

International Intelligence

ALF puts rat poison in Italian Christmas cakes

On Dec. 10, the eco-terrorist Animal Liberation Front (ALF) in Italy announced that it had injected rat poison into the traditional Christmas cakes called "panettoni," baked by the Motta and Alemagna companies, Italian subsidiaries of the multinational Nestlé. This has created quite a panic in the country, and stores have been forced to remove all of the panettoni on the shelves.

On Dec. 11, laboratories in Bologna and Florence found small quantities of the pesticide Racumin in panettoni that the ALF mailed to the news agency Ansa, in order to show that they weren't bluffing. The ALF has said that it is targeting Nestlé because of its use of genetically manipulated products, in particular, soy. ALF, closely tied to the U.S.-based eco-terrorist Earth First! umbrella group, has previously attacked university laboratories in the United States and Europe where animals were used in medical research. In November, ALF burned a Vail, Colorado ski resort because it was impinging on a wild animal's habitat.

The rat-poisoning case is the most visible among several recent eco-terrorist attacks in Italy, which have included the damaging of high-tension electrical transmission lines, sabotage of high-speed trains, and factory burnings.

White House intervened in Cambodian impasse

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who agreed to form a coalition government with Prime Minister Hun Sen, told the press that the Clinton administration had worked hard to get him to give up trying to reverse last summer's election results, which Hun Sen had won, after 90% of the eligible voters poured into the polls. Ranariddh spoke to the press on Nov. 27, as the National Assembly was electing its officers, including choosing the Prince as chairman, by agreement with Hun Sen. Ranariddh told the press that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs "Stanley Roth and [Under-

secretary for Political Affairs] Thomas Pickering of the U.S. telephoned me personally, asking me to return [to Cambodia] to negotiate the establishment of a new government. They will support the establishment of an equitable government."

Sam Rainsy, the ally of the Khmer Rouge and darling of the GOP's International Republican Institute, was left out of the government, but has returned to Cambodia, and will serve in the Assembly as an opposition. Since his return, Rainsy has resumed his wrecking role by opposing Cambodian membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and opposing the creation of a new Senate, which was an essential element of the agreement to form the new government.

Executive Outcomes folds its tents

The British/South African mercenary firm Executive Outcomes announced that it is going out of business as of Jan. 1, 1999. Owner Nico Palm claimed that the firm is closing because there is no further need for the company's services. "African countries," said Palm, "are busy working out solutions in Africa. Let's give them a chance. I am going to get involved in other things which keep me out of the limelight. I am going to close the company, and I will not be involved in the security business." Executive Outcomes and other "security" firms became infamous for providing their services to embattled African governments in exchange for mining or extraction rights, especially in areas of interest to the British Empire.

Intelligence sources in Africa commented that the announcement was "academic," since Executive Outcomes had not been functioning for some time as a corporate entity. They pointed out that other entities linked to raw materials firms, including Branch Energy, Diamond Works, and the rest of the corporate network, will take over the company's operations. Nonetheless, various press reports suggested that earlier high-profile press coverage of a company whose business is normally shrouded in secrecy, had a lot to do with its decision to fold.

EIR widely circulated its articles over the past two years exposing the British forces behind the creation of Executive Outcomes and other mercenary companies.

Le Pen's National Front on verge of fracturing

A factional struggle has broken out inside France's populist-fascist National Front (FN), which may well lead to the party's breakup. Tensions have been rising between FN founder Jean Marie Le Pen and his number-two man, Bruno Megret, who is considered the architect of the movement's electoral successes in recent years. The fight centers on whether the party should seek electoral alliances with the right-wing parties. Le Pen, a Mussolini-style fascist, is against all parties, left and right, and rejects any party alliances; Megret, whose is known for his tirades against Jews and immigrants, prefers to seek an alliance with the right-wing parliamentary parties, especially the RPR (President Jacques Chirac's party) and the UDF (former Interior Minister Charles Pasqua's party). Le Pen has accused Megret, a former RPR member, and Jean Yves Le Gallou, a former UDF member, of running an operation against him from within the National Front in favor of the RPR and UDF. He also accused Megret of working with Pasqua.

Le Pen has purged some of Megret's closest associates, sparking all-out war between the factions, with elected FN officials and the party hierarchy leaning toward Megret, and the base and the old guard remaining with Le Pen. Since the National Front cannot survive if either Le Pen or Megret leaves, the fracture of the movement seems likely.

Malaysian Senate demands Camdessus resign from IMF

Following a two-day debate in early December, Malaysia's Dewan Negara, or Senate, passed a motion calling on Michel Camdessus to resign as managing director of the International Monetary Fund, for failing to

MYANMAR has refused visas to British ministers and officials, the British Foreign Office announced on Dec. 1. London officials say this because of Britain's role in pushing "democracy and human rights" in Myanmar (which they refer to as Burma), and its support for opposition "democrat" Aung San Suu Kyi.

ZIMBABWE'S President Robert Mugabe was snubbed during a recent "private visit" to Britain, after he requested meetings with either Prime Minister Tony Blair or Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. According to the Dec. 2 *Independent*, London is miffed that Mugabe is militarily backing the Congo against the Rwandan-Uganda invasion, and that he broke the air ban on Libya and flew to Tripoli to meet with Muammar Qaddafi.

RUSSIA'S Chief of Staff, Gen. Anatoli Kvashnin, arrived in Washington on Dec. 10 to meet with head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton and to visit the Pentagon. Kvashnin had begun his U.S. tour with stops at the U.S. Pacific Command headquarters in Hawaii, Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, the Army's National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, California, and to the aircraft carrier *USS John F. Kennedy*, in Jacksonville, Florida.

GEN. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, Nigeria's former President, announced in November that he is a Presidential pre-candidate for the Feb. 27 elections. He was a military ruler of Nigeria during 1976-79. Obasanjo was then in the opposition, and worked for the Ford Foundation. He was involved in a coup attempt against Gen. Sani Abacha in 1995, which had the support of the then British Colonial Minister Lady Lynda Chalker.

FRANCE will lead the NATO rapid rescue force based in Macedonia, to protect 2,000 observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in war-torn Kosova. This is the first time that the United States has not led such a force.

take suitable measures to solve Asia's economic crisis. In the debate, Sen. Datuk Mohd Zuki Kamaluddin blasted IMF conditionalities which required countries to use IMF-approved loans to pay off foreign bank debts as a top priority. Mohd Zuki was quoted in Singapore's *Straits Times* on Dec. 11: "Only after settling the foreign loans, is the balance used to overcome domestic economic problems."

Sen. Datuk Sairin Karno said that even after it was proven that IMF measures were a failure, some other leaders wanted Malaysia to bow to the IMF—perhaps an oblique reference to ousted Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim. He added, "Now it has been proven that Malaysia's implementation of currency exchange rate controls have curbed ringgit [Malaysia's currency] speculation and we are actually on the road to recovery." Sen. Datuk Yee Lung Fook said that derogatory remarks by Al Gore and George Soros have only strengthened Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad's position: "Only time can tell that the [currency control] measures taken by Dr. Mahathir will bear fruit. If these measures succeed, then people like Soros who participated in currency speculation will be badly affected, especially when other countries affected by the economic downturn emulate the same measures." Sen. Tee Thiong Hock said, "The most disappointing is that the IMF had failed to take any action against hedge funds which had caused a lot of sufferings and severe political and social unrest to the affected nations."

MI6 may seek extradition of Richard Tomlinson

The *Times* of London reported on Dec. 12 that the British government is preparing to force the extradition of former MI6 agent Richard Tomlinson on charges of violating the Official Secrets Act. Tomlinson is currently living in Geneva, Switzerland. According to the report, a senior MI6 director in charge of security made an extraordinary visit to the *Sunday Business* newspaper, which had recently published an article that cited statements by Tomlinson. The weekly had reported that senior British editors are on the MI6 payroll and that MI6 routinely

cooperates with the British business community. The article had also reported Tomlinson's allegation that MI6 maintains a high-level agent in the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank.

Britain's Treasury Solicitor has warned the paper that its reporting of Tomlinson's allegations regarding the Bundesbank, was possibly a breach of the Official Secrets Act. The paper's police sources say that no extradition request has been filed with Swiss authorities, but a British request from the Swiss police for permission to interview Tomlinson, has been turned down.

In September, Tomlinson had been booked on a Swissair flight, which crashed attempting an emergency landing in Newfoundland.

Singapore, Japan fear upheaval in Indonesia

Singapore's *Straits Times* on Dec. 13 reported on the four-day visit of Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Tony Tan to Japan, at the end of which Tan told reporters that all the Japanese ministers he met with agreed with his concern about the situation in Indonesia, and fear a repeat of the bloody May riots in which more than 1,200 people died in less than 72 hours. Tan said, "If there is instability and lawlessness in Indonesia, this could lead to, for example, a greater outflow of illegal immigrants as well as threaten the safety of passage of ships in the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea. . . . We hope that the Indonesian government will be able to keep these pressures under check and restore stability for the good, not only of Indonesia, but of the whole region."

Tan also briefed Japanese defense chief Hosen Norota on the recent visit of Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian to Singapore, which Tan described as part of Singapore's strategy to increase defense interactions with Beijing "step by step." Tan reported that for the first time during Chi's trip, a senior Chinese official gave a public lecture on China's defense policy in a Southeast Asian country. Tan told reporters that his Japanese hosts were not concerned with Singapore's defense ties to China.