

# International Intelligence

## ***Vatican, Jewish leaders to meet***

The Vatican has agreed to a "substantive" meeting with American Jewish leaders in Rome. Cardinal Jan Willebrands, head of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, issued a formal invitation in a telephone conversation with Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, said Synagogue Council spokesman Gunther Lawrence.

"The meeting will be a substantive one," said Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress, "not just one in which there are two one-way ceremonial statements."

Details of the Rome meeting have yet to be worked out, but Pope John Paul is expected to participate in at least some portions of the meeting, as are Cardinal Casaroli, the Vatican Secretary of State, and Cardinal Willebrands.

Tensions have run high between the papacy and those "American Jewish leaders" associated with whiskey-peddler Edgar Bronfman. During the month of July, after Bronfman's World Jewish Congress promoted unfounded Soviet-concocted stories of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's "Nazi past," the Pope expressed his displeasure with such favors for the Kremlin by granting a personal audience to Waldheim.

## ***Changes at the top in Afghanistan?***

Leadership changes may be afoot in Afghanistan. Moscow's Afghan puppet leader, Najibullah, has been sent to the "southern U.S.S.R. . . . to continue his medical treatment," TASS reported Aug. 4. On July 19, he was called to Moscow, on sudden notice for talks with Mikhail Gorbachov.

The Soviet press reported his departure from Moscow on July 21, without naming his destination, as is customary.

On Aug. 1, Radio Moscow reported a meeting of the Revolutionary Council in Kabul, with no mention of Najibullah. The TASS statement of Aug. 4 finally clarified the question of his whereabouts.

His deposed predecessor, Babrak Karmal, was also exiled to the Soviet Union for "medical treatment."

## ***Mecca riots were an attempted coup***

Ayatollah Khomeini was to be proclaimed "spiritual leader of all Muslims," Iranian leaders succeeding in pulling a coup in Saudi Arabia under cover of the rioting that occurred in Mecca at the end of July.

Involved was a six-point plan in which the Iranian rioting in Mecca were only the first stage, Saudi Arabia's *Okaz* newspaper claimed Aug. 4.

*Okaz*, which always reflects government opinion, said its report was based on preliminary results of an investigation into the riots. More than 400 died.

The first stage of the coup plan was to block the entrances of Mecca's Grand Mosque during afternoon prayers, at which time Iranian demonstrators—some reports say as many as 15,000 of them were Revolutionary Guards out of uniform—planned to call for proclamation of Khomeini as the "sacred imam of Muslims."

They would then "oblige the pilgrims and the people who had come for prayers to pledge allegiance to the leaders of the demonstration at the scene and to the position of Khomeini."

The fourth point of the plan was to declare Qom, Khomeini's bailiwick in Iran, "a sacred city and pilgrimage place for all Muslims, replacing Mecca and the holy sites" in Saudi Arabia.

The Iranian demonstration leaders also planned to kill the imam of the Grand Mosque and anyone else who opposed them. The final stage of the plan consisted of "burning parts of the Kaaba," the structure in the Grand Mosque's holy-of-holies that Muslims face

when they pray, in order "to make the faithful turn away."

Several leading Iranian terrorists were in Mecca to oversee the coup, according to the Iranian Mujahedeen, who are now allied with Iraq. The coup plotters included Gen. Sayad Shirazi, who is Khomeini's personal representative on the Supreme Defense Council; Sadeq Khalkhali, a parliamentary deputy and top terrorist leader; Fakredeen Hedjazi, a Parliament member close to the Hezbollah of Lebanon, and Ayatollah Mehdi Karrubi, the leader of the Iranian pilgrims.

## ***400,000 AIDS cases in Brazil***

There are 400,000 AIDS cases in Brazil, the coordinator of that country's National Program of Control of Transmissible Sexual Diseases has declared. Lair Guerra de Macedo said that over 90% of them do not know they have AIDS, and are continuing to spread the disease among Brazil's population of 130 million.

Officially, there are only 1,835 registered cases, but she estimates there are more than 3,000 terminal cases now in hospitals.

Tuberculosis has risen from the ninth cause of death in 1983 to second in 1986, thanks to collateral infections of AIDS victims.

She advocated building special hospital wings for AIDS patients, since now they are just "sent to solitary rooms where they die without adequate medical assistance."

She said the Health Ministry, which has no budget for testing, had gotten state companies to agree to test all new employees and would get that measure into the employment regulations for the private sector.

The country was shaken when it was reported in the first week of August that a member of Brazil's Senate died of AIDS. The 2,200 employees at the presidential palace will now be tested. Prisoners in Rio state jails will also be tested.