

International Intelligence

Yemenis say Saudis behind assassination attempt

Saudi Arabia is responsible for an assassination attempt on Anis Hassan Yahya, former deputy prime minister of Yemen and a leading member of the Socialist Party, in an apparent attempt to destabilize the process of unification of Yemen, Yahya charged.

Yahya said that the attempt on his life was part of a conspiracy to prevent the emergence of a modern Yemeni state. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh accused "enemy forces" of conspiring against his efforts to set up a democracy on the Arabian Peninsula.

Although no accusation has been made by the Yemen government, there is a widespread belief that the Saudis were behind the operation because they fear the possible success of Yemen unification and democratic reforms. Yemen will hold elections this November.

According to the July 10 London *Guardian*, Sheikh Ali Shami of the moderate Islamic Al Haq Party openly accused the Saudis: "Saudi Arabia is pouring lots and lots of money into Yemen to promote its own version of Wahhabist Islam. This is actually an irrational and an uncompromising version of our religion which we can do without."

The United States and Great Britain are also accused of attempts to destabilize Yemen because of its refusal to back the Gulf war against Iraq.

French group launches exposé of Cousteau

The French branch of the International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC), founded by American statesman Lyndon LaRouche, has launched an operation dubbed "Complete Destruction" against Jacques Cousteau. The aim of the operation is to expose Cousteau, a malthusian extremist who has said that "we should eliminate 350,000 persons per day."

These words, published from an interview he gave to *Unesco News*, came back to haunt him in early July when he appeared

on the French television talk show *L'heure de Verité* ("The Hour of Truth"). One of the journalists, who had been provided with a press dossier on Cousteau in advance, was sufficiently shocked by Cousteau's statements to ask some useful questions.

Cousteau, who became defensive and angry when questioned on the *Unesco News* quote, claimed that the paper had "changed" what he said. The reporter questioned him on another quote, that "to eliminate diseases and suffering was a beautiful idea, but not beneficial in the longer term." Cousteau was speechless. He was saved only by another journalist who changed the subject.

Bahgat Einadi and Adel Rifaat, who had conducted the interview for *Unesco News*, confirmed that Cousteau had indeed made the remark, that they had kept the tape of the interview, and that Cousteau had made even more outrageous statements which they did not print. They also said that they had sent the transcript of the interview to Cousteau so that he could correct it before publication.

Ghozali dumped, Algeria may see economic shift

Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, who had vigorously pushed International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity policies on Algeria even before the coup in which President Mohammed Boudiaf was assassinated on June 29, was dumped on July 9 and replaced by Belaid Abdesselam.

Abdesselam was a key lieutenant of former President Houari Boumediene. As minister of industry and energy from 1965 to 1977, he oversaw the state takeover of oil fields from foreign companies in 1971, which was followed by Iraq the next year, and then the rest of the oil-producing Arab states. He held the light industries portfolio until 1979, and was on the FLN's Politburo until June 1980. Reuters and other news agencies have warned that Abdesselam might reject privatization and resume the dirigist policy which he earlier led.

In the 1980s, when former President Chadli Bedjedid began the policy of privatization, Abdesselam publicly denounced it

and led the opposition. The solution to Algeria's problems, he said in a 1989 book, was the rebirth of Algerian nationalism. Recently, in respect to privatization, he said, "We must completely challenge the reforms to reconcile the system and inscribe it in continuity with the past." He reportedly supports foreign involvement in helping exploit Algeria's oil wealth, like his predecessor, but has condemned the IMF as "being under the influence of France."

EIR exposé a hot item in Thailand

The *EIR* exposé on the U.S. funding of the so-called democracy movement in Thailand, the AFL-CIA sponsorship of provocateurs Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyuth and Gen. Chamlong Srimuang, and the U.S. operation to destabilize Thailand, is circulating throughout the country (see *EIR*, May 29 and June 12).

The Chat Thai Party, the business party which was part of the five-party ruling coalition, has printed 100,000 Thai-language copies of the May 29 *EIR* article detailing the Bush assault on Thailand. The party is using the exposé as its manual nationally for the upcoming elections, to be held Sept. 13. Another 100,000 copies of the article are being circulated by the party of former Communications Minister Samak, whose constituency is in Bangkok, which is also the base of Chamlong. Thousands more copies are being circulated by the National Labor Congress.

The effect of the *EIR* exposé has helped to isolate Chavalit and Chamlong. The Democrat Party, part of the democracy opposition, has issued a white paper distancing the party from the two, saying that they acted to provoke the violence that occurred May 17-21.

So far, however, the *EIR* exposé has been blacked out of the newspapers, which are largely controlled by the Anglo-Americans and the Asia Foundation Press Development Institute.

The U.S. embassy in Bangkok, meanwhile, is reported to be circulating a six-page memorandum against U.S. statesman

Briefly

Lyndon LaRouche and *EIR*, which is full of quotes from drug lobby scribbler Dennis King and the Anti-Defamation League. The memo, however, does report that LaRouche has met with former heads of state Indira Gandhi, Raúl Alfonsín, and José López Portillo.

British Parliament probes Queen's billions

British parliamentarians have ordered an "unprecedented probe into the \$22.5 million a year paid to the Queen and the royal family. . . . Unrest over the role of some of the royals has sparked the inquiry," according to the July 4 *Herald Sun* of Melbourne, Australia.

British Labour Party Member of Parliament Alan Williams said it was "absolutely incongruous" that parliament had never used its right, won during the reign of King Charles I, to investigate whether the country "received value for money from the monarchy. I think the public are becoming aware that some members of the royal family are receiving taxpayers' money for little or no public work."

In particular what is being questioned is whether Prince Andrew, Prince Edward, and Princess Margaret should stay on the civil lists (i.e., be paid). The total annual cost for the royal family is \$131 million, most of which comes from British taxpayers.

German court nixes funds for 'anti-cult' groups

The German federal administrative court has declared public financing of "anti-cult" groups a violation of the basic rights of religious and philosophical organizations. The decision upheld a lower administrative court ruling. Most of the German anti-cult groups are built around "cult experts" from either the Protestant or Catholic churches, but they are primarily financed by different levels of government, in some cases up to 90% of their annual budget.

Since 1979-81, the Anglo-American en-

emies of the International Caucus of Labor Committees, the philosophical association founded by Lyndon LaRouche, have relied on this anti-cult network to do the lion's share of the visible dirty work against LaRouche's co-thinkers. The Anti-Defamation League and the American Family Foundation-created label, "extremist political sect," was brought into Germany through the collaboration of pro-drug frontman Dennis King with the late euthanasia promoter Reverend Haack of Munich, and was coordinated by the exclusively federally funded anti-cult umbrella organization "Action Association on the Danger of Psycho-Cults" (AGPF) based in Bonn. Hundreds of articles which caused untold damage, including physical attacks, cancellations of public meeting rooms, pre-election black propaganda, and intimidation of supporters, were based on the "experts" and activities of these subsidized groups.

Philippines President pushes for death penalty

Fidel Ramos, who was sworn in as the new President of the Philippines on June 30, said in a television interview on July 6 that he wants to bring back the electric chair, Reuters reported from Manila. Ramos had earlier indicated he intends to pursue aggressive population control programs.

The first Protestant President of the largely Catholic country said he would ask the Philippines Congress to enact a law reviving capital punishment for "heinous crimes" such as drug trafficking and offenses involving use of unlicensed guns.

The death penalty should also be imposed on incorrigible criminals, he said. "Under our laws right now, the criminal can repeat the crimes because he can get himself bailed out, but this is precisely what encourages [them] to go into very heinous and brutal types of crimes," he said.

Ramos said he intends to revive several bills urging the restoration of capital punishment, which he had proposed as defense secretary under the previous government of Corazon Aquino but which the Congress failed to act on.

● **VIETNAM** announced that Chinese troops had landed on another of the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, and issued a stern diplomatic protest, the *International Herald Tribune* reported July 9. In response, Beijing said that its claim to that section of the islands is "historically authentic," the BBC reported.

● **THE KHMER ROUGE** on July 3 demanded the dismantling of the Phnom Penh government of Heng Samrin as a condition for their continued participation in Cambodian peace accords they signed last October in Paris. The Beijing-backed genocidal group said that between now and planned, U.N.-organized elections, they want: "No prime minister, no deputy prime ministers, no ministers. . . . no national assembly and senate. No other state and government attributes (flag, armorial bearings, anthem)."

● **THE AFRICAN** National Congress has decided to follow its own agenda for the seizure of power, South African President F.W. de Klerk said July 2, Reuters reported. "Instead of bringing about the new South Africa through talks and agreement they want to force their views on the rest of our society through confrontation and mass mobilization."

● **NEGOTIATORS** from the U.S. are going to Moscow to push for changes in the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty which would allow joint U.S.-Russian development of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the July 12 *New York Times* reported. A U.S. proposal would allow each side to develop ground-based defenses, but space-based systems would be developed and controlled by the U.S.—a point not agreed to by the Yeltsin government.

● **LEBANESE** and Syrian authorities have destroyed the 1992 opium crop in the Bekaa Valley, the U.N. Drug Control Program reports. The move is seen as contributing to the normalization of the Lebanese political situation by denying to the various militias and factions what has been their main source of income.