

# National News

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## Palestinian freed after illegal incarceration

Hany Kaireldeen, a Palestinian immigrant who was held for 18 months in a New Jersey jail on the basis of undisclosed "secret evidence," was freed on Oct. 22. A Federal judge had ruled that the use of secret evidence to detain immigrants violates the due process clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The FBI had claimed that Kaireldeen had hosted a terrorist meeting at his house in 1993, prior to the Feb. 26 World Trade Center bombing, with Nidal Ayyad, one of those convicted for the bombing. The Bureau also claimed that Kaireldeen had threatened the life of Attorney General Janet Reno. But the judge's ruling said that the government had made no effort to produce witnesses, either in public or *in camera*, to support its allegations, and that the FBI's unclassified summaries of evidence were "unreliable."

After first saying it would appeal, the government dropped the case.

The American Muslim Council announced that it would hold a press conference at the Capitol on Nov. 4, urging Congress to pass the "Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 1999," which would end the use of secret evidence in immigration cases. Reps. David Bonior (D-Mich.) and Tom Campbell (R-Calif.) were scheduled to speak, along with representatives of various Muslim and Arab organizations. There are now over 50 co-sponsors of the repeal bill.

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## Woolsey claims Clinton is 'appeasing' China

Former Director of Central Intelligence R. James Woolsey on Oct. 26 appeared before the House International Relations Committee, and accused the Clinton administration of pursuing a policy of appeasement toward China, which he likened to the way that Britain and France dealt with Adolf Hitler at Munich. "It is wrongheaded and dangerous," he said. The committee is chaired by China-

basher Rep. Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.).

Woolsey recently co-chaired a New York Council on Foreign Relations study group on Chinese governance in the 21st century, which stressed the need for changes in human rights policy.

After Woolsey's testimony, the House International Relations Committee approved, by a 32-6 vote, the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, to promote U.S. training of Taiwan's military officers and to open lines of communication with the Taiwan military in times of crisis. The vote was intended to send a provocative signal to China that the United States would respond to aggression against Taiwan, and to bolster Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui's "two Chinas" formula.

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## Gore's insult causes uproar in Moscow

Vice-President Al Gore gave an interview to the Associated Press on Oct. 19, in which he tried to clean up his own image with respect to the Russian money-laundering scandal, by putting the blame on Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Calling Yeltsin an "on-again, off-again" President, Gore said, "Yeltsin's episodic approach to the Presidency has not helped their ability to get on top of all these problems."

As *EIR* has reported, the mafiosi accused of money-laundering and other corruption in the Bank of New York (BONY) case, from former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on down, are Gore's personal cronies (see *EIR*, Sept. 3, 1999).

On Oct. 24, Yeltsin's spokesman Dmitri Yakushkin went on Ekho Moskvy radio to protest that "if the respected U.S. Vice President Albert Gore did make a statement of this sort, I can say he has incorrect, I would even say distorted, information on this score." Yakushkin asserted that Yeltsin "feels well and, most importantly, controls the most crucial political decisions being made today." Duma (Parliament) Foreign Affairs Committee head Vladimir Lukin told Ekho Moskvy that if the U.S. Vice President "has only now established that our Pres-

ident's state of health leaves something to be desired, then I do not congratulate him or the agencies reporting to him."

Former Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin called Gore's words "a very harsh speech . . . against our President."

ORT television commentator Mikhail Leontyev was more acerbic: "Mr. Gore has already blown his election campaign to the Republicans. He is like an American Luzhkov, who has always been formally loyal to his boss Clinton, but now, obviously interested in discrediting him. And I don't doubt this will be a whole campaign."

An article in the daily *Kommersant* said, "On the eve of the Presidential elections, Gore needs to win back the positions undermined in the course of the BONY scandal, and for that reason, he intends to distance himself from the incumbent President as far as possible, ascribing all the real and supposed mistakes 'in the Russian direction' to him personally."

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## Clinton vows to help Nigeria with debt

Speaking at a joint press conference with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Oct. 28, President Clinton promised to work to reduce the debt burden of Nigeria.

"A second concrete step we can take, as President Obasanjo has reminded us, is to help relieve the crushing debt burden that is making it so hard for developing nations to get on their feet," Clinton said. "It is neither morally right, nor economically sound, to say that young democracies like Nigeria, as they overcome the painful legacy of dictatorship or misrule, must choose between making interest payments on their debt and investing in the health and education of their children. As Nigeria undertakes its reforms, I will support generous debt rescheduling through the Paris Club, and encourage other countries to take further steps."

When questioned further on the issue, Clinton elaborated: "First of all, you must understand this is not a question for the United States only to resolve. I have a much more aggressive attitude, generally, on debt

**DEFENSE SECRETARY** William Cohen, visiting Israel on Oct. 26, told Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and President Ezer Weizman that the Clinton administration would deliver on the promised \$1.6 billion aid to help implement the Wye peace accord. The U.S. Congress cut the funds out of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which Clinton then vetoed. A compromise budget now has to be negotiated.

**MADELEINE ALBRIGHT** was one of the key figures, together with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, in a “grotesque propaganda operation” to exaggerate the number of Kosovo Albanians killed by the Serbs, in order to justify the NATO war against Kosovo, said a British source who has investigated the killings.

**HENRY KISSINGER** will provide Disney studios with a “voice-over” for its upcoming production of “Henney-Penney.” He will be the voice of the sheriff who investigates the crime. Kissinger’s son has the franchise for selling Disney products to China.

**CHASE MANHATTAN** Bank is backing a \$500 million global resources fund being launched by Australian mining magnate “Diamond” Joe Gutnick, according to the Melbourne *Herald Sun* on Oct. 15. Gutnick is one of the main funders of the settlement movement in the Hebron area, which is sabotaging the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The fund, to be called Capital Growth Resources Fund, will be based in the Cayman Islands tax haven.

**ROBERT RUBIN**, the former Treasury Secretary, has been named to serve as chairman of the Executive Committee of Citigroup, joining Sandy Weill and John Reed in a newly constituted three-person Office of the Chairman. He will participate in strategic managerial and operational matters of the company, but will have no “line responsibilities,” Citigroup said in a press release.

relief than many of my counterparts do in other parts of the world, although not all of them. There are others who agree with me. And I have a more aggressive attitude than some people in our Congress do, although I hope I can persuade them before we go home this year.

“Under the present framework, Nigeria is not eligible for total cancellation of debt because of its assets, its petroleum assets. As the President pointed out to me today, if you had a different measure, if you measured the real per-capita income of individual Nigerians, or some of the other social indicators like infant mortality—it would present, I think, a more accurate picture of what life in Nigeria is like today.

“Here is my view. Right now, we ought to get whatever relief we can, because you need to—even the rescheduling relief is worth something. It takes a burden off your back now, and gives you a chance to get some breathing room, and doesn’t raise the questions of creditworthiness—so that we can get more investment into Nigeria and more loans into Nigeria as well, if they’re necessary. . . .

“If you look at what’s happened to Nigeria’s oil resources, and what’s happened in the previous years, and what people are really living on, you could make a compelling case for more relief. And I think what we should do is take what we can get now and pocket it, and try to get some more investment in your country, and keep working to support the reforms that the President has outlined, and just keep working to get more relief as we go along. That’s what I think is the only realistic hope.”

## CIA chief on secret trip to Israel, PNA

CIA director George Tenet arrived in Israel on Oct. 26 to meet secretly with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, according to the Israeli daily *Yediot Aharonot*. He reportedly was planning to meet Ephraim Halevy, the head of the Mossad, Israel’s foreign intelligence service; Amy Axalon, the head of the Shabak, Israel’s domestic intelligence service;

and Moshe Ya’alon, commander of Israel’s Central Command, which is responsible for the West Bank.

He also intended to travel to Gaza to meet Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat and the chiefs of the Palestinian Preventive Security Force, Jibril Rajoub and Muhammed Dahlan. The Israeli newspaper said that they would discuss security cooperation among the United States, Israel, and the Palestinian National Authority. Tenet would also discuss the shipment of weapons and communications equipment to the Palestinians and the opening of a CIA office in the Palestinian-controlled city of Ramallah.

## EIR confronts pro-drug meeting in Washington

At a conference on “Drugs and Democracy” held on Oct. 29 by George Washington University’s Andean Studies program, the TransNational Institute of Amsterdam, and the Washington Office on Latin America, *EIR*’s Michele Steinberg created quite a stir when she held up a photo of New York Stock Exchange President Richard Grasso embracing Colombian narco-terrorist Raúl Reyes, the head of the FARC (published in *EIR*, Oct. 29). Steinberg asked the panel, which included Colombian Interior Minister Nestor Martínez, to explain what Grasso was doing there.

“You have told us here, and given the details, of how pathetic and pitiful the amount of international investment for infrastructure and technological development in Colombia has been,” she said. “Yet, here is the head of Wall Street, meeting with the FARC. It appears he is there to *sabotage* the efforts to stop the coca production, because he wants the narco-profits to come into Wall Street, and *not* because he wants to invest to help Colombia. Would the Minister, and Mr. Nyholm [from the UN’s project on ‘alternative development’ which is working with the FARC] comment on this?”

While the speakers did not directly address Wall Street’s role, several diplomats and academics came to her to ask for more information.