

KGB, Avraham Shifrin, was called as a defense witness. "Most of the KGB's work is based on forgeries," he said. The KGB and the Soviet authorities had a vast array of operations against Ukrainians, he said, and they harbor extreme animosity against the Ukrainians. Shifrin's testimony was belittled, not only by prosecution counsel, but also by the judge.

250,000 Argentines may be AIDS-infected by 1991

The Argentine publication *Somos* reported on Oct. 28 that the World Health Organization estimates that there will be a quarter of a million Argentines infected with the AIDS virus by 1991. The report has created a storm of controversy, as the WHO's office in Buenos Aires appears to doubt the story's veracity, and Argentina's health ministry says the figures are exaggerated. Dr. María Elena Estévez of the National Academy of Medicine considers them accurate.

Moreover, there is no agreement as to how many cases there are and how many people are infected. WHO's figures are low, with only 78 cases, while the health ministry reports 122 cases of AIDS. Dr. Estévez reports estimates of 200 cases of AIDS, 2,000 cases of AIDS-Related Complex, and 20,000 people infected with the virus throughout the country.

Olof Palme's murder linked to Irangate

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme "was murdered because he knew about, and wanted to investigate, Sweden's weapons and gunpowder deals with Iran. That I've gotten from two reliable sources," former Iranian President Abolhassan Banisadr told the Swedish daily *Aftonbladet* Nov. 3. Banisadr said that one of the sources is Iranian, the other European. "Both say that Palme was killed as a direct result of his knowledge of the arms deals between Sweden and Iran."

Banisadr added that he does not know *who* killed Palme, just *why*. Banisadr has not yet been questioned by the Swedish police, who, however, express their interest in doing so.

In a related development, a scramble is on in Sweden to keep the lid on the scandal that arose over charges that Joel Haukka, an operative involved in the investigation of the Palme assassination, is an agent of the Soviet KGB. Haukka, who is of Estonian origin, is known for pushing the discredited line that Lyndon LaRouche's associates in Sweden were responsible for the murder.

Swedish State Prosecutor Ola Brogrem was summoned recently to a secret conference at the foreign ministry, whose purpose was to protect Haukka from prosecution, according to reliable sources inside the Swedish establishment. Among those present was the ministry's number-two man, Pierre Schori. According to these reports, the prosecutor was ordered to drop the investigation.

Bishop condemns 'free condom' plan in Peru

Monsignor Alfredo Noriega, president of the Commission for the Family of the Peruvian Episcopate, denounced "Operation Condom," the anti-AIDS program organized by Dr. Gotardo Agüero of the health ministry.

Speaking at the First Peruvian Congress of Natural Family Planning at the end of October, Monsignor Noriega rejected the proposal to dispense condoms to high school students, prostitutes, and slum-dwellers, to control the spread of AIDS.

Dr. Agüero, president of the Peruvian AIDS Commission, defended the government's program on Nov. 2, saying that "the condom is the only scientific weapon that we have up to now." Operation Condom will begin with the free distribution of 100,000 condoms to the prostitutes of Callao. Agüero dismissed the Church's opposition: "We aren't interested in the opinion of the Church. It is science that can help us overcome this terrible scourge."

Briefly

● **RAISA GORBACHOVA'S** Soviet Culture Foundation came under attack from *Pravda* on Oct. 17. The failure of the authorities to do enough to honor Russia's history and culture has led to illegal activities by "extreme nationalist organizations," *Pravda* charged. The article singled out the All-Russian Society for the Preservation of Historic and Cultural Monuments and the Soviet Culture Foundation.

● **KIM PHILBY**, the master spy, has agreed to appear in a television documentary on his life, breaking years of public silence about his 24 years in the U.S.S.R., a Latvian television spokesman reports, according to a UPI dispatch from Moscow.

● **ARIEL SHARON**, Israel's trade and industry minister, is under investigation by the justice ministry for illegally channeling money and contracts to political allies. Yisrael Katz, Sharon's assistant, reportedly told authorities that Sharon had him give some of Sharon's friends licenses to import steel.

● **THE GERMAN REFUGEES'** magazine *Der Südostdeutsche* in its October issue reviews *The Power of Reason, 1988* the autobiography of Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. According to the review, the book "gives clear proof his manifold scientific talent, above all in the field of economic science. But also in music, arts and philosophy, the ingenious politician is an unusual expert."

● **EDGAR BRONFMAN**, president of the World Jewish Congress, and WJC General Secretary Israel Singer traveled to Cuba early this fall, and met with Fidel Castro for five to six hours, the *Jerusalem Post* reported Oct. 29. Castro had reportedly requested the meeting. There are rumors the Bronfman crowd is playing a role in Central America peace negotiations.