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# International Intelligence

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## ***Gandhi visit could improve U.S.-India ties***

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi will arrive in the United States July 27 for a week-long state visit, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in about 10 years. The Indian leader will hold talks in Washington with President Reagan on July 29-30 and will be giving a foreign-policy address in New York before the Foreign Policy Association on August 2. She will also address the National Press Club in Washington and will be meeting with members of the Indian community in New York and Washington, followed by a brief visit to Los Angeles.

According to well-informed sources in New Delhi, the Indian Prime Minister sees her talks with the President as the main objective of her visit, and hopes to open the way to improvement of Indo-U.S. relations, which have been plagued by problems. Mrs. Gandhi is expected to focus her discussion on concerns over the deteriorating international situation—the danger of war in particular—rather than on bilateral issues between the two countries. Mrs. Gandhi will visit the Soviet Union in September; there are hopes in India that these visits can contribute to improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Sources close to the White House stressed to *EIR* their strong desire for improvement in U.S.-India ties, and their recognition of the importance of India's role in world affairs.

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## ***Church diplomacy over Poland continues***

Archbishop Jozef Glomp, Primate of the Catholic Church in Poland, said after early July talks at the Vatican, that no one, including the Soviet Union, could "veto" the planned second visit of Pope John Paul II to his native Poland. The Pope's trip, originally meant for an Aug. 26 religious festival, has been linked to the alleviation of martial law strictures in

Poland. Relaxation of Polish martial law, in turn, could become the occasion for lifting American and NATO sanctions against East-West trade.

On June 18, when a Vatican emissary was in Warsaw for negotiations, the Soviet news agency TASS released two warnings about the visit. TASS criticized the possible exploitation of John Paul's trip for "anti-socialist" agitation and accused President Reagan of urging the Pope to have this as his goal. During Glomp's stay in Rome, TASS recycled an even harsher commentary by Czechoslovakia's Bratislava *Pravda*, which attacked the Pope's own intentions.

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## ***Regionwide war in Central America?***

Joint counter-insurgency campaigns by the militaries of Honduras and El Salvador within each other's borders, and the extension of terrorism by El Salvador's guerrillas into Honduras in the past month, have fused the once parallel civil wars into a regional danger-point.

Reorganized following their setback in the Salvadoran elections at the end of March, the Salvadoran guerrillas of the Faribundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) took to the offensive in June. The Salvadoran army then launched new counter-insurgency campaigns in the east of the country, this time pulling Honduran army troops into deployments inside El Salvador's borders.

In a "hammer and anvil" effort, Salvadoran troops—the "hammer"—drove guerrillas and the population, men, women and children, fleeing towards the border where some 2,000 Honduran soldiers were positioned, inside El Salvador, as the "anvil," to prevent any refugees from crossing into Honduras.

FMLN spokesmen, in interviews provided to them by the *Washington Post* and Mexico's *Excelsior*, responded that they would retaliate with "military" operations inside Honduras itself.

On July 4, two electrical towers near Honduras' capital, Tegucigalpa, were

blown up, leaving the city without electricity for nearly 24 hours. General Gustavo Alvarez, the head of Honduras' Armed Forces, charged that a FMLN commando which had entered Honduras two weeks before was responsible for the terrorist incident.

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## ***Tension flares between Ethiopia and Somalia***

Disturbances erupted this month in two northern Somalia towns near the Ethiopian border, heating up the conflict between the two countries. Because of Soviet backing for Ethiopia and U.S. support for Somalia, the conflict in the African end of what Zbigniew Brzezinski termed "the arc of crisis" could take on major proportions. The attacks were reportedly led by Ethiopian-supported Somali forces opposed to the government of Somali President Siad Barre.

Barre has charged Ethiopia with responsibility for the disturbances, posing the problem as a Soviet threat, and asking the United States for assistance. The Ethiopians have dismissed the Somali charges as false alarms intended to divert attention from internal difficulties. Radio Moscow itself has warned that the growing tensions could lead to U.S. intervention and a resulting international conflict.

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## ***Lord Carrington to reappear at Whitehall?***

The "investigation" conducted by Britain's Privy Council committee into the events leading up to Argentina's invasion of the Malvinas Islands has begun the process of clearing former Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington. This is widely believed to signal Carrington's return to an official position in the government.

Carrington resigned shortly after the invasion, but is known to have retained an important degree of control over Brit-

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tion found that Carrington had requested—two weeks before the invasion—that the government send two or three hunter-killer submarines into the South Atlantic to deter the Argentinians. *EIR*'s contention all along has been that Carrington expected the attack.

The Foreign Minister's request was rebuffed by Prime Minister Thatcher and Defense Secretary Nott, who argued that existing forces in the area were sufficient to secure the islands.

This "vindication" of Carrington has the earmarks of preparation for some form of government reorganization, probably aimed at Nott in particular.

### ***Israeli soldiers: 'End the war in Lebanon'***

Hundreds of Israeli officers and soldiers, claiming to represent thousands of their fellow fighters in Lebanon, are returning to Israel from the battlefield to denounce the war. A prime target of the soldiers' protests is Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, who is being attacked for having repeatedly "lied" as to the scope and real aims of the operation into Lebanon.

The anti-war protests are the first in Israeli history to be organized during wartime. On July 3, 100,000 Israelis demonstrated in Tel Aviv against the war.

Early in July, a group of 35 reserve officers, all veterans of the Entebbe commando raid in 1976, sent a letter to Prime Minister Begin calling the war a "catastrophe for our world image and for the chances of peace in the Mideast.... This is the first war in the history of Israel which is not a defensive war, but a dangerous gamble for political objectives."

A second letter from 86 reservists just returned from Lebanon asked that they not be sent back and called for all Israeli soldiers in Lebanon to be sent home. In their letter, addressed to Sharon as well as to Begin, the soldiers said: "We have had enough of killing and being killed without knowing why. You are trying to

impose a 'new order' on the ruins of Lebanon, to shed our blood and the blood of others for the Falangists. This is not what we joined the army for. . . ."

A third group of 122 Israeli reservists has accused Begin and Sharon of perpetrating "war crimes" in Lebanon against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Yehuda Meltzer, an army reservist and spokesman for the group, said, "Nobody attacked the settlements in the north for a year, which is probably what scared this government the most."

### ***Egypt-Iraq axis could counter barbarism***

Well-placed sources in London and Paris confirm that a new relationship is evolving between Egypt and Iraq which could have great strategic significance for the Middle East and the developing sector.

Early in July, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced his acceptance (the same day it was received) of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invitation for Egypt to attend the Baghdad Non-Aligned summit in September. This is being played in both European and Mideast media as "the end of Egyptian isolation in the Arab world," an isolation which began with the Camp David accords in 1978.

One Arab source said of the emerging axis: "Both countries want to counter-balance Syrian influence, and Iraq has a further goal to minimize Saudi influence to the advantage of Cairo. Baghdad . . . would like to see an Egyptian comeback on the diplomatic and political scene. The two countries will now formulate common policies on issues facing the Arab world. There are a lot of Egyptians living in Iraq, and this makes the relationship all the more solid."

Iraq and Egypt are the two most pro-development regimes in the region. A working alliance between them would promote the effective form of defense against the destruction promised by both Iran's Khomeini and Israel's Sharon.

## ***Briefly***

● **EL MERCURIO** editorialized on July 12 that the proposals being discussed by Peru and Venezuela for Latin American unity in the wake of the Malvinas conflict present Chile with "new options" for ending its isolation. The Chilean daily was expressing a viewpoint not often heard within that country, a bastion of British economics, but which has become increasingly attractive as the Chilean economy disintegrates.

● **'A WALL OF SILENCE'** is what Colombian investigative journalist José Suárez says he ran into when he traveled to Medellín, the home base of the recently collapsed Grupo Colombia banking conglomerate. "There is wide speculation," the *El Espectador* reporter notes, "that a good part of the millions attracted by the Grupo Colombia came from individuals dedicated to unsavory businesses." Suárez was referring to the role of drug money.

● **URI AVNERI** met with Yasser Arafat in Beirut early in July. The Israeli peace movement leader and former Knesset member, who faces possible treason charges in Israel for the meeting, told *EIR* that it was "plausible" that Israel was in collusion with Iranian plans to invade Iraq. "There is automatic collaboration between the extremists in Israel, the Soviet Union and [the radical faction of] the PLO," said Avneri. "Israel wants to do everything possible to weaken the moderates in the PLO."

● **JACQUES CHEMINADE**, the general secretary of the European Labor Party (POE) of France, released a statement July 12 denouncing the Wharton School of Economics and London's Tavistock Institute as behind French Socialist government plans to dismantle the capital city of Paris into 20 separate municipalities. This is a plan to "weaken the nation-state by going after its capital," said Cheminade.