the South China Sea." He concluded, "Our defense alliance with the United States is probably the only viable option and umbrella and certainly the only one we can count on today in the event of need."

## **Secretary of Norway's defense chief murdered**

The private secretary of Norway's Defense Minister was assassinated on May 22, although the Oslo government is claiming that it was a burglary gone bad. Anne Orderud Paust and her parents were found murdered in their villa outside Oslo. The three were shot in the head from close range and the murder seems to have been carried out by professionals. There are no traces of robbery, and no suspects were arrested.

The Norwegian police and media tried to deny the possibility that the murder was political, saying that Paust did not have a significant government post. In fact, her husband, Peter Paust, was a career diplomat for 25 years, until his death of cancer on May 5, and two previous attempts had been made against the couple: In July 1998, a kilogram of dynamite was found beneath her car, in the Defense Ministry parking lot; in August, two cans of benzene and gasoline were placed in front of their apartment in Oslo. Police closed their investigations without any conclusion after a few months, although they had suggested the possibility that the attacks "were carried out by extremist groups."

The couple moved for security to New York, where Peter Paust was appointed in the Norwegian Consul, before returning home as his health deteriorated. After his death, despite the earlier threats, no security arrangements were made for Anne Paust.

She had been the private secretary for four of Norway's defense ministers and one ambassador to NATO.

## **Sikh separatists renew demand for 'Khalistan'**

The separatist International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), which promotes turning India's Punjab into an independent "Khalistan," held a its 15th anniversary gathering, to mark the day in 1984 when Indian Army troops stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, to dislodge terrorists who had seized the Sikh holy site. The British-based ISYF was then used to prepare the climate for the Oct. 31, 1984 murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The gathering was reported by the Pakistan daily *The Dawn* on June 6.

Sardar Gurjet Singh of London told the gathering that Sikhs throughout the world must now come together for a joint struggle to establish Khalistan, and also to help Kashmir separatists secure their so-called right of self-determination. He revealed his role in Britain's geostrategic gameplan, boasting, "Sooner or later, India's disintegration is inevitable." Non-Sikhs speaking to the crowd included Jamaat Islami leader Fareed Ahmed Pirachai and Muslim League leader Mehnaz Rafi.

## **Egypt places new curbs on NGOs**

The Egyptian government and parliament recently passed a law placing restrictions on non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The law, ratified on May 27, bans NGOs from "political, union, or military activity that can threaten national unity," and also bans NGOs from receiving foreign funds without first getting government approval. The Egyptian law has been criticized by human rights mafias, and by Madeleine Albright's U.S. State Department.

When State Department spokesman James Rubin expressed displeasure over the law, Cairo's Social Affairs Minister Mervat al-Tellawi responded that "nobody will be closed down by this new law."