

International Intelligence

President Ramos to push population control

Fidel Ramos was sworn in as President of the Philippines on June 30, replacing Corazon Aquino. According to press reports, Ramos's plan "to carry out a program to curb rapid population growth," is going to run into strong opposition in the predominantly Catholic country.

Ramos has appointed Juan Flavio, a strong advocate of population planning, to head the Department of Health. In his inaugural speech, Ramos sought to downplay his religious background, saying: "I am not the first Protestant President; I am the 12th Philippine President, who happens to be a Protestant."

Cardinal Jaime Sin did not attend Ramos's inauguration. According to Reuters, he insisted that no rift exists between the two sides, but said that he was not prepared to unconditionally support Ramos. "When the laws are against the laws of God, then naturally how can you cooperate? God is more superior to any other authorities in this country," the cardinal said.

Iraqi death rates soar from embargo

"Ninety-three of every 1,000 children born in Iraq die now," Iraqi Undersecretary of Health Dr. Abduljabbar Abdulabbas told Reuters on June 29. "This is almost 300% higher than the child mortality rate of 25 per 1,000 we had before the imposition of the unjust embargo," he said, referring to sanctions in force against Iraq since soon after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Abdulabbas said 14,678 children under the age of five died in the first four months of this year because of the lack of drugs and food caused by the sanctions. "The death toll is rising," he said, adding that nearly 18% of Iraqi children were underweight at birth. Diarrhea, he said, killed 4 out of every 1,000 infants born in Iraq. "Before the sanctions it was 1 for every 1,000," he said.

Dr. Ala'uddin Mahmoud, director general of the Kimadia company, which used to

import most drugs and chemical supplies, said his stores were almost empty. "We used to be the biggest importers of drugs and medical supplies in the Middle East. All that was shipped to Iraq in the past two years does not exceed 3-4% of the demand. We have almost used our stockpiles. The situation of medical supplies is very disturbing," he said.

Abdulabbas said the number of surgical operations carried out in Iraqi hospitals had dwindled from over 15,000 to less than 5,000 per month. "The rest either die or wait impatiently for the drugs or equipment which we cannot afford to buy."

New U.S.-Jordan confrontation erupting

Relations between the United States and Jordan over the sanctions against Iraq have been strained following a secretive trip by U.S. Central Intelligence Agency chief Robert Gates to Jordan in late June. According to one source from the Middle East, Gates went to ask the Jordanians to allow U.N. and U.S. "supervisors" to check the export and import of goods into Iraq from Jordan, and to establish a special mission at the port of Aqaba for this purpose. According to the source, "The Jordanians flatly refused."

German radio reported on July 1 that President George Bush personally criticized Jordan for its unwillingness to cooperate on the sanctions, while announcing that the sanctions against Iraq had to be tightened. As a result of Jordan's refusal, plans are reportedly being laid to have U.N. inspectors inside Iraq stop and turn back trucks carrying embargoed goods.

Rabin government solidly in power in Israel

The 15-year reign of the Likud Party was ended as the result of June 30 elections in Israel. Yitzhak Rabin began forming a new Labor Party-led government, which will remain in power for the next four years.

The Labor Party is expected to rule in a

stable coalition. Out of a total of 120 seats in the Knesset (the Parliament), the Labor Party increased its seats from 38 to 45, while one of its "leftist" allies, Meretz, increased from 10 to 12 seats. Another likely coalition partner, the Shas, a Sephardic religious party, won 7 seats, giving the Labor coalition 64 votes. Moreover, three other religious parties, most of which had supported Likud, have announced that they are ready to join a Labor-led coalition. While the Arab and Communist parties (5 seats) have not asked to join the government, they are expected to vote with Labor, particularly on no-confidence votes.

According to Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories, Jordanians, Egyptians, and others, the economy dominated the election. "The voters blamed the government for squandering resources, for high unemployment, and high inflation. They voted with their pocketbook," said one. "The Russian Jews" (there are now 250,000 Russian immigrant potential voters) "voted for Labor overwhelmingly. Unemployment is over 50% in many immigrant areas," said another. The Likud also lost its party base. "The Likud could not deliver in Tel Aviv, for projects it had promised its base, because it had to divert funds to build settlements," one said. "I wish I could say it was because the Israelis want peace with the Arabs, but such issues were purely secondary."

Voters also saw former Premier Yitzhak Shamir's confrontation with President Bush leading to an economic disaster. "The Israelis feared not only losing the loan guarantees, but everything else. Israel is a subsidized economy," one noted. "This was a victory of the Bush administration, and is a replica of 1977. In 1977, the Americans wanted to put in the Likud, and they did. Now they did the reverse."

South Africa could face civil war, warns Buthelezi

Inkatha chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi warned that South Africa could be plunged into civil war by the refusal of the African National Congress (ANC) to continue talks for a new constitution, the June 28 *Washing-*

Briefly

ton Post reported.

The rivalry between Inkatha and the ANC has escalated to the point that ANC professional assassination squads have killed 80 Inkatha officials since the ANC was legalized in February 1990. Over 200 Inkatha officials have been killed since 1985.

Others, however, are looking to use the crisis to expand the policing role of the U.N. Speaking in Dakar, Senegal at a three-day summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the U.N. will move into the South African crisis, Reuters reported July 2. "It can be a U.N. observer, which we have already done. It can be a U.N. mediator. It can be just a fact-finding mission," he said. Boutros-Ghali said that the parties taking part in South Africa's stalled democracy talks had agreed in principle that some U.N. assistance was necessary.

Boutros-Ghali met ANC leader Nelson Mandela in Dakar after a stopover the previous week in Nigeria, where he spoke to South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha. Mandela is quoted by Reuters saying that he had already called three months ago for a U.N. peacekeeping force to be sent to South Africa.

The OAU called for "the urgent convening of a meeting of the U.N. Security Council to examine the issue of violence in South Africa and to take all appropriate action to put an end to it."

Nations defy greenies, resume whaling

The annual meeting in late June of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Glasgow, Scotland, was thrown into turmoil by the announcements from Iceland, Japan, Norway, and Russia that they intend to resume whaling. Iceland quit the IWC and announced the formation of a rival group, the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, and said that Norway, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands had already agreed to join.

A French plan to create a whale sanctu-

ary in Antarctica was denounced by the Japanese Whaling Association, which said, "The French proposal was framed by a group of old-line environmental fundraisers who have tried to turn the whale into a sacred cash-cow since the 1960s."

"'Save the Whale' is an antiquated demand. Stocks are plentiful," said Gudmundur Eriksson, an IWC commissioner from Iceland. "The commission has structured itself in such a way that a rabid minority can determine the trend of the commission as a whole."

British free trade: only at the Queen's pleasure

The Crown Estate, which purchases, owns, and manages land and property on behalf of the Queen of England, has ordered White Horse Ferries to immediately cease operating a ferry service across the Thames River between Tilbury and Gravesend, the June 23 London *Financial Times* reported.

White Horse had bought out the previous operator of the service earlier this year, but the Crown Estate maintains that the route license for the ferry, which has been in continuous operation since 1086, is non-transferable and should not have been sold. According to the paper, a license for the ferry from Tilbury was inherited by the Royal Family in the 15th century, and are issued at the discretion of the Crown.

Peter Lay, chief executive of White Horse, told the *Financial Times* that the Crown Estate is simply trying to extort a higher price for the Tilbury license. "Their motives are financial. They want to hold us to ransom," he stated. White Horse is ignoring the House of Windsor's displeasure for the time being.

The *Financial Times* article, meanwhile, revealed that the value of the properties held by the British Royal Family collapsed more than 12% in 1990. The assessment referred only to the land and properties held by the Crown Estate. It may be possible that members of the Royal Family have other holdings and financial interests other than those held by the Crown Estate.

● **NORWEGIANS** who oppose the Maastricht Treaty of European Union are increasing in number, an opinion poll published by the June 22 *Aftenposten* daily found. Some 49% of those who were polled objected to entry of Norway into the European Community, and only 35% were in favor. France, meanwhile, has set September 20 as the date for a referendum on ratification of the treaty.

● **THE VINCENNES**, a U.S. warship, "was in Iranian territorial waters," not international waters as previously claimed, when it shot down an Iranian airliner killing 290 persons on July 3, 1988, Adm. William Crowe (ret.), former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an interview taped for the July 1 ABC News program "Nightline," Reuters reported.

● **A CHINESE** intermediate court has upheld a lower court ruling that euthanasia is legal. The lower court ruling said that a man who murdered his sick mother by lethal injection, and the doctor who helped him, were not guilty, since they had only "hastened" her death, not caused it, Reuters reported June 30.

● **INDONESIA** rejected attempts to involve the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in the problem of people who have fled the Indonesian province of Aceh for Malaysia, in a statement on June 30 by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Reuters reported. "Our position is that they are illegal immigrants. There has been agreement between Malaysia and Indonesia," Alatas said. "We will try to settle the issue bilaterally."

● **THE SERBS** have established a slave labor system based on deported Bosnian civilians, a Sarajevo media source told *EIR* in Bonn on June 24. He reported that, according to an official report of the Bosnian government leaked to the press, at least 60,000 civilians have already been deported as slave labor to Serbia.