

# International Intelligence

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## London presses UN for new Iraqi confrontation

The British government is seeking to obtain a "more intrusive UN system to monitor disarmament in Iraq" to enforce the sanctions, and thus "prevent military procurement," according to the Iranian news agency IRNA on June 11. Tony Blair's government has proposed a new commission which would have "all of UNSCOM's powers, rights, and responsibilities," but would be "larger and better-resourced," according to Foreign Office Minister Baroness Symons. In testimony before Parliament on June 9, she said that the British demand "would need, in some way, to be more, not less intrusive than before." She said that the Blair government "remained determined to enforce the sanctions regime and to limit as far as possible Iraq's ability to sell oil illegally."

A resolution for this "new intrusiveness" was jointly drafted by Britain and the Dutch, and is under discussion at the UN.

Meanwhile, the old intrusiveness—U.S.-U.K. bombing—continued on June 8, with U.S. warplanes bombing installations in northern Iraq.

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## Osama 'Brit' Laden calls for new jihad vs. U.S.

Just as Britain is preparing for a new wave of international irregular warfare, none other than Her Majesty's favorite "Islamic" terrorist, Osama bin Laden, has emerged from hiding, with his latest call for a holy war against the United States. For the first time, bin Laden appeared on an Arabic TV network, the Qatar-based al-Jazeera, which broadcasts worldwide by satellite and is said to be the most popular Arabic-language TV network.

In a 90-minute interview, the self-exiled Saudi millionaire renewed his phony *fatwa* (religious decree) against the United States, for "occupying" Saudi Arabia. "We are seeking to incite the Islamic nation to rise up to liberate its land and to conduct *jihad* for the sake of God. We are demanding the liberation of our land from the enemy, that our

land be liberated from the Americans." According to the London-based newspaper *al-Quds al-Arabi*, "People all over the Gulf and the Middle East were glued to their seats on Thursday night. They have never seen bin Laden speak in Arabic before. This is the first time an Arabic station has given him a platform."

The interview coincided with an FBI announcement that they had placed bin Laden on their ten most wanted list, for his role in the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last summer. In the interview, bin Laden responded that he was not guilty of masterminding the bombings. "The U.S. accusations are invalid unless they mean I am linked to inciting them. This is clear, and I confess to that. I was one of those who signed the *fatwa* calling for the holy war."

The phony *fatwa* also coincides with renewed reconciliation efforts between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and Iran and the United States. His so-called *fatwa* is invalid, since it can only be issued at the very highest levels of Islam's religious leadership.

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## Ecevit's new Turkish government is sworn in

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit won a parliamentary vote of confidence on June 8, formally bringing his new government into power. The vote was 354 for the new coalition government, out of 550 members of Parliament. Ecevit's Democratic Left party won a plurality in the May election. His coalition partners include the National Action Party, led by Devlet Bahceli, who will serve as Deputy Prime Minister, and the Motherland Party, led by former Prime Minister Mehmet Yilmaz (who will not personally serve in the government). The consolidation of a coalition with such a large majority, and with the solid military backing, promises relative parliamentary stability.

Ecevit's party will control the Foreign, Justice, and Industry ministries, with Ecevit's office, at least formally, will have charge of the intelligence agencies. The Motherland Party will have the Internal Affairs and Fi-

nance portfolios. The National Action Party will control the ministries of Defense, Energy, and Public Works. There is much relief that the National Action Party, which is the political arm of the rabidly anti-Russia, pan-Turkic Grey Wolves, was excluded from control of the Interior Ministry.

In broader regional developments, the Athens daily *To Vima tis Kiriakis* reported on June 6 that Greece and Turkey have set aside their hostilities to cooperate intensely on Balkans reconstruction, including detailed written proposals. Athens is, for the first time, considering combining the "two countries' comparative advantages," so that businessmen from both states will cooperate and increase their effectiveness. "The preliminary work between Athens and Ankara, focussing on Kosovo, can create a momentum that will allow the two countries to secure a better presence than they would have been able to if each acted on its own."

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## Indonesian voting goes smoothly, counting slow

Less than 48 hours after the close of voting in Indonesia's general elections on June 7, Chairman of the General Election Commission (KPU) Rudini has appealed for patience with the slow pace of vote counting; by early evening on June 9, Jakarta time, only about 3%, or 4.5 million of the estimated 116 million votes cast, had been tabulated. Rudini attributed the delay to the extra care being taken at local levels to tabulate and double-check the vote, the logjammed telecommunications that relay information to Jakarta, and the inexperience of the thousands of poll workers.

The election logistics was a gargantuan task, and was approached with painstaking care: Thousands of workers manned 300,000 polling stations in this nation of 400 million, which spans some 17,000 islands across 5,000 miles. The election was to select 25,000 officials for municipal, subdistrict, district, and provincial offices, and the national House of Representatives. Rudini noted that many of those assisting in the count, "in polling places and villages, were street vendors, pedicab drivers, farmers, and

**RICHARD TOMLINSON**, the former MI6 agent, was ordered to leave Switzerland, where he was living, according to the London *Daily Telegraph* on June 8. The Swiss authorities claim that he violated an injunction when he allegedly published a list of MI6 agents. His attorney said he was "seeking advice on appealing the police's decision."

**BRITAIN'S MI6** will attempt to re-style itself as a "European federal intelligence agency," said France's *Le Point* on May 21. MI6's new director, Richard Dearlove, takes over this summer. "Since Tony Blair came to power," wrote *Le Point*, "the hunt for Algerian and Egyptian Islamists, and the Afghan organization of Osama bin Laden, has forged cross-Channel cooperation, aspiring one day to become a European federal service."

**THE SUDANESE** Human Rights Organization has presented a documentary film on slavery in Sudan, reported the international daily *Al-Hayat* on June 11. The documentary shows the slave trade in Sudanese women and children taking place in the areas controlled by British warlord John Garang and his Sudan People's Liberation Army.

**HENRY KISSINGER** spoke before an elite crowd at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mumbai, India (formerly Bombay), in early June. Now that nuclear India and the United States have common interests in pursuing non-proliferation goals, they should work together actively to prevent the spread of weapons, Kissinger said. He has been surprisingly successful in efforts at acting as an unofficial adviser to the Indian government on global strategy.

**CANADIAN** Conrad Black, owner of the British Empire media chain, Hollinger Corp., was scheduled to be made a life peer and member of Britain's House of Lords on June 17. According to the Toronto *Globe and Mail* on June 8, "such appointments are made by the Queen on the advice of Prime Minister Tony Blair."

motorcycle taxi drivers with no experience and skill in organizing elections."

As of June 13, with 63% of the vote counted, the PDI-P of Megawati Sukarnoputri had a plurality of the vote; following in order were the ruling party, Golkar; Abdurrahman Wahid's PKB; Hamzah Haz's PPP; and Amien Rais's PAN. The final, official count was set to be released on June 21, and will be certified on July 8. The new Parliament will meet at the end of August, and the Presidential vote will take place in November. In the meantime, on Aug. 8, citizens in East Timor will vote on the status of their province.

## ***Moscow hosts major Islamic conference***

Moscow was the host of an international conference on "The Role of Islam and the Revival of Spirituality in Russia," on June 5-7. The conference, bringing together Muslim scholars from Russia and many other countries, opened on the 95th anniversary of the establishment of the Moscow mosque, and the fifth anniversary of the opening of the office for Muslims residing in the European part of Russia.

Opening the event was a message from President Boris Yeltsin, who said that the development of democracy in Russia had made possible a revival of Islamic thought, which could play a constructive role. In his speech, the leader of the Moscow Jamé mosque, Ravil Eynoddin, characterized Islam as an integral part of Russian history.

The head of the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization (ICCO), Ayatollah Mohammad-Ali Taskhiri spoke, and was accompanied by Tehran's ambassador to Moscow, Mehdi Safari. According to the Iranian news agency IRNA, Ayatollah Taskhiri stressed the need for "unity among Muslims and cooperation between Islam and Christianity as a guarantor of stability, key to settlement of regional and international disputes, and a means to further flourish human civilization." He echoed President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami's view that such cooperation would serve human civilization and at the same time pre-

serve the interests of the believers.

As a side-bar to the conference, Ayatollah Taskhiri met with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues. Ayatollah Taskhiri said that Iran was determined to further expand relations with Russia "and called for a more precise and transparent definition of long-term strategic programs" between the two. Praising cooperation on Tajikistan and Afghanistan, he said the Caucasus and the Caspian Sea were other regions where the two should collaborate. Ivanov said he hoped further cooperation would help settle regional and international disputes.

## ***Tamil Tigers restructure activities from London***

Anton Stanislaus Balasingham, the Oxford-trained theoretician and political adviser to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), has shifted his base to London from northern Sri Lanka, where he was living with his Australian wife. Citing Tiger sources, India's daily *The Hindu* reported on June 8, that Balasingham has been sent to Britain by the Tiger supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran, for two purposes. First, to restructure the LTTE's London-based international secretariat, and to spearhead a global propaganda drive from there. Second, to begin seeking third-party mediation to revive negotiations between the Sri Lankan government and the Tigers—as Britain had earlier attempted to do. According to *The Hindu*, the Balasinghams already hold British passports.

News of the reorganization occurs amid reports that the Tigers, who killed Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 on behalf of British intelligence, are gunning for his widow, Sonia Gandhi, now leader of the Congress Party. Planning for the murder reportedly took place in Toronto. There had been earlier reports that the LTTE had been planning to move to South Africa, after Britain passed long-overdue legislation in the U.K., banning terrorists from planning overseas actions from British soil. This no longer seems to be the case.

## Paris gathering heeds 'wise words of LaRouche'

Paris was the site on May 26, of an intense debate about the alternatives to war proposed by Lyndon LaRouche, to reconstruct the Balkans, and thereby spark world economic recovery. Over 150 people gathered to hear speakers from Asia, Russia, France, the United States, and Mexico, on the theme "The Eurasian Land-Bridge for Peace: France, Catalyst between East and West." Among the participants of the conference sponsored by the French Solidarity and Progress movement (*Solidarité et Progrès*), which is associated with LaRouche, were diplomatic representatives from Africa, Asia, and eastern Europe, media from Iran, China, Britain, Indonesia, and Slovenia, as well as international associations such as the Russian Cultural Center, and local associations such as the World Conference of Religions for Peace, Pluralist Left, ATTAC (a group opposing financial speculation), and others. In addition, activists and supporters of the *Solidarité et Progrès* from all over France attended the meeting.

Among the high points, was the reading of a message to the conference from former Mexican President José López Portillo (1977-82), the statesman who had used the threat of a debt moratorium to push for the creation of a new world economic order. In his remarks, López Portillo reiterated his call, made a year and a half ago, when he shared a podium with Helga Zepp-LaRouche: "It is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche." The gathering certainly heeded the appeal of the elder statesman, staying until late in the evening to listen to and debate ideas and plans for action.

In his keynote, Jacques Cheminade, president of *Solidarité et Progrès*, elaborated on the way that effective reconstruction of the war-torn Balkans region will serve as a lever to shift economic policy, and generate recovery from the

world economic depression. Cheminade outlined the Balkans program, as well as the Eurasian Land-Bridge policy, and focussed on the need for France to wholeheartedly endorse the effort. The crying need for global monetary, financial, and economic reform was illustrated by speakers from Malaysia, Mexico, and Russia, who documented in heart-rending terms, the process whereby the International Monetary Fund and international speculators had descended upon their countries like vultures, ravaging living standards and annihilating decades of progress.

How monetary reform of the type LaRouche demands can save an economy, was illustrated by Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam of Malaysia. Prof. Taras Muranivsky, president of the Schiller Institute in Russia and a prolific editorialist in the Russian press, drew a dramatic picture of the decade-long destruction of the Russian economy since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and chronicled the steps taken during Yevgeni Primakov's tenure as Prime Minister, to reestablish a certain economic order.

A nearly identical image depicted emerged from the speech of Marivilia Carrasco, president of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement in Mexico, who reported on the policy fight raging throughout Ibero-America. All the speakers highlighted the role LaRouche's ideas have come to play in their nations.

Concluding the panel, Muriel Mirak-Weissbach of *EIR* summarized the challenging perspective launched by LaRouche, that effective interaction among the different nations engaged in the Eurasian Land-Bridge will generate a new revolution in science and technology; in this process, man will finally be able to grasp the "common language of cognition" (see Lyndon LaRouche, "The Coming Scientific Revolution," *EIR*, April 30, 1999).