

International Intelligence

UN anti-drug report scores Europe's laxness

The United Nations International Narcotics Control Board Report, issued on Feb. 23, was sharply critical of several European governments, for their laxness in fighting the drug plague, amounting, in several cases, to promoting illegal practices. For example, the report said, the British and Dutch governments failed to do anything about a new, increasingly lucrative Internet trade in cannabis (marijuana and the powerful concentrate, hashish), including the sale of potent new strains. The report also attacked the government-sanctioned heroin "shooting galleries" in Holland, Spain, and Switzerland, where, under the excuse of preventing the spread of AIDS, addicts are given "clean needles." The Control Board compared these "shooting galleries" to the opium dens of the 19th century, whence addiction simply spread.

The report documents that, in Britain, 25% of all 13-year-olds have used drugs, most often cannabis, while, in France, 33% of all secondary school students have used drugs at one time or another. The report further expresses alarm over the rise in cocaine and amphetamine use.

According to the London *Financial Times* on Feb. 24, Antonio Lourenco Martins, president of the International Narcotics Control Board, expressed concern about the role of offshore financial centers in laundering drug money, saying that "financial havens" had become "an enormous hole in the international legal and fiscal system, and a challenge to international drug control efforts worldwide."

CDU scandal no benefit to SPD-Greens in state vote

Germany's Christian Democrats (CDU) lost the state parliament and governorship in elections in Schleswig-Holstein on Feb. 26, but were not damaged so badly by the party funding scandals as might have been expected. And, while the Social Democrats (SPD) technically won the election, the

Green party, which was expected to gain votes on the SPD's coattails, actually lost seats. The SPD won 43.1%, an increase of 3.3% over four years ago. The SPD's gains were at the expense of the Green party, its national coalition partner in Berlin, which lost 1.9%, from the 8.2% since the last election.

The Greens have not recovered from their profound crisis, which began with the Hesse state election in February 1999. Even leading Greens have warned that this erosion of their vote has to do with the popular rejection of the ecology taxes imposed by the SPD-Green national government in Berlin; simply put, erstwhile Green voters who drive cars, balked at having to pay these taxes.

CDU voters who defected, for the most part, did not vote for the SPD. The heretofore moribund Free Democrats (formerly the national CDU coalition partner) went from 5.7% to 7.6% in Schleswig-Holstein, while the CDU losses were kept to 2.2% over four years ago. In post-election polling, only 13% of CDU voters said that the party financing scandal influenced the way they voted.

New U.K. law to allow forcible Ritalin use

The Tony Blair government in Britain is proposing to remove legal restrictions on forcible drugging, writes London *Observer* health editor Anthony Browne on Feb. 29. According to British mental health professionals, the pending legislation to reform the Mental Health Act, proposes that doctors be allowed to drug people, including children, if they have "any disability or disorder of the mind or brain, whether permanent or temporary, which results in an impairment or disturbance of mental functioning." The legislation would do away with the safeguard, against drugging people against their will, unless they show "seriously irresponsible or abnormally aggressive behavior."

Browne writes: "The concern over the legislation follows alarming evidence that tens of thousands of schoolchildren with mild behavior problems are being drugged with Ritalin . . . simply in order to control them. In England, the number of prescrip-

tions for the mind-drug Ritalin—which is given to so-called 'hyperactive' children to improve concentration—has shot up from just 3,500 in 1993 to 126,500 in 1998. The U.K. is rapidly following in the path of the U.S., where a report last week showed that 3 million children—one in every 30—are now being given Ritalin. Children as young as two are being given mood-altering drugs, including anti-depressants."

Browne adds that "critics claim that drugs such as Ritalin are being used so widely, because they are an easy way to control difficult youngsters. The drug is usually prescribed for kids suffering from the highly controversial medical condition called Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), even though there is no agreement on what causes it, or even whether it really exists. Two years ago, Dr. Edward Hamlyn, a founding member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, described ADHD as 'a fraud intended to justify starting these children on a life of drug addiction.' Many medical experts believe that attention deficit or hyperactivity can simply be the result of glandular disorders, nutritional problems or even just tiredness, and so no mind-altering drugs such as Ritalin are required."

Ritalin, the stimulant methylphenidate, is both highly addictive and has a high abuse potential. In 1998, the UN International Narcotics Control Board report listed Ritalin, along with prescription pain-killers and stimulants, among the leading prescription drugs on the international black market.

Syria's Assad gravely ill, say Israeli sources

Uri Dan, the personal publicist for Israeli fascist Ariel Sharon, and a shared employee of Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* and Conrad Black's *Jerusalem Post*, claims in the *New York Post* on Feb. 28 that Israeli sources are reporting that Syrian President Hafez al-Assad is in poor health, and may be dying of leukemia. His death would bury hope of completing a peace treaty between Syria and Israel, Dan gloated. He reported that an American think-tanker recently met with Assad in Damascus, and was struck by how ill he looked. And, a Jordanian diplo-

THE BASQUE ETA terrorists set off a car-bomb in Vitoria on Feb. 20, killing local Spanish Socialist Party leader Fernando Buesa. All Spain's leading parties are now calling on the Basque regional government to dump the ETA's legal front, Herri Bata-suna, from its coalition government. Spain will hold regional elections on March 12.

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Robin Cook went to Georgia on Feb. 24, where he showed off the character of Perfidious Albion: While in Moscow earlier in the week, Cook had cooed about how much he enjoyed meeting with Russian Acting President Vladimir Putin. But, once in Tbilisi, Cook warned Russia not to interfere in Georgia's internal affairs, and not to further upset the delicate situation in the Caucasus.

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT Abdurrahman Wahid appointed Henry Kissinger as an adviser, it was announced on Feb. 28 in Jakarta. Kissinger said he will confer with President Wahid at least once a year on political and social policy.

MI5 IS SUING its former agent David Shayler for breach of contract and jeopardizing national security, after failing to silence the renegade ex-officer. The spy agency had tried to bring Shayler up on criminal charges, but was unable to get the French government to extradite him several years ago. In interviews, Shayler has accused both British intelligence services MI5 and MI6 of a variety of dirty deeds, including involvement in the death of Princess Diana.

SOUTHERN SUDAN is being abandoned by private aid agencies, after John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army gave all aid agencies until March 1 to sign a "memorandum of understanding" with the SPLA, giving it effective recognition as a sovereign government. Garang's war against Khartoum has left thousands in the south starving.

mat, according to Dan, made a similar report to Israeli officials. "The Jordanian fear is that if Assad passes away, his son Bashar will not be able to make the tough decisions needed in the foreseeable future," said Dan.

But, he also reported that, at the Feb. 26 Israeli Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Ehud Barak made a major concession to Syria, accepting the June 4, 1967 border between Israel and Syria, which would return land adjacent to the Sea of Galilee to Syria. Barak, at the meeting, cited the fact that earlier Prime Ministers, including Yitzhak Rabin, had approved of withdrawal to the "June 4th Line."

The effort to re-start the Israeli-Syrian peace talks has been, according to Dan, completely coordinated with U.S. President Clinton. Other news accounts say that the President has been personally involved in private phone discussions with both Barak and Assad to get the peace talks going on a more advanced track, after several months of inaction, following the Shepherdstown, West Virginia meetings earlier this year.

Brazilian patriots must read EIR's 'The Plot'

Two Brazilian publications, *Ombro a Ombro* and *Tribuna da Imprensa*, urged their readers to study EIR's book *O Complot*, the Portuguese translation of its 1993 book *The Plot to Annihilate the Armed Forces and Nations of Ibero-America*. In its February issue, the journal of the Brazilian retired military association, *Ombro a Ombro*, carries an article, "What Are They Being Taught?" which recommends that all military cadets should be given *The Plot*. Military education should explain the global situation: that since the fall of the Soviet Union, "it is the United States, in alliance with the British and the Canadians, which defines the international conjuncture. Some even refer to it as British brains and U.S. muscle," operating in Lord Palmerston's tradition that Britain has only "permanent interests, but no permanent allies." In this New Order, says *Ombro a Ombro*, our nations are allowed to only have small rapid deployment forces, ready to be deployed by foreign mentors to intervene against states that resist the New Order.

Thus, Brazil's Armed Forces would only be "available international militias," with orders to set aside the Armed Forces' legitimate role in national development.

In the daily *Tribuna*, the military-linked journalist and outspoken nationalist Carlos Chagas recommended *The Plot* as "an antidote to globalization," in a two-part series on Feb. 24-25. Entitled "How to Dissolve National Sovereignty," Chagas's series exposes Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, as the eager instrument of the Inter-American Dialogue, which he helped found, with the commitment to destroy the nation-state. Chagas, using EIR's material, reviews how the Dialogue—and Cardoso—view Brazil's military as an obstacle to their plans to transform Brazil "into an immense plantation, exporting raw materials and semi-manufactured and under-valued products."

Former E. Timor Fretilin leader meets with Wahid

A former leader of the East Timor Fretilin guerrillas attacked UN corruption for creating the current mess, according to the Feb. 25 *Jakarta Post*. Abilio Araujo, now president of the Timorese Nationalist Party, travelled to Jakarta, to meet with Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid and Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, and reported that "international support falls short of meeting the serious current shortages and needs of our new country, while there is little we can do during this transitional period."

He attacked East Timor leader Xanana Gusmao's policies, especially making Portuguese the national language and dollarizing the currency. Araujo favors Bahasa Indonesian as the official language, "to enable us to have a greater presence in the community of Malay-speaking people, a community which East Timor is part of, and where 300 million people understand each other by means of Malay, the root of Bahasa Indonesian." Araujo advocates reconciliation with the Indonesian Army rather than vengeance, and called on Wahid to help rebuild East Timor, and to allow the 2,000 East Timor students in Indonesia to finish their studies.