

talize on its superior irregular warfare capabilities to defeat the MPLA onslaught. However, as the result of the levels of fighting, UNITA significantly depleted its stockpiles of arms. The sources were unable to confirm whether or not the Bush administration has yet made good on its commitment to continue arming UNITA, particularly with Stinger missiles, which have effectively neutralized the MPLA air force.

In the midst of the MPLA offensive, Fidel Castro announced that he was putting off his withdrawal of Cuban troops, which had been a cornerstone of the Angola-South Africa-Cuba Brazzaville Accords of December 1988, under which Namibian independence was approved. Over 20,000 Cuban soldiers remain in Angola. Furthermore, some regional military experts have voiced concern that several hundred combat-trained Cuban pilots who left Angola but simply took up temporary assignments in South Yemen, could be brought back on short notice. The inexperienced MPLA pilots who replaced them reportedly have been ineffective in air strikes against UNITA positions during the current battle around Jamba.

Sources in Windhoek say that the first real test of SWAPO's independence from its former Soviet bloc supporters will take place on Independence Day, March 21. It is expected that the Angolan regime will seek permission from the Namibian government to allow MPLA forces to pass through Namibian territory in order to encircle the UNITA stronghold from the south. Such a two-front attack, up to now always prevented by the presence of South African military units along the Angolan-Namibian border, would radically alter the military situation for Dr. Savimbi, and would jeopardize the fragile basis for the entire regional peace arrangement.

It is here that the Windhoek observers underscore the outside factors. They believe that, left to their own devices, the SWAPO leadership, who will dominate the first independent government in Namibia, will seek to retain the peace and stability that has characterized the past six months of elections and constitution drafting, and will focus on rebuilding the country's flagging economy. Outside forces hostile to such a course—both in the Soviet sphere and in the Anglo-American domain—could wreak havoc if they successfully shape the agenda.

As *EIR* has warned repeatedly over the past year, British circles associated with Tiny Rowland's Lonrho represent one major source of such potential interference. (See *EIR* series, "The 'Tiny' Rowland File," Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 24, and Dec. 8, 1989.)

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last year, rumors spread throughout the Windhoek business community that Rowland and South African Harry Oppenheimer of the Anglo-American Corporation had proposed a series of looting schemes to SWAPO head Sam Ujoma, which would have turned over virtually all of the raw material wealth of the country to the two British multinationals.

Was PanAm 103 an 'allowable casualty'?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In an exclusive interview published in the Jan. 20 newsletter of *Middle East Insider*, Dr. Jim Swire, the chairman of U.K. Families Flight 103, which represents the families of 35 British nationals who were killed on Dec. 21, 1988 when the Pan American World Airways jetliner was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, offered the observation that the massacre may have been an "allowable casualty" based on an agreement between the American government and the Ayatollah.

"It does begin to look suspiciously to us, as though there may have been some tradeoff, about which we would know very little. One can imagine a scenario, where someone like President Bush—who, as we know, has released some \$60 million to Iran, [and] has paid some \$30 million for the Iranian Airbus [shot down by the *USS Vincennes* in July 1988] would wish not to have any obstruction to his attempts to repair relations between the two countries.

"For all we know, it may be that some Iranian source whispered in somebody's American ear: 'Look, we are not going to get anywhere until we have revenge for the Airbus.'

"It could be American policy, that no special steps should be taken to prevent that from happening, in the interest that better relations between the two countries could be established. . . . [With] the number of warnings that we now know about, coupled with the total lack of sensible response to those warnings, it is hard to believe that it could just be incompetence.

"One begins to wonder about whether there was some positive reason why it was deliberately engineered to occur in this way. It is all supposition, we cannot prove it, but we are certainly bent on trying to get to the truth, because none of us accepts that the death of members of our families is a reasonable price to pay for any diplomatic or economic advantage which may have been gained by any country through the disaster happening."

A 'Dr. Strangelove' scenario

As far-fetched as Dr. Swire's hypothesis of "allowable casualties" might seem at first blush, a precedent in fact exists for precisely such a callous tradeoff of lives for global balance of power diplomacy.

In 1958, at the point when the Anglo-Americans and the Soviets were working on forging a post-Stalin set of global rules of engagement, Dr. Leo Szilard (who was popularized

in the movie "Dr. Strangelove") addressed a crucial meeting of the Pugwash Conference. Dr. Szilard proposed that an agreement be struck between Washington and Moscow that, should either side ever carry out a nuclear attack against a major population center in the other country, a reciprocal attack would be "permitted" against a similar size city to avert all-out thermonuclear war.

Such mad logic has been a recurring theme in superpower relations ever since the launching of the Pugwash charnel. Dr. Henry A. Kissinger is one of the preeminent Pugwash participants whose policies have gained wide prominence in the present Bush administration.

Whether Dr. Swire's view proves to be accurate or not, recurring evidence does now exist that both the Bush and Thatcher regimes have been engaged in a top-down coverup of the Lockerbie tragedy. In a recent syndicated column, Jack Anderson charged that in April 1989, Bush and Thatcher spoke by phone and agreed to conceal the fact that both U.S. and British intelligence knew with "95% certainty" that the PanAm 103 bombing had been carried out on orders from Ayatollah Khomeini and current Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the man whom official Washington has labeled a "moderate," with the logistical backing of the Syrian regime and the active participation of the PFLP-General Command of Ahmed Jibril.

Since the Bush-Thatcher conversation, both U.S. and British intelligence have worked to systematically cover up the Lockerbie massacre.

In late January, a team of investigators, an attorney, and a polygraph specialist for Pan American World Airways traveled to London, where they interviewed three PanAm employees who were working in the baggage area of Frankfurt International Airport the day of the bombing. According to sources close to the investigation, at least one of the three, a Turkish-born West German citizen, failed the polygraph test. When a PanAm attorney attempted to pass the findings of the polygraph on to Scottish investigators, he was reportedly visited by Scotland Yard agents and was threatened with arrest for interfering in an official investigation.

Upon the group's return to the United States, the polygraph specialist was immediately served with a subpoena to appear before a federal grand jury in Washington, D.C., according to news accounts. Ostensibly convened to gather evidence on the Lockerbie massacre, the grand jury has been identified as a key part of the Bush administration's damage-control effort.

The grand jury probe is being headed by Department of Justice attorney Brian Murtaugh, a former U.S. Attorney in North Carolina who gained some notoriety for his prosecution of Dr. Jeffrey McDonald, a retired Green Beret physician who was convicted of murdering his family. Sources close to the McDonald case believe that the prosecution covered up a Manson-like murder cult which actually did the murders and seriously wounded Dr. McDonald.

The Cartagena Summit

Andean nations reject Bush military sprees

by José Restrepo

Although the U.S. news media presented the Feb. 15 Cartagena anti-drug summit as a big success for the war against drug trafficking, and the U.S. President George Bush said, "we have in fact created the first anti-drug cartel," the reality is that the Presidents of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia rejected Bush's main proposal: using U.S. military personnel to control the air space over and in the international waters around the Andean countries.

Colombian President Virgilio Barco opened the summit with a reminder: "We Colombians are on the firing line. For us, it's more than a war of words. We are upholding our convictions in order to defend the very essence of our democracy. We shall move forward in spite of the sacrifices that we have had to take on. No, Colombia will not weaken. We will not let the death of thousands of Colombians be in vain." However, Barco stressed that in order to win the war, Colombia needs economic justice and that the advanced sector must crack down on drug consumption and money laundering with the same seriousness with which Colombia is crushing the drug traffickers.

Barco and other moral Ibero-Americans yearn for a United States willing to help win the battle against the narco-terrorists afflicting their countries. But, despite Bush's flashy video bits, they did not find it.

Where's the beef?

"For Colombia," said Barco, "Colombia who has had to bear the very expensive cost of this struggle, the success is not based on only getting more external aid but in receiving fair treatment on our exports and that the United States and the European Community help us." The other two Presidents, Peru's Alan García and Bolivia's Jaime Paz Zamora, also sought trade and economic assistance from the U.S. "Where's the beef?" García asked.

President Barco especially remonstrated the United States for undermining the International Coffee Pact which used to guarantee reasonable prices for Colombia's biggest legal export and for impending U.S. tariff sanctions against Colombia's second top legal export, cut flowers.

However, Bush, at the press conference after the meeting, said that although the United States will help these coun-