

# International Intelligence

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## ***Arafat: PLO will survive and grow***

"We are experts in matters of survival," said Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat, in an interview with the weekend edition of the Paris daily *Le Figaro* published July 20-21.

Asked about the fate of the PLO after its total disarmament by the Lebanese Army, Arafat responded: "We will exist no matter what. Remember in 1979, Brzezinski, Carter's special adviser, declared: 'Goodbye, PLO!' In 1982, during the war in Lebanon, the Israelis and their allies sang this tune again. We are experts in matters of survival, and one day, we will re-emerge from difficulties, from the pit into which we are now plunged, stronger than ever. . . ."

"It is wrong to say we are isolated. No one will ever succeed in eliminating 6.5 million Palestinians from the face of the Earth. . . . They tried already to liquidate the Palestinians, who are still there."

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## ***Bolivia reduces sentences for narcos who surrender***

The Bolivian government is permitting all drug traffickers who surrender in the next 120 days to be free of the threat of extradition to the United States or other countries, just as in Colombia. Also as in Colombia, all traffickers who confess and help finger other traffickers will have reduced sentences. A government official said that this is being done to preempt a violent phase such as Colombia has been going through for years. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra said that the plan "will get a good reception from the traffickers."

On cue, Erwin Guzman, a.k.a. "The Lieutenant," a former Army officer and leader of Bolivia's narcotics cartel, turned himself in to police on July 11, a few days after taking out an ad in the Roman Catholic newspaper *Presencia* saying that "he has great faith in our judicial system."

Although he is wanted by the U.S. gov-

ernment, which may go through the motions of requesting extradition, there is no doubt that his action is part of an attempt to repeat in Bolivia the charade of the "surrender" of the Pablo Escobar gang in Colombia, on the guarantee that they will not be extradited. He is one of 10 men who were the target of a raid led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in June, which failed to nab any of its suspects, because the local government tipped off the traffickers.

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## ***Kurdish leader charges foreign interference***

Kurdish Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani has charged that "foreign hands" are behind the latest unrest in northern Iraq. Amidst the international media uproar about the latest "Iraqi crimes" against the Kurds in the region, the London *Guardian* on July 20 quoted Barzani claiming that the death toll in the latest fighting was only 100, not the several hundred widely reported.

Beyond this, Barzani blamed "people opposed to any deal" between the Baghdad regime and the Kurds, as instigators of the clashes, and warned of "foreign hands playing or trying to play in the area."

The *Guardian* then reported an Iraqi government allegation that "Iranian agents" were fomenting the unrest. Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hammadi told the Iraqi News Agency: "Iranian elements and other agents of Iran crossed the border illegally and some were captured. They had lots of money to distribute to their followers."

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## ***China, Pakistan, Iran oppose 'U.S. dominance'***

A Beijing-Islamabad-Teheran axis against a "U.S.-dominated new world order" is now taking shape, according to the July 20-21 issue of the *Berliner Zeitung*. At the conclusion of the recent visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng to Teheran, the final official declaration committed the two countries

to work together to oppose "U.S. dominance." Also, during the recent visit of Iranian Chief of Staff Moshin Rezal to Pakistan, the two countries discussed closer strategic and military cooperation.

The paper says that the Pentagon is worried about the growing cooperation between Teheran and Islamabad.

China reportedly feels increasingly threatened by Washington, while Pakistan sees relations with Iran as giving it more maneuvering room vis-à-vis India.

In January, the head of the Iranian Navy, Ali Shamkhani, said that "Iran will create, together with Pakistan, an important part of an Islamic defense line in the region." It is expected that Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is soon to go to Islamabad.

The article gives certain dimensions of Iranian-Pakistani cooperation: 1) joint diplomacy around Afghanistan; 2) the building of munitions factories in Iran with Pakistani help; 3) the training of Iranian officers in Rawalpindi; and 4) the building of an oil refinery in Karachi that can provide Iranian oil to India through Pakistan.

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## ***Panama's government 'most inept ever'***

"The Endara government is the most inept that we have ever had in Panama, even taking into account the years of dictatorship from 1968 to 1989," stated Tomas Herrera, a leader of Panama's Civic Crusade, who had actively contributed to bringing Guillermo Endara to power in the first place, in an interview with France's *Le Monde* published on July 20. Endara was installed as President by the U.S. Army, following the December 1989 invasion of that country.

The front-page article is entitled: "Panama From Dictatorship to Dictatorship, Incompetence and Corruption: One Year After the Departure of General Noriega, the Popularity of President Endara Is in Free Fall." *Le Monde* Central America correspondent Bertrand de la Grange writes that Herrera's view is "more and more openly expressed in all sectors of society." Throughout Panama,

one hears accusations of "incompetence," "corruption," and "nepotism" thrown against Endara.

Another case is Roberto Troncoso, president of the Panamanian Commission for Human Rights, who sees no improvement in the human rights situation relative to what it was under General Noriega.

It seems, the article continues, that the only effect of the American intervention was to "aggravate poverty and violence." Reports are that drugs now are "more abundant and better marketed than before." Unemployment is 25% among the economically active population, and people are endlessly being called upon to accept new sacrifices. A friend of President Endara, lawyer Manuel Garcia, told de la Grange that it is impossible to keep demanding austerity for low-level functionaries, when "incompetent people" are appointed as government "advisers" and receive huge salaries.

## ***Israeli judge faults police in Al Aqsa riot***

Israeli Judge Ezra Kama has completed a nine-month investigation into the October 1990 clash at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque, which left 21 Palestinians dead. According to Kama's conclusions, "the behavior of certain police deviated from the realm of reasonable need to use live gunfire," although he did accept the idea that some of the police officers faced "real dangers" and therefore were justified in shooting into the crowd.

According to Kama's account, the incident started when the Israeli police "accidentally" fired a tear-gas canister into a group of worshipping Palestinian women, which triggered stone-throwing against nearby worshipping Israeli Jews. The police fired back, often, according to the judge, without aiming, through a partially opened gate.

Kama's account largely contradicts that of an Israeli government-appointed commission of inquiry, which found the police blameless. However, Kama ruled that no charges should be brought against any of the policemen, since it was impossible to know

who had fired which shot. This led police officers in the courtroom to shout with joy. The reason for this lack of evidence, is that the police had collected no evidence after the shooting.

## ***Group of 30 calls for one-world government***

A new report released on July 12 by the so-called Group of 30, a private body whose members include leading international bankers and financial luminaries, calls for strengthening the Group of Seven economic summit system to the point where it would function virtually as a supranational dictatorship. "The summit process . . . should be strengthened, to lay a firm basis for future collective leadership" and the "sharing of responsibility for global security among the major industrial nations," says the study.

The report recommends that the summiters adopt a "core agenda," which would include those areas that "require high-level agreement for effective policy coordination." These would include debt, the environment, trade and investment, defense, and economic policy coordination. Summits would have a "special role in managing the links between international policies" in these areas.

The report proposes setting up a "surveillance system" which would monitor each country's performance in these areas. For example, "national savings as a percent of GNP or GDP" as well as countries' annual inflation rates, would be monitored, as would the amount a country spends on its military and its overall energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions.

The study also calls for several institutional changes in the summit's follow-through mechanism, including upgrading the IMF's participation in the process, beefing up the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and establishing a new institution, similar to the European Council of Ministers, which would "steer the affairs of the industrial countries as a group."

● **CHINESE** Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin is planning to attend the September session of the U.N. General Assembly, following a three-nation tour of Ibero-America. This will be the first time a top Communist Party leader has addressed the U.N. Plans are not final, but the *South China Morning Post* from Hong Kong reports that he also plans to tour other U.S. cities.

● **THE SOVIET ARMY'S** 23rd Division, based in the Caucasus, "used automatic weapons in the attack on the villages of Manashid, Erkeshe and Buzluk in the region of Shaumian" in mid-July, a report by the Armenian government stated. The troops that attacked had been ordered to move out of the villages, but, according to Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrossian, "had not moved very far away."

● **HENRY KISSINGER** will visit Brazil in October. He will be preceded by a preparatory delegation led by William D. Rogers and Alan Batkin.

● **CHINA** has determined that its 8% ethnic (non-Han) population can no longer be excluded from the policy of forced birth limits. The journal of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences reports that the 1990 census showed an increase in "ethnics" from 55.8 million in 1978 to 91.2 million in 1990. "While the ethnic population surged, its general quality has declined," said the journal, using eugenics terminology.

● **HUNGARIAN** President Goencz has sent a letter to Pope John Paul II "in which the President assured his total support for the ideas of the latest social encyclical," *Centesimus Annus*, reported the *Budapester Rundschau* on June 3. The letter was delivered personally by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszensky.