

International Intelligence

Sharon calls for civil disobedience

According to a report in the *International Jerusalem Post* the week of April 4, Israeli Likud leader Gen. Ariel Sharon called for "massive nonviolent resistance" to any government attempt to remove Jewish settlers from Hebron. He called upon "tens of thousands" to join in resistance, saying that such action is "the single, last, and only measure which we can take to combat the sheer madness of this government's capitulation to the PLO, even if the government persists in telling us that the expulsion of Jews from the second holiest city in Judaism is its own initiative."

Sharon's demagoguery continued: "Many thousands will flock to the city to foil the scheme to make Hebron *Judenrein*. But I stress that they must come unarmed so that no provocation could possibly occur. . . . I emphasize that no Israeli should lift a hand against an IDF soldier."

Aide to Mitterrand commits suicide

The list of French President François Mitterrand's aides who have committed suicide or died sudden deaths continues to grow. On the night of April 7, Mitterrand's close adviser François de Grossouvre was found dead, a pistol in his hand, at his office in the Elysée presidential palace.

An adviser to Mitterrand since the 1950s, de Grossouvre conducted many secret missions for Mitterrand and acted as the President's liaison to the secret services and to many dirty operations. De Grossouvre was Mitterrand's special envoy to Lebanon, Syria, and other Middle East countries. Press accounts of the suicide report that de Grossouvre seemed "very tired" in his last days. The daily *Libération* reported that he had complained bitterly that Mitterrand was no longer listening to him as much as before.

De Grossouvre had testified last year in a case involving a loan given by financier Roger Patrice Pelat, another friend of Mit-

terrand who died suddenly, to former Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy, who also committed suicide some months ago.

Russia complains of western espionage

Russian counterintelligence official Sergei Stepashin declared on April 5 that Russia would upgrade its counterespionage measures. He said that western and other espionage against his country had reached such an intensity that the functioning of vital processes in the military-industrial sector was being threatened, according to the Itar-Tass news agency in Moscow.

A number of foreign spies, some of them in the diplomatic community, were arrested in Russia over the preceding two weeks, the report said, without naming names or disclosing other details.

In a related development, the Russian national Vadim Sintsov, who worked for British foreign intelligence and was arrested recently, was produced on Russian TV April 1 in a kind of a show-trial arrangement, confessing that he had gathered top-secret information about Russia's military presence in, and deals with, Mideastern countries.

Winning coalition breaks up in Italy

Instead of the stability promised by the electoral reform that was supposed to give birth to Italy's Second Republic, new instabilities emerged after the first attempts to form a government among the parties that won the March 27-28 elections. Negotiations among leaders of the center-right coalition broke down, because of the unsuccessful attempt to find a common platform between the Northern League and Forza Italia ("Go Italy"). Northern League leader Umberto Bossi refused to support a government led by Forza Italia leader and media magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

Berlusconi tried to iron out the differences, but Bossi refused to participate in the negotiations and sent his number-two man,

Roberto Maroni. Bossi has demanded as a precondition for participating in any government, that a new "federal" Constitution be drafted, to reduce the powers of the central government, mainly on tax matters. Furthermore, the Northern League "Duce" has stated that a government led by Berlusconi would be a "threat to democracy."

By announcing the breakdown of the negotiations, Berlusconi declared that he is now waiting for President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to appoint a candidate for prime minister, as he is authorized to do under the Constitution. Berlusconi added that if the formation of a government turns out to be impossible, "we would give a unique answer: We would go back to the voters to complete the clean-up."

In the new Parliament, no stable majority is possible without the Northern League.

Papandreou blames Germany, Vatican for war

Greek Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou on April 1 blamed the war in the Balkans on the policies of Germany and the Vatican. "We want to remind everyone that the drama of Yugoslavia is the creation of the European Union [EU], particularly Germany and the Vatican," he said.

"In our geopolitical region, the new elements are the resilience shown by Serbia, the reemergence of an active role by Russia, and the threatened military presence of Turkey in the Balkans," Papandreou said. "The most interesting point, which I'm afraid will prove decisive, is the absence of a long-term strategy by the EU, in combination with some uncertainties shown in U.S. policy in the area."

Papandreou was addressing the organizing committee for the third party congress of his Pan-Hellenic Socialist (PASOK) party to be held later this month.

The Vatican denied Papandreou's accusations in a statement on April 7. "The Holy See has tried since the start . . . to make the leaders of the republics which wanted independence reflect on the need to safeguard some form of confederation," chief

Briefly

● **THE POPE** and Rabbi Elio Toaff, the chief rabbi of Rome, presided at an ecumenical ceremony commemorating the Holocaust on April 7. Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro was also in attendance. The ceremony included a performance of Franz Schubert's setting of the 92nd Psalm, which he composed for the opening of the Vienna synagogue in 1826.

● **'LONDON ORDERS: Let's Overturn Clinton,'** was the headline of a two-page article in the weekly *Italia*, a magazine widely read in Italy by the anti-communist electorate. The article, signed by *EIR*'s Claudio Celani, said that "the Whitewater scandal was born in the British establishment in order to punish the President who broke the Anglo-American axis."

● **SHIMON PERES**, the foreign minister of Israel, has had secret contacts with Iraq in an attempt to further the peace process, according to unconfirmed reports in the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, which is published by the *Economist*. The initiative was reportedly taken by an unnamed former European defense minister and a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. A meeting between Peres and a top Iraqi official could take place later this year.

● **EGYPT'S** chief of counter-terrorism, Gen. Rauf Kheirat, was assassinated on April 9 by five gunmen who opened fire and threw a grenade at his car. A group calling itself the Islamic Group claimed responsibility, *Compass* wire service reported.

● **A SENIOR OFFICER** of Fatah, part of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was shot and killed in Lebanon on April 11. Hussein Abu Zeid was shot at the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Al-Hilwa in Sidon. Security sources suspect followers of Munir Makdah, who split from Fatah after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. "The Holy See's recognition of Croatia and Slovenia was not meant to increase hostilities in the region, but to put an end to them. That was also the intention of countries in the European Community."

CIS alarmed at reports of 30 new Russian bases

Thirty new Russian military bases will be established outside Russia, along with the implementation of the new military doctrine in 10 republics of the Community of Independent States (CIS), as well as in Latvia, General Kolesnikov, chairman of the Russian General Staff, announced in Moscow on April 6.

Kolesnikov said that the General Staff's plan had been signed by President Boris Yeltsin, so that the project can go ahead. He added that the bases are not only in Russia's interest, but also in the interest and "upon the direct request" of several other former U.S.S.R. republics.

The statement created an uproar among several CIS republics. Officials from nations in the Baltic, the Caucasus, and Central Asia immediately denounced the proposal. Only Belarus, Armenia, and some of the weaker and more unstable states of Central Asia have voiced their support. The sharpest reaction came from Latvia, whose state secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs forced Yeltsin's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov to deny that Russia intended to set up a base there, saying that there had been a "technical error," by including Latvia on the list.

"As long as I am leader of Azerbaijan, there will be no foreign bases on the territory of our country," Azerbaijan President Haider Aliyev told the Moscow daily *Izvestia*.

"So far there is no question of Russian bases in Georgia," Georgian spokesman Zaza Shengelia told Reuters. "Most of the population and political parties are opposed to military bases."

"There will be no Russian bases on our territory," said Moldovan Defense Ministry

official Anatoly Koshchuk. "Foreign armies never brought peace to anyone."

Officials in Ukraine and Kazakhstan also rejected the idea.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev denied any knowledge of the order and, according to Reuters, stated that "we don't know where this order comes from or with whom it was agreed." Kozyrev also told Interfax news agency that "both diplomats and the military are standing with their mouths hanging open." He said that he had held a meeting with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who was equally bewildered. "No one consulted the Foreign Ministry on anything of the kind," said Kozyrev.

Pope hits culture of death in Easter address

In his traditional *Urbi et Orbi* ("To the City and the World") message, delivered from a balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope John Paul II told an Easter Sunday crowd that he was appealing to leaders worldwide to promote family life. Noting that "many different threats are assailing the family at the very roots of its existence," the pope said: "Troubled by these threats, I am sending a letter to all the world's heads of state, on the occasion of the International Year of the Family, declared by the United Nations Organization with the cordial support of the Catholic Church."

The pope added that he was asking that all efforts be made "to ensure that the value of the human person is not diminished, neither the sacred nature of life. . . . The family remains the principal source of humanity—every state must guard it as a precious treasure."

"On this day of joy and light, in the presence of the life who breaks into history, may the culture of death recoil, that culture which humiliates the individual, not respecting the weakest and frailest creatures, and trying even to undermine the sacred dignity of the family, the heart of society and of the church. . . . The family remains the principal source of humanity: Every state must guard it as a precious treasure."