

International Intelligence

Jordan's Hussein caught between two camps

Jordan's King Hussein, who signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, has been trying to restart the process of Palestinian-Israeli talks, meeting in mid-June with Israeli Labor Party leader Ehud Barak. However, at home, Jordanian sentiments against any peace with Israel have been fuelled by Israel's recent provocations, especially in Jerusalem. King Hussein, who is unwilling to face criticism of this policy, is therefore moving in the direction of snuffing out all debate.

Domestic confrontation has been building since May, around a proposed press law which would stifle criticism of government policy. The law is being especially protested by Jordan's 13 professional unions, the country's most powerful political bodies. The leaders of the unions had threatened to resign en masse unless the government withdrew the law, but reversed their decision on June 12, for fear the government would name replacements for them. Laith Shubeilat, who is the secretary general of the engineers' association, the most powerful of the unions, led the demonstrations against the proposed press censorship.

According to the Jordanian daily *Al Arab al Yawm*, the government is now planning to introduce a law banning the professional unions from taking part in political activities, and ending the provisions that make it mandatory for a professional to join the relevant union in order to practice.

Armenians take fight vs. IMF to the streets

On June 13, Armenia was shaken by the largest demonstrations organized in years, with 400,000 citizens calling for new elections and for an economic alternative to the International Monetary Fund dictatorship over their country.

The protests were organized by the opposition parties, including the Union of Constitutional Rights, some of whose leading members are the friends and collabora-

tors of the Schiller Institute in Armenia.

Protest organizers called for the demonstrations to take place in all the major cities, to avoid the government's being able to crush one large demonstration in the capital, as had happened in the past. The demonstrations opposed the IMF "reform" policies imposed by the government and demanded new elections for President, parliament, and municipal offices; a new constitution; and a jobs-creation program and improvement of social and economic conditions. Armenia's foreign debt has increased to \$600 million, an extreme burden for a small nation like Armenia, while living standards have collapsed. A retiree receives a monthly pension of about \$8, while a kilogram of bread costs 30¢ and a kilogram of meat \$2.30.

Mainz diocesan paper blasts butcher Kagame

The Mainz diocesan paper *Glaube und Kirche (Faith and Church)* of June 8, sharply criticized the decision of the German state government of Rhineland-Palatinate to host Rwandan Defense Minister Paul Kagame to celebrate the German state's 50th anniversary in May. Referring to Kagame's triumphal visit to Mainz Cathedral, Rev. Hermann Mayer headlined his article "The Assassins Sat in the Front Row." He wrote: "The Tutsis under Kagame got rid of their adversaries discreetly, in secret—but relentlessly. Any individuals who have any influence and who know about Tutsi crimes are threatened by the new dictatorship under the intelligent Kagame. . . . In 1994, three bishops in Kabgay were murdered by Tutsi soldiers 'by mistake.'"

In fact, wrote Mayer, "the founder of the Mainz-Rwanda church partnership, Bishop Phokas Nikwikize, was kidnapped and murdered, obviously on orders of Kagame, the guest of honor. . . . When the big Tutsi war began in 1994, Bishop Phokas fled to Goma [Zaire]. In November 1996, he wanted to return to Rwanda and trusted the Kagame government's promise of safe-conduct. At the border, he was stopped by soldiers, and taken away by an 'unknown officer.' He has been missing since—all those knowledge-

able are convinced he is dead."

Not exactly repentant, Rhineland-Palatinate Gov. Kurt Beck visited Rwanda on June 17, at the invitation of President Pasteur Bizimungu, and met with butcher Kagame.

Demand Britain open archives on Holocaust

Artur Brauner, president of Berlin's Janusz Korczak lodge of B'nai B'rith, published a full-page ad in the London *Times*, challenging Britain's royal family and government to open the archives on what was known about Hitler's Holocaust of Europe's Jews: "It is high time that the British nation and the rest of mankind were informed about the accessories that are to be held responsible for keeping this genocide secret." Brauner wrote. "Did the Royal Family know what was happening? . . . If so, how did the Queen react to this horrific revelation? . . . Meanwhile proof has been delivered, that Prime Minister Winston Churchill was informed about the genocide. Why he stood by without interfering or informing the public while the massacre took place must be clarified in the name of humanity."

Brauner wrote: "Fifty-six years ago today, on the 22nd of June 1941, the most gruesome and brutal war in the history of mankind began. Hitler named it 'Barbarosa.' It cost 55 million humans their lives. . . . Around 40% of the Jewish population were murdered. . . . The mass executions by the SD and other special detachments didn't remain concealed; the headquarters for deciphering war messages in London's Bletchley Park managed to crack SS-codes on the 18th of July 1941, thus being exactly informed about the systematic decimation of Jewish inhabitants under the German occupation from then on. . . .

"I, the undersigned Artur Brauner, lost 49 relatives from both sides of my family. In the name of these relatives and friends and the millions of other victims that were murdered, I want to appeal to the Royal Family, the British government and British people, to open their archives dating 1941-45 and make them fully accessible to the public."

LADY CAROLINE COX, head of the bloodthirsty Christian Solidarity International, was a main speaker on June 21-22 at a conference on Sudan sponsored by Germany's Evangelical Academy. The event organizer, Dr. Ernst-Albrecht von Renesse, who styles himself a "Christian," reminisced to a caller that a few hundred years ago, he would have burned every Muslim that he could find.

MOHAMMAD KHATAMI responded to congratulations from Pope John Paul II on his election as President of Iran on June 16, that cooperation among governments would serve to foster justice, peace, and freedom around the world. Khatami extended his best wishes to His Holiness and followers of all divine religions.

ARZAMAS-16 Nuclear Research Center in Russia's Nizhi Novgorod region was the scene of a serious accident on June 17, that left Russian scientist Aleksandr Zakharov in critical condition, after receiving a dose of radiation. Both Arzamas-16 and Chelyabinsk-70, the two elite former Soviet nuclear weapons labs, have been devastated by budget cuts, since the "market reforms." Chelyabinsk's director committed suicide last October, in despair over the conditions under which his staff is forced to work.

THE FRENCH government has begun pulling out the 1,500 French soldiers it dispatched to Brazzaville to help remove French nationals from the war-ravaged city. Congo-Brazzaville President Pascal Lissouba said on June 17 that the removal of that "buffer force" could lead to renewed fighting between his troops, and forces loyal to former military leader Denis Sassou Nguesso, the ally of Laurent Kabila.

THE AFRICAN Population Commission of the Organization of African Unity ridiculously appealed to member-states on June 16 to take measures to stem population growth on the vastly underpopulated continent. The OAU is currently run by Museveni side-kick Salim Salim.

Soros hailed in Bulgaria, condemned in Belarus

On June 13, President Petar Stoyanov decorated international speculator, drug-legalization godfather, and dictatorial democrat George Soros with Bulgaria's highest award, the Order of the Balkan Mountain Range. According to reports from Radio Free Europe, Soros said after the ceremony that he had made an exception in accepting the award, because it marked a turnaround from the suspicion displayed by the former socialist government toward his Open Society Fund.

Another former socialist government hasn't been so hospitable. The Minsk, Belarus office of Soros's Open Society Institute will appeal a huge fine levied by the Belarus authorities, Soros told the Russian publication *Ekho Moskvy* on June 19. Tax officials in Belarus imposed the \$2.9 million fine in May, accusing Soros's foundation of violating its tax-exempt status by becoming involved in politics. Minsk expelled the foundation's director in March. Soros accused the Belarus authorities of harassment and of trying to squelch democracy.

Netanyahu hands more power to Ariel Sharon

Faced with growing hostility at home and abroad, including within his own coalition, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to go for broke, reshuffling his cabinet into a vehicle for de facto confrontation with the Palestinians. Netanyahu has named Ariel Sharon, the butcher of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, to be his new finance minister, replacing Dan Meridor, who was forced out in a power struggle.

While he was infrastructure minister, Sharon built roads criss-crossing the West Bank and Gaza, to connect Israeli settlements, but isolating Palestinian towns and cities. With his new portfolio, he will build new settlements everywhere. According to a political adviser of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud

Olmert, the Israeli strategy is to build another 100,000 new housing units on the West Bank, to raise the number of settlers from 150,000 to over a half-million. They hope thereby, to establish a situation where the combined settlers and the Israelis in Jerusalem comprise two-thirds of the entire West Bank population. That is the situation which Netanyahu would like to consolidate *before* moving to talks with the Palestinians on their final status.

Sharon evidently dictated to Netanyahu that he will retain responsibility over two areas covered by the infrastructure ministry—Israeli land authority, and water—and demanded that Netanyahu let him become a member of the "negotiating strategy" team, over the objection of the other two members, Defense Minister Yitzak Mordechai and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Ramos-Horta in S. America praises narco-terrorists

East Timor's José Ramos-Horta, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and "former foreign minister" of the separatist/terrorist Fretilin, resumed his Ibero-American tour in late June, after a brief stop in New York to seek UN protection for "armed resistance forces." His Ibero-American tour is aimed at drumming up support for the independence of East Timor. Having offered his services to the narco-government of Ernesto Samper in Colombia and the narco-terrorist FARC, as a qualified witness to their humiliation of the Colombian military on June 15, Ramos-Horta has embraced the FARC's Peruvian narco-cousins, the MRTA.

In Peru, Ramos-Horta charged that the Fujimori government had gagged the constitutional court and the media, among other accusations, and then made the presumptuous remark that, if "the majority of public opinion in your country believes that there is a dictatorship, I cannot disagree with what Peruvians think." Ramos-Horta is headed for Brazil—like East Timor, a former Portuguese colony—whose President, Enrique Cardoso hastened to congratulate Ramos-Horta on his Nobel Prize.