

# International Intelligence

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## *Italian separatists make show of force in Verona*

At least 20,000 adherents of Italy's secessionist Lega Nord held a demonstration on Feb. 15, in Verona, where local prosecutor Guido Papalia has sought the indictment of 40 members of the Northern League's leadership, on charges of threatening the national state. If convicted, the separatists, who refer to Italy's north as "Padania," face life in prison. Northern League head Umberto Bossi and others of his confederates who are members of Parliament also face indictment, if Parliament votes to lift their immunity.

The Verona demonstration was designed to intimidate state authorities, as "Leghisti" whipped up the protesters. Mario Borghezio railed against Papalia, "You are a free-loader, a piece of shit! Mafioso redneck, we will kick your ass!"

"Little Duce" Umberto Bossi was similarly vulgar, asserting, "No son of a bitch will stop us." Bossi promised that League actions will be peaceful, but added that a recent TV poll showed that 40% of the so-called "Northern people" favor armed secession. "This does not mean that we are for it," he demurred, "but it shows that the people of Padania have had enough."

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## *BBC series compares ecologism to Nazism*

The otherwise faithful mouthpiece of Britain's Empire, BBC, aired a three-part television series blasting the ideology of environmentalism late last year. A summarized transcript of the program, broadcast on BBC's Channel 4, has just been made available to *EIR*.

"Greens are often portrayed as left-wing radicals, battling against a backward-looking establishment," said BBC. "But they are in fact part of a long tradition of conservatism that idealizes nature and the past. These conservative instincts motivated 19th-century figures such as Nietzsche and Wagner, and movements such as the Romantics, who . . . dreamt of returning to a mythical past of medieval knights and maidens, and even the

Boy Scout movement, which in its origins combined a mystical affinity with nature, right-wing nationalism, and a hatred of degenerate modern life."

"The most notorious environmentalists in history were the German Nazis," BBC continued. "The Nazis . . . were the first Europeans to establish nature reserves and order the protection of hedgerows and other wildlife habitats. . . . Adolf Hitler and other leading Nazis were vegetarians and they passed numerous laws on animal rights."

Part 2 of the series took on the fraud of Malthusianism, arguing "that Africa is underdeveloped precisely because it is underpopulated. . . . And if there are more people, there will be more ideas, which in turn will lead to better technology and an improved quality of life. In the West, every indicator of quality of life has improved as the population has grown."

Finally, the broadcast scored the attack on science itself, quoting *Ecologist* editor Teddy Goldsmith, "Every one of the scientists today is a Dr. Frankenstein producing colossal monsters that could wipe us out," to which the series responded: "A central feature of much anti-science thinking is pessimism about the future and the idea that humans can only mess things up."

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## *Brits: Expel Sinn Fein from peace talks*

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has officially demanded that Sinn Fein be expelled from the peace talks, in the wake of the murders of two Protestant loyalists in early February. The Royal Ulster Constabulary is now claiming that it has discovered evidence that has "directly implicated" the Irish Republican Army in the killings. Mowlam's document was presented on Feb. 16 to peace talks chairman, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, when he arrived from Washington.

Shortly after the killings, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) had already demanded the removal of Sinn Fein, citing the "probability" that the IRA was involved, despite an IRA statement reaffirming that its "cessation of military operations remains intact." Sinn

Fein has reiterated that it is not the IRA, and that it has a mandate from voters of Northern Ireland to represent them at the talks. IRA officials have confirmed to Sinn Fein that the IRA was not involved in the murders.

By contrast, in January, the Ulster Democratic Party was ousted from the talks, after the Ulster Defense Forces admitted to killing eight Catholics that month. The UDP party explicitly represents the UDF and other paramilitary loyalist forces.

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## *'Khalistani' offensive targets Indian elections*

U.K.-based Sikh separatist groups ("Khalistanis") have embarked on a new terrorist offensive, aimed at reviving the Punjab secessionists by disrupting India's Feb. 16-20 parliamentary elections, the *Asian Age* reported on Feb. 14. Ongoing investigations by India's Research and Analysis Wing and the Intelligence Bureau have unearthed a major conspiracy to assassinate key political leaders, among other actions. According to highly placed sources, there now exists irrefutable evidence that the entire offensive is being orchestrated by Khalistani leaders residing in Britain. The operatives on the ground include fanatical young Sikhs belonging to the outlawed Khalistan Commando Force (Paramjit Singh Panwar faction) and the International Sikh Youth Federation.

*Asian Age* reported that on Feb. 10 Jalandher police arrested two Sikh terrorists, from whom law enforcement agencies learned that the group had planned to kill Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, who was to make a campaign stop in Ludhiana, Punjab on Feb. 13. Mrs. Gandhi is the widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991, and the daughter-in-law of Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984. Sonia Gandhi's decision to campaign for Congress Party candidates was her first foray into politics since her husband's murder.

Other efforts aimed at disrupting Indian elections included the simultaneous explosion of six bombs at locations in the southern Indian city of Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on Feb. 14, killing at least 81 people and injur-

ing over 200. One bomb was placed at an election rally where Lal Krishna Advani, president of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was to have been speaking. He was saved because his flight was delayed by three hours.

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### ***Sudan air crash kills leading peace-makers***

On Feb. 12, Sudanese First Vice President al-Zubair Muhammed Salih was killed in a plane crash in a failed landing at Al-Nasir airport some 800 km southeast of Khartoum near the Ethiopian border. The plane was carrying 57 senior military and political leaders, including former southern Sudanese rebels, who have been active in the peace process. Arok Thon Arok, one of the most prominent former rebels, whose group signed the peace accord with Khartoum, was among the 26 people killed.

Salih, a longtime close colleague of President Omar al-Bashir, was supervising the creation of Sudan's federal system, overseeing the peace process, and mediating the country's rapprochement with Egypt. He had recently made discreet visits to Egypt several times. General Bashir spoke of him as someone who, with each promotion in rank, became more humble as a person.

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army of British puppet John Garang claimed credit for shooting down the plane, but the government's official finding is that the plane crashed while landing in bad weather.

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### ***New scandals rock French Socialist Dumas***

The French journal *Le Point* published a ten-page dossier in mid-February revealing new scandals surrounding Roland Dumas, whom the dying President François Mitterrand had elevated to head France's Constitutional Court. According to *Le Point*, as a private attorney, Dumas had managed the estates of well-known artists such as Pablo Picasso and sculptor Alberto Giacometti.

In 1988, Giacometti's widow, Annette, hired Dumas to transfer ownership of the

artist's works, worth an estimate 800 million francs, to a new foundation, which Dumas was to set up. Pending government approval for the new foundation, she placed FF 23 million in a temporary association. When Annette died in 1993, the foundation had still not been created.

In June 1994, Jacques Tajan, whom Dumas hired to assess the collection, arranged to auction 14 of Giacometti's bronzes and paintings. Of the FF 40 million the auction brought in, Tajan's assessor's fee was 6 million, and 18 million went to pay estate taxes. Mary Lisa Palmer, whom Annette Giacometti had tapped to head the still-nonexistent foundation, long suspected Dumas of having pocketed the balance.

The scandal boiled over, wrote *Le Point*, when Dumas's attorney (and lover) Stephanie Bordier, who has power of attorney over some of the dubious Dumas bank accounts, told the investigating magistrates that the cash in those accounts came from the sale of Giacometti estate artworks.

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### ***Leah Rabin backs Weizman rival for President***

Leah Rabin, the widow of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, has endorsed the Likud candidate for President, over the re-election of the Labor Party's Ezer Weizman. "We have a long and difficult account with Weizman," she told the Feb. 16 *Jerusalem Post*. Weizman's term ends in February, and the Knesset (parliament) will vote in a new President in March.

The split between them might tilt the balance away from Weizman in the vote, although several leading Likud members of the Knesset have said they would vote for Weizman. Now, it is conceivable that some Labor Knesset members may vote for the Likud. The Presidency is particularly significant now, because the post is one of four that controls Israel's nuclear button.

Hostility between the Rabin family and Weizman (despite their apparent closeness of views on other matters) goes back to at least 1974, but were further strained over Weizman's episodic calls for suspending the peace talks, following various Palestinian suicide bombings.

## *Briefly*

**ADL TOADY** Howard Blum has written a book-length provocation against Saudi Arabia, *The Gold of Exodus: The Discovery of Mount Sinai*, which purports that the Biblical Mount Sinai has been located inside Saudi Arabia, at Jabal Al Lawz, the secret mountain command center of the Saudi military.

**JEREMY BENTHAM'S** corpse, which has been carefully preserved by the Library of the University College of London (as specified in his last will and testament), was brought out for the official celebrations of his 250th birthday.

**GEN. CHI HAOTIAN**, China's Defense Minister, arrived in Australia on Feb. 14 for talks with Prime Minister John Howard. Chi is described as one of China's top ministers, and a member of the party political bureau. His itinerary included visits to Sydney, Canberra, and Townsville during the five-day trip.

**ITALY'S** most important annual agricultural event, the Verona farm fair, hosted Malthusians on Feb. 11: Worldwatch's Lester Brown and Jeremy Rifkin. The latter proposed the development of a meatless diet out of respect for our "fellow travellers in the biosphere." His farmer audience was unimpressed.

**GERMAN** archeologists, headed by geophysicist Helmut Becker, announced their discovery of a 7,000-year-old solar observatory, on Feb. 14. Several elliptical structures, found in various parts of Bavaria, are part of a solar calendar, which yield an extraordinarily precise determination of the equinoxes and solstices.

**MEXICO'S** Director General of the National Migration Institute, Alejandro Carrillo, told international "human rights" activists en route to Chiapas, that "only Mexicans" are legally permitted to engage in politics in Mexico. He cited the case of former French First Lady Danielle Mitterrand, whose interference will no longer be tolerated.