

International Intelligence

LaRouche associate takes Santo Domingo by storm

Carlos Cota Meza, a leader of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Mexico, has received widespread coverage during his week-long tour in Santo Domingo. The daily newspaper *Hoy* on May 3 interviewed Cota, describing the MSIA as "a movement inspired by the American economist Lyndon LaRouche, who argues that Latin America meets the condition to become an economic power." After summarizing LaRouche's Eurasian Land-Bridge and New Bretton Woods proposals, *Hoy* continued: "According to Cota Meza, Latin American rulers are more afraid of protectionism than of NATO's bombs. The most pathetic case is that of Hugo Chávez, the Venezuelan President, who assumed power with the overwhelming support of the people, but who is now preparing to destroy the Constitution so as not to confront the IMF [International Monetary Fund]. 'Chavez wants to create a new Constitution to accommodate to globalization and to apply free trade,' said Cota."

The afternoon daily *La Nación* also published a lengthy article/interview on May 3. On April 30, Cota gave a live interview with television host Julio Hazim, while a Catholic network broadcast a pre-recorded interview, the same day.

Iran, Saudi Arabia in security talks

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which have been improving steadily, will be further consolidated by a visit of Iranian President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami to Riyadh in early May. Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn Abdel Aziz has just been in Tehran, and met Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani, Khatami, and the Supreme Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei. Minister Ali Shamkhani, had floated the idea of a joint defense agreement.

Khatami was quoted by the newspaper *Ettela'at* saying: "The security of Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region is our security. We don't need foreign forces for that." Khatami continued, "Cooperation be-

tween our two nations could create security and stability," and an alliance between them "could make our enemies fearful and put them in disarray." Khatami was quoted by Iranian radio saying, "Relations between Tehran and Riyadh are not only in the interest of our two nations, but also in the interests of the region and all the world."

Prince Sultan's response was cautious, stressing, "The question of military cooperation is not easy between two countries whose relations were cut for years." Sultan added that cooperation "should start with economic, social, and cultural cooperation."

London's Abu Hamza sent terrorist to Yemen

Three Scotland Yard officers were in Yemen in April to investigate claims that London-based Ansarul-Sharia leader Abu Hamza Al-Misri had trained eight British Muslims in London and sent them to Yemen to commit terrorist acts against British and American interests. One of the eight defendants admitted that he was sent by Abu Hamza, whence they contacted Abu Hassan Al-Mihdhar, the leader of the Yemeni Jihad group, who is being tried for kidnapping and killing one Australian and two British tourists in Yemen in December 1998.

Abu Hamza may face trial in Britain. In January, Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Al-Saleh sent a letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair demanding Abu Hamza's extradition. He was arrested in March, but was released after a few days for lack of evidence. He is a British citizen and, like all "Islamic" terrorists that Britain trained 20 years ago as "Afghan freedom fighters," he is disposable.

Civilian casualties growing in Iraq

Anglo-American bombings against Iraq are continuing in May, and civilian casualties continue to climb. According to the Iraqi Armed Forces, all seven members of a family in Baashiq, near Mosul, in the northern, Kurdish area of Iraq, were killed during air raids on April 30. On May 3, the Iraqi News Agency reported 2 dead and 12 injured after attacks in the Ninevah (Mosul) province. It

also said that during the last week of April, a cluster bomb exploded in the Rumana area in western Iraq, killing a teenage shepherd and wounding two others. The same week, the News Agency reported that cluster bombs killed two citizens in Nasirya. The U.S.-Britain alliance claims it is bombing anti-aircraft batteries in the "no-fly zones" as a matter of "self-defense."

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz addressed a conference on the effects of the sanctions on May 1. He told the political leaders from Europe, Asia, Africa, and Ibero-America: "All peace-loving and just forces rejecting aggression and hegemony who believe in the essence of the UN Charter are needed to . . . counter misleading means adopted by America to cover up its aggression."

U.S.-Japan-Australia alliance concerns India

A "new strategic order" is developing in Asia that could have a far greater bearing on Indian security than the NATO bombing of Serbia, *The Hindu* of India wrote in a commentary on May 2. The U.S. military cooperation with Japan and Australia is key to this "new strategic order," *The Hindu* said. At the end of April, the Japanese Diet (parliament) approved the revised guidelines for defense cooperation with the United States, which "brings the Japanese Self-Defense Forces closer to military action in support of U.S. political objectives, and allows them to operate outside Japan," *The Hindu* said. "This marks a profound change in Japan's security policy in the essence of the peace constitution it adopted after World War II.

"If Japan remains the 'northern anchor' of the U.S. military presence in Asia, Australia has emerged as the 'southern anchor,'" *The Hindu* said. Since an agreement in 1996, Australia has expanded its military commitments. Australia and the United States have, for the past three years, conducted combined military exercises, and the two countries "have covered the full range of operational and tactical cooperation" in all three services. China, *The Hindu* noted, has opposed the expansion of U.S. military alliances in Asia, especially the new U.S.-Japan defense guidelines.