

International Intelligence

Spanish court drops case against Al Kassar

A court in Madrid has dropped, as of March 22, its case against Monzer Al Kassar, the Syrian-born international drug- and arms-dealer who in the early 1980s played an important role also in arms-peddling operations of George Bush and Oliver North. He had been on trial for charges of piracy and support of terrorism, in the 1985 *Achille Lauro* ship hijacking case, probably one of the least important crimes he could have been charged with.

Al Kassar had always voiced optimism that the charges would be dropped, because as he put it, nobody would have an interest in his telling about his good cooperation with intelligence and anti-terrorism experts of the Spanish and other governments, as well as naming names, on the witness stand. The main witnesses in the whole case are all dead, except for one who changed his testimony after his children were kidnapped last November.

French paper floats 'Irangate' against Pasqua

A new scandal hitting French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua could "soon take on the dimensions of a 'scandal of state,' a sort of *Irangate à la française*," wrote the weekly *L'Express* in an article picked up by French and Italian dailies on March 23. Utilizing information from sources in the French Foreign and Defense Ministries, the article details how Pasqua arranged to sell air-to-ground missiles to Iran in the autumn of 1994.

Supposedly, this was done with the aim of neutralizing the possibility that Iran would deploy terrorists into France, in the event that a French court ruled against Iranian operatives on trial for the 1991 assassination, on French soil, of exiled former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar. Pasqua was supposedly acting to prevent a repeat of the 1986 Iranian terror wave in France "to obtain the liberation" of a man who had earlier tried to kill Bakhtiar.

According to a Reuters wire report, the French Interior Ministry denied the reports as "grave disinformation" and said that Pasqua had asked the justice minister to start legal action against the authors of the report and the publisher of *L'Express*, for libel and publishing false news.

Say pope was target in the Philippines

A suicide bomber was to approach Pope John Paul II during a public appearance in Manila and blow himself up, Edwin Angeles, a former Muslim rebel told a news conference on March 23, as reported by news wires. The plot was not carried out because "there was no opportunity," he said. Angeles, described by police as the operations and political officer of the Abu Sayyaf "fundamentalist" group operating in the country's southern islands, surrendered to the authorities in February. The police have blamed Abu Sayyaf for a spate of bombings and kidnappings in the southern islands in the past two years.

According to Angeles, the plot to kill the pope was hatched by Abu Sayyaf members and foreign extremists, allegedly including Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, who was captured in Pakistan in February and extradited to the United States to face trial for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

Camacho in secret huddle with Henry Kissinger

According to columnist Pablo Hiriart, writing on March 28 in the Mexico City daily *El Día*, former Mexican peace commissioner Manuel Camacho Solís recently held a secret meeting in the United States with Henry Kissinger, during which he offered Kissinger "guarantees" that Camacho would become President of Mexico. Hiriart's source is an adviser to Kissinger, who insisted that even Kissinger was taken by surprise by Camacho's absolute assurance that, sooner or later, he would become President. The meeting was said to have taken place during

the time when Camacho was supposed to have been attending the Committee for Global Governance meeting in Switzerland. Kissinger is an adviser to a number of the committee's 26 permanent members.

Camacho was exposed in last week's *EIR* as the top political frontman for circles seeking to use "Zapatista" terrorism in Chiapas as a means to dismember Mexico.

British 'Fourth Reich' agent Lauck arrested

International neo-Nazi leader Gary Lauck was arrested in Denmark on March 20, and is being held by Danish authorities. The Hamburg state prosecutor is seeking Lauck's extradition to Germany on charges of smuggling neo-Nazi literature into that country. On March 22, German police raided about 60 apartments of known neo-Nazis, seizing literature the bulk of which was printed by Lauck in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Police say the literature was suggestive of terrorism, calling for attacks against the "criminal" German regime in Bonn, according to broadcasts on Germany's Channel One television. Televised reports claimed that the Lauck-linked operatives were receiving paramilitary training in the use of weapons and explosives.

Last year, an *EIR* in-depth analysis of neo-Nazi operations (English title "The Strategy of Tension"), exposing Lauck and others as agents of British-run subversion against Germany, was widely circulated among law enforcement circles in Germany and France.

British can't even run Britain, says Chinese

Li Ruihuan, a member of the most powerful body in China, the seven-member standing committee of the Politburo, said in a speech in Beijing early in March that the expected return of Hongkong is important, because when it was given to the British in 1898, this made China a "weak and shamed country."

There have been many predictions that China will not succeed in running Hong-

kong, but it must be understood that the success of Hongkong today, has been "mainly a result of the Hongkong peoples' efforts. They are not the work of the British. The British cannot even run their own country properly. Britain has achieved nothing as far as its status in Europe and its own financial and economic systems are concerned."

Comeback victory scored by Landsbergis

The first President of independent Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis, scored a comeback victory in the Lithuanian local elections held over the March 25-26 weekend. His Fatherland Union received the most votes of any party, with 29.1%, taking 426 of the 1,488 seats up for vote in city and town councils. The Christian Democrats, allied with the Fatherland Union, came in third with 16.9% of the vote and 247 seats. The ruling Democrat Workers Party of Lithuania, the former Communists, received only about 20% of the vote and 291 seats.

The swing away from the former Communists occurred for the same reason as the swing in the national elections that booted Landsbergis from office and brought the former Communists back to power nationally, namely a strong voter protest against the disastrous effects of shock therapy policies.

Likud aids Hamas and Islamic Jihad: Rabin

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made one of the most violent counterattacks to date against the Ariel Sharon-centered forces in Israel who have been denouncing him for signing the 1993 peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Rabin told Israeli television on March 26, "If Hamas and Islamic Jihad were to succeed in their aims, it would be thanks to the assistance they are receiving from Likud."

The Israeli leader persisted: "Likud is the accomplice of Hamas and of Islamic Jihad, because each time there is a terrorist

attack, the Likud attacks the Israeli government" instead of condemning the actual perpetrators.

In a second set of comments to the biggest-circulation Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharanot* on March 27, Rabin said that Hamas and Islamic Jihad "share with Likud the same objective: to put an end to the ongoing peace process between Israel and the Palestinians."

On March 24, in announcing that he will run for a second term next year, Rabin exclaimed: "I was elected to undertake an historic process of peace between Israel and its neighbors, and I intend to bring this task to a successful conclusion. . . . We cannot finish what we have begun during the period of only one electoral mandate. If it is necessary, I will be ready to continue."

Joseph Needham, liar on China, dies at 94

"Perhaps the greatest work of scholarship by one person since Aristotle," is how a London *Independent* obituary characterized Cambridge University "science in China" scribe Prof. Joseph Needham, who died at the age of 94 on March 24.

Needham was the one who spread the propaganda into the West, already back in 1952, that the United States was using "germ warfare" in the Korean War. British papers reported that this was later "substantiated" by an article in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, where Bertrand Russell and his co-thinkers had previously promoted dropping the atomic bomb on the Soviet Union.

Needham, the obituaries also revealed, was effectively a co-founder of Unesco, together with British royal family minion Sir Julian Huxley, in the mid-1940s. A confirmed Taoist, Needham sought the "reconciliation" of Bolshevism and Christianity on a Taoist basis, and believed that "science" could just as well derive from magic, as from observation of nature. His authority was incisively debunked by China scholar Michael O. Billington in "The Taoist Perversion of Twentieth Century Science," an article in the Schiller Institute's *Fidelio* quarterly, Fall 1994 issue.

Briefly

● **A MEXICAN** newspaper, *Diar-
io del Yaqui*, reported on March 24 on the presidential bid of Jacques Cheminade in France, calling him "an ally of U.S. economist and political figure Lyndon LaRouche." The Sonora state-based paper cited Cheminade's pledge to fight against the new social Darwinism of savage liberalism, and his program to "end the current unfair financial system based on rent, speculation, and usury."

● **YASSER ARAFAT** received U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Jericho on March 24. Prior to the encounter, the PLO chairman vowed publicly to fight the enemies of peace and stated that Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. Those who disagree can "go and drink from the Dead Sea!"

● **DOUGLAS HUR**, the British foreign minister, accompanying Queen Elizabeth to South Africa, pledged in Durban that Britain would focus on improving life in South Africa at a township-by-township level. "Projects in townships are light years away from projects like building palaces and luxury airports." Meanwhile, the queen bestowed the British Order of Merit on President Nelson Mandela and formally welcomed South Africa into the Commonwealth, on March 22.

● **'CLEAN HANDS'** prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, who led the corruption trials which wiped out Italy's political class, has entered politics, with a series of articles in major dailies denouncing the confusion reigning in the political scene and launching a populist appeal to citizens. He is a protégé of former President Francesco Cossiga.

● **THE PHILIPPINES** is threatening to break diplomatic relations with Singapore over the execution of a Filipina maid on March 17, if an independent inquiry shows the woman was innocent. As of March 23, both countries had recalled their respective ambassadors, and President Fidel Ramos recalled diplomats in seven countries with large Filipino emigrant workforces.