

# International Intelligence

## **Top Israeli doctor blasts euthanasia policy**

The head of the Israeli Medical Association, Ram Ishai, has attacked the practice of euthanasia, especially in the case of Holland, and warns that euthanasia may increasingly be justified "to avoid economic burdens on society."

In Holland, 11 of the 90 AIDS sufferers who have died, were victims of "mercy-killing."

In an op-ed in the June 17 *Jerusalem Post*, Ishai reports on an April 1987 lecture in Amsterdam by Dr. Sven Danner, head of the AIDS Unit at Amsterdam's Academic Medical Center. Danner presented statistics which indicated that "one in eight deaths from [AIDS] was due to euthanasia." In many cases, these were patients who, without question, "could have lived months before dying."

Writes Ishai: "Most religions, and especially the Jewish religion, relate to every killing *per se*, regardless of whether it concerns a young, elderly, healthy or sick, or even a dying person. In the Mishna: 'One who is in a dying condition is regarded as a living person in all respects.' This is also the opinion of the Babylonian Talmud, and also the code of Maimonides, which prohibits any action that might hasten death. . . .

"Therefore, one can say, along with Britain's Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits, that: 'Any form of active euthanasia is strictly prohibited and condemned as plain murder,' and passive euthanasia as well, when it is performed on a person who may live further weeks or months, as was the case with the Dutch AIDS patients.

"Moreover, in present-day conditions, euthanasia could be performed to avoid economic burdens on society. If there is not sufficient provision of nursing care, we will witness an increase in euthanasia cases in the near future. It is a slippery slope and we can easily pass from the case of a patient dying from cancer in unbearable suffering to cases of the very aged sick, the crippled, and the mentally ill."

## **Wiesenthal finds no proof against Waldheim**

Austrian "Nazi hunter" Simon Wiesenthal has attacked the World Jewish Congress for its behavior in the affair of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who has been banned from entering the United States on the basis of charges that he was a Nazi. Writing in Italy's newspaper of record, *Corriere della Sera*, June 23, Wiesenthal reprimands the WJC for "putting collectively under accusation all Austrians. How can a Jewish organization," he asks, "formulate a collective threat against a whole people? The wave of anti-Semitism was a consequence of this threat, and the WJC has given arguments to the anti-Semites."

As far as Kurt Waldheim's alleged Nazi past, said Wiesenthal, "I am interested in the truth, and I want to know the truth, and this truth has not come out yet."

The U.S. Office of Special Investigations, as in many other instances, used only Soviet-concocted "evidence" to get Waldheim declared *persona non grata* in the United States.

The strange thing about the Waldheim affair, is that no one has proved Waldheim guilty of anything, Italy's *La Stampa* daily commented June 23. Only Simon Wiesenthal, according to the paper, has actually looked into relevant archival material, including documents on the Nazi period at the Berlin Documentation Center, at the United Nations archives, at the Ludwigsburg archives in West Germany, and at the Belgrade, Yugoslavia Historical Archives. In all cases, the result was the same: He found nothing.

## **French minister: AIDS is no venereal disease**

French Minister of Health Michèle Barzach affirmed, in an interview published in the June 15 issue of *Le Point* magazine, that it is "medically inaccurate" to describe AIDS as a Sexually Transmitted Disease.

The minister is in a quandary.

Like Surgeon General C. Everett Koop in the United States, she is an advocate of the "safe sex and condoms" approach, which tirelessly maintains that AIDS is not a species-threatening epidemic, but a disease which can only be transmitted by sexual contact.

Yet when the Alpes-Maritimes department (regional government) of France tried to set up a confidential data bank on AIDS carriers, it used the precedent of a 1983 law which allowed local governments to carry out testing for venereal disease. The minister, who opposes such measures, hit the roof. "The fight against the human immunodeficiency virus is not among those tasks which were entrusted to the department by the decentralization laws," she told *Le Point*. "AIDS is not a venereal disease!"

Secretary of State for Health Edmond Hervé in 1985 created a working group to provide "help for the dying," whose report, published in October 1986 by Barzach, envisaged the creation of hospices for AIDS victims.

## **Soviets said to build giant laser facility**

U.S. intelligence agencies are watching with concern as the Soviets build what appears to be a giant laser facility near the Afghanistan border, the *Chicago Tribune* reported June 22. Speculation centers on whether the Soviets are building an advanced anti-satellite weapon or merely a laser "research" facility.

The secret installation is 30 miles southwest of Dushanbe, the capital of the socialist republic of Tadzhikistan. It was first spotted by U.S. reconnaissance satellites several years ago. There has been no public comment, but many in the U.S. intelligence community believe that the Soviets may have begun deployment of the world's first operational ground-based anti-satellite system.

The just-released *Jane's Military Communications Annual Review* notes that "recent photos taken near the Afghan border suggests the Soviets' laser capabilities may

exceed anything so far achieved by Western directed energy programs."

### **Warsaw Pact vows aid to U.S. against terrorism**

Warsaw Pact nations are showing "their first signs of joining the West's war against terrorism," if you believe a June 19 report in the *Wall Street Journal*, citing State Department officials. "State Department counter-terrorism official Alvin Adams made a recent tour of East European countries and the administration now is exchanging information on anti-terrorist techniques, devices and specific cases with Warsaw Pact countries," said the *Journal*.

Although Reagan administration officials cannot yet cite any concrete help, they say that East Europeans are talking and acting more cooperatively, professing that they want to help fight terrorism. In return, the United States has decided not to publish a White Paper on Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, which suggests, based on a classified CIA report, that he has found refuge or assistance from six of the Soviet Union's East European allies.

### **Czechoslovakia starts its own 'glasnost' drive**

In Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, a "sensational" trial has been opened against Stanislav Babinskii, chairman of the state-owned consumer goods trading firm "Jednota" in Northern Slovakia, and 11 other defendants. This is one of the biggest corruption scandals in the history of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, according to the West German magazine *Der Spiegel*.

The list of Babinskii's customers, for whom he ran a prostitution ring, among other illegal activities, includes almost the whole government of Slovakia, as well as Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek.

The trial is open to the public, but the media are keeping silent about the proceed-

ings. Czechoslovakia, since the suppression of "Prague Spring" in 1968, has had one of the most ruthless and hardline East bloc regimes. But with different winds now blowing from Moscow, Central Committee Secretary and chief ideologue Vasil Bilak has come out recently with statements in favor of *perestroika*—Gorbachov's "transformation" of society and the economy.

### **New political, military deals link China, Mideast**

A wide-ranging series of secret and public deals is currently under way, linking the People's Republic of China with Israel, Iran, and Turkey.

Israel is secretly sending military technicians to Peking, to refit and modernize hundreds of Soviet-made tanks and heavy artillery for the Chinese army, according to the June 19 *Times* of London. "China is now one of Iran's principal arms suppliers in the Gulf War, selling Soviet-made equipment to the Iranian army. . . . Israeli sources say that the secret mission to China has been in operation for well over a year, as relations between the two countries—who have no diplomatic representation—grow warmer."

The visits to Peking of Iran's Foreign Minister Valayati and Deputy Foreign Minister Shekolislam in May and June led to agreements including for Chinese construction of four munitions factories inside Iran, Iranian oil exports to China, and Chinese launching of a satellite to be used by Iran to transmit "guidance programs" to the Gulf. A group of Chinese Muslims has been sent to Qom for training, and Beijing requested the help of Islamic scholars to train its Muslim community!

In June, Iran signed a \$2 billion deal with Turkey, involving construction of a new pipe line and joint oil exploration companies, Iran's export of natural gas to Turkey, and development of a joint petrochemical industry. Iran also agreed to guarantee that Kurdish rebels will only attack Iraq, and not Turkey. A joint "border security committee" was established between.

## Briefly

● **ISRAEL** has granted visas to a Soviet delegation for the first time since the rupture of diplomatic relations 20 years ago. The Soviet delegation, led by the deputy director of the consular department of the Soviet foreign ministry, will discuss the emigration to Israel of Russian Jews and the property of the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem.

● **CARDINAL JAIME SIN** of the Philippines has been granted permission to visit Lithuania during his upcoming stay in the Soviet Union. This is a favor which Moscow has denied Pope John Paul II.

● **300 WEST GERMAN** Communists, Greens, and Social Democrats conducted a three-week tour of the Soviet Union during the month of June.

● **GERMANS** visiting Moscow recently for a seminar were surprised at the "pre-war mood" they found there. Josef Riedmiller, first deputy editor-in-chief of *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, wrote: "I was astonished . . . some Russians even spoke of a 'pre-war situation.'"

● **YUGOSLAVIA** can "easily turn into another Lebanon," according to the Yugoslav Communist Party newspaper *Borba*. On the eve of a Central Committee Plenum to discuss ethnic tensions in Kosovo province, *Borba* said that the persecution of non-Albanians there could lead to an explosion.

● **PROTESTANT CHURCH** sources in West Germany report a growing pattern of members leaving the church, after the mid-June Church Congress of the German Evangelical Church in Frankfurt, at which pro-Soviet and pro-witchcraft sentiments predominated.