

International Intelligence

Radical Saudi prince makes Arab tour

Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz, who was expelled from Saudi Arabia in the early 1960s for revolutionary activities, has surfaced again touring the Arab Gulf states as an official of Unicef. Arab sources report that the aging Prince has never changed his revolutionary tune and is now using his cover with Unicef to "buy influence" on the Arabian peninsula in his activities against the Saudi royal family. Talal, who lives part of the time in Geneva, is reportedly one of the funders of a leading figure in the clandestine Muslim Brotherhood movement, Said Ramadhan, who is also based in Geneva. The Brotherhood, after installing Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, is challenging the monarchy of Saudi Arabia.

An editorial in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* this week took note of Talal's tour of Europe, where he was also soliciting support for his efforts to create a Unicef-backed financial institution in the Gulf. The editorial observed that Talal exercises considerable influence over younger Saudis who could be swayed against the Saudi leadership. He is presently visiting Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar.

Italian socialist defends Qaddafi

Giacomo Mancini, known as the "Southern Baron" of the Italian Socialist Party, has defended Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi against public charges that Qaddafi finances and trains Italian terrorism.

Mancini, who has publicly identified himself with accused Italian terrorist including his protégé Franco Piperno, told the weekly magazine *L'Espresso*:

"This violent and sudden attack against Qaddafi took me by surprise and worries me. . . I do not intend to align myself with those who present a negative picture of the work of Qaddafi. . ."

The Italian press has recently carried numerous reports from Libyan exiles living in Europe that Qaddafi runs training camps for both left and right terrorists from all over the world. Fascist bomber Mario Tuti, in fact, bragged that Qaddafi financed him. In addition, Qaddafi recently sent \$50,000 to Italy to aid the families of victims of the recent Bologna railway station bombing that took 84 lives.

France fears results of Libya-Syria moves

Paul Marie de la Gorce, a commentator for France's *Le Figaro* newspaper who is close to circles around French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, warns in his Sept. 10 column that "new explosions are absolutely inevitable" in the Middle East unless France takes bold action in the Middle East policy arena.

De La Gorce points to the recent Syria-Libya moves toward unification as the surest sign that the region is entering a new period of instability. For one, he points out, the merger indicates how Syrian President Hafez Assad is constrained to move in a leftist adventurist direction because of the growing instability faced by his regime. Second, the Libya-Syria moves "correspond to Soviet strategy in the region" and thereby add a superpower dimension to the event. Third, the union is likely to exacerbate inter-Arab tensions and thereby leaves Israel as the main regional power without any power capable of containing it.

De La Gorce warns that "between the crises that threaten to break out and the weary majestic slowness of the chancelleries calculating the risks of their initiatives and weighing the reactions of public opinion, there is a time-gap which one day will be measured by catastrophic consequences. . . It is to be hoped," he concludes "that French policy will not confuse prudence and inaction and will want to give some real substance to the ideas that it has had the merit to advance."

Sihanouk wants Pol Pot out of UN

Former Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in an article in the Sept. 8 *London Guardian*, called for the unseating of the deposed Pol Pot regime from the United Nations where it is still recognized as the legitimate government of Kampuchea (Cambodia).

Writing from exile in Peking, Sihanouk condemned the support of the United States and other Western governments have granted the Pol Pot butchers: "The United States and the other democracies who will have voted to the bitter end for the regime of 'Democratic Kampuchea' will have assumed in history the heaviest and the least honourable of responsibilities: that of changing Cambodia back into an immense Auschwitz."

The population of Cambodia today is not concerned with the presence of Vietnamese troops, Sihanouk maintained, but rather with the threat of return of the dreaded murderers of the deposed Pol Pot regime. Sihanouk charged that the backers of Pol Pot, including China and the Carter administration, ignore this feeling among the Cambodian population. At the same time, Sihanouk still opposes the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh.

Sihanouk's castigation of U.S. policy is particularly pointed since at various times the U.S. State Department has attempted to push him forward as an alternative to both Pol Pot and the Vietnamese but always finally fell back to support of Pol Pot when Vietnam refused the deal.

U.S. to equip new Vietnam invasion?

Many of the 400 items China requested U.S. Undersecretary of Defense William Perry to approve for sale to China are intended to equip China for a new full-scale invasion of Vietnam, according to usually reliable Washington sources.

Briefly

Among the new items approved for purchase by China are Lockheed C-130 transport planes, Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters and Western Geophysical C. Houston computers supposedly used for seismic surveys but also applicable to sophisticated military uses. In addition to items approved for sale, Perry also approved licensing Chinese manufacture of such items as Bell Helicopter Textron helicopters.

China reportedly asked for approval of direct purchase of "lethal weapons" but, according to Perry this was not approved as yet. However, the Chinese emphasis on telecommunications, electronics, radar, semiconductors, testing equipment and high level computers are seen as aiding their nuclear missile guidance program while the helicopters and other equipment are to be used against Vietnam.

China in return has announced its willingness to sell the U.S. rare metals used in fighters such as titanium, vanadium and tantalum.

Though more than 400 items were approved for sale, in fact no actual contracts have yet been clinched. Previous much-ballyhooed items such as the British Harrier aircraft have not yet been bought by China, simply because China lacks the cash. At the latest National People's Congress, the military budget was cut by \$2 billion. When Perry was asked if this presented an obstacle to the U.S. effort to build up China's military he said, "Quite the contrary," but advisers to Reagan have told *EIR* they are skeptical of China's ability to finance a really significant military modernization.

Libya's feud with Malta deepens

Libyan naval forces shut down oil exploration operations in the Medina Bank, a submarine shelf 60 miles southeast of the island of Malta on Aug. 21. The Saipem II, a marine drilling rig owned by the Italian state oil company ENI, was

boarded by officers from a Libyan submarine, who handed over a letter claiming that the operations, sponsored by Texaco and the government of Malta, represented an unauthorized intrusion in Libyan waters and must be stopped.

According to eyewitness reports in the Rome daily *La Repubblica* Sept. 9, in the next two or three days, while the Saipem II was awaiting instructions from ENI, the seas surrounding the Medina Bank became crowded with warships from all over the world: "Libyan, Maltese, but also two Italian frigates sent by the government to protect us; and also Russian, American, British, Tunisian, Algerian units; it could have been the biggest naval battle in history."

Meanwhile, Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, stung by such treatment by his former protector, Libyan dictator Qaddafi, made a surprise trip to Rome last week to ask for a military agreement whereby Italy would guarantee Maltese neutrality. Late, unconfirmed reports say that the Italians have agreed to this.

Infight mounts among Zionists

One of Israeli Prime Minister Begin's factional allies, Samuel Flatto-Sharon, has made the startling announcement that the "World Congress for the Defense of Oppressed Jews" with which he is associated had mapped out plans to send some 200 former members of crack Israeli army units into France and Belgium to ensure the security of the Jewish communities there. Flatto-Sharon is a member of the increasingly widely exposed "Israeli Mafia," and is wanted in France on charges relating to his activities in organized crime there.

Within 24 hours of this announcement, the plan was unanimously condemned by the leaders of the Jewish movement in Belgium, including the President of the Zionist Federation of Belgium, Charles Frielis.

● **INTERNATIONAL** Institute of Strategic Studies of London met in Stresa, Italy Sept. 11-14. Papers at the conference include "Sources of Third World Conflict" and "Third World Conflict and International Security."

● **WATERGATES** could develop in Israel out of the current scandal involving Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Harzeira. A source noted that both Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Prime Minister Menachem Begin are "trying to keep the lid on" information currently in possession of Israel's police forces which documents that Abu-Harzeira had funneled ministry funds illegally into his own private bank accounts in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and possibly into his own National Religious Party and Begin's Likud Party.

● **ALDO ANIASI**, Italy's Socialist Health Minister, has issued a ministerial "decree law" legalizing the sale of methadone in syrup form in health care centers and pharmacies. If not reversed by Parliament, the decree becomes law on Oct. 1. Aniasi took the action despite warnings by both the Italian Anti-Drug Coalition and the Communist Party that similar programs in Britain have spread addiction. The ADC has begun organizing in Italy to block the legislation. In Milan, the campaign began with an hour-long panel discussion on the Catholic TV network featuring ADC president Rosanna Impiccini and Christian Democratic city councilwoman Ester Angiolini.

● **PRESS TRUST** of India, a major news agency, this week extensively covered the Fusion Energy Foundation's industrial development proposals for India. The coverage was picked up by leading newspapers including the *Patriot*, the *National Herald* (the unofficial paper of the ruling Congress I party) and the *Hindustan Times*, southern India's main paper.