

International Intelligence

Islamic fundamentalist arrested in Gaza

On May 19, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement in Gaza, was arrested together with his assistant, Dr. Mahmud Haled Zahar. In the following days, up to 250 of their supporters were also arrested, accused of possessing weapons, and of murdering at least six Palestinians whom Hamas considered "collaborators."

As an organization, Hamas was only created in the first weeks of the *Intifada*, the Palestinian rebellion in the Israeli-occupied territories. Yet, the Islamic movement in Gaza has been active for quite some time. Traditionally, the main influence has come from the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt and Jordan. By the early 1980s, Iran had also entered the scene, paving the way for the later creation of the terrorist Islamic Jihad (Holy War).

It is now public knowledge that their growth was encouraged by Israel's Shin Beth to counter the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Hamas has become a major challenge to the PLO. On March 28, Yasser Arafat met with Hamid Abu Al Nasr, the supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo, to have the Egyptian Brotherhood exert influence to bring Hamas into closer coordination with the PLO.

Polish Solidarity denounces intimidation

The recently legalized Solidarity trade union accused the Polish government May 30 of trying to intimidate people before parliamentary elections scheduled for June 4 and 18, says a Reuters report.

Solidarity spokesmen said a government statement had ignored the truth and manipulated facts when it accused the West of violating Poland's sovereignty by helping the trade union candidates' election campaigns.

Said union spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz, "The authors of that statement are well aware of all the facts. But they are not interested in the truth, only in anti-Solidarity propaganda."

"The elections will soon be over and we will have to sit down to work. Intimidating people, abusing patriotic feelings, and manipulating the facts do nothing to help this work," he added.

The Polish elections will be the first since 1947, and the theory that Communists don't stand a chance in elections will be tested. Surprisingly, the Communist Party seems to be doing a disappearing act.

"The striking thing is that the party is simply not visible in the elections," said Onyszkiewicz.

Poland's powerful Catholic Church is openly blessing the Solidarity-led opposition and helping it campaign for the elections. Bishops are speaking out for Solidarity at rallies and Solidarity believes that the Church's anti-Communist stand could decisively influence the outcome.

Takeshita pledges defense buildup

"World peace has been maintained on a balance of power and deterrence between the East and West . . . and I do not think that the structure of East-West confrontation has been fundamentally altered," outgoing Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said May 29. He called for the Japanese military to continue a defense buildup despite apparent changes in Soviet arms-control policy.

The Self-Defense Forces must continue efforts to boost their capabilities as stipulated in Japan's 1976 National Defense Program Outline (which has no specified time limit), he told a senior officers' meeting.

He said the government would soon adopt a new defense buildup plan for 1990-95. He added that Japan must also strengthen defense ties with the United States, including more joint exercises and exchanges of technology and weapons.

Defense Agency chief Kichiro Tazawa said major additions to frontline strength next

year would include a second advanced Aegis-type destroyer for the fleet's anti-aircraft arsenal. He said it would also include the new T-89 tank, additional deployment of ground-to-ship missiles, and efforts to upgrade the aging F-4EJ Phantom interceptor jetfighters. He also called on the country's defense industry to step up development of technology in aviation, guided missiles, and electronic weaponry.

Japan is already second only to the United States in defense spending among non-Communist nations.

Bhutto removes intelligence chief

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's removal of Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) chief Lt. Gen. Hamid Gul in late May, and his replacement by a retired general, Shamsur Rehman Kalloo, is being read as a significant consolidation of her administration's power, say sources in India.

Though not unexpected, the move is particularly significant because Gul, recently promoted by Miss Bhutto to the rank of lieutenant general, was considered the most powerful of the late President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq's loyalists remaining in official positions.

According to the Lahore-based *The Nation*, a number of incidents—all involving Gul's evident use of the ISI against the Bhutto administration—led to his dismissal. Gul is held responsible for planting stories in the press to the effect that Bhutto had betrayed national interests in her talks with Rajiv Gandhi during the December summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, consisting of the subcontinent's five nations, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Gul is also alleged to have personally "briefed" a *New York Times* reporter on a fictitious meeting between Miss Bhutto and U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley on the Afghan mujahideens' decision to launch the failed Jalalabad siege.

The most serious charge against Gul is that the ISI was directly involved in insti-

gating ethnic violence in the troubled Sindh province. Six masked men captured there recently have claimed they were paid to create violence by persons with links to ISI.

"Reliable sources" quoted by *The Nation* say that a strong clique within ISI diverted funds prior to the last election to attempt to prevent Bhutto's PPP from coming to power. The government now has evidence that a "disinformation cell" inside the ISI has remained active to malign Bhutto after she came to power.

The new ISI chief, Shamsur Rehman Kalloo, was retired by Zia three years ago.

Soviet spies sought surveillance system

The Soviet spies recently expelled by the British government of Margaret Thatcher were targeting a top-secret surveillance system being jointly developed by the United States and Britain to monitor the Soviet Union, according to a recent British press report.

The British government's recent counteroffensive against Soviet bloc spying "was launched on April 9—two days after President Gorbachov completed his triumphant visit to Britain," reported the *Sunday Express* of London May 28.

According to the newspaper, the decisive moment came "when a tough, 56-year-old Scot took command of MI-6, the secret service responsible for gathering intelligence abroad. . . . Within hours of taking up his post, Colin McColl exercised the key prerogative of his position by having an urgent meeting with the prime minister. He confirmed Thatcher's worst fears. Moscow was intensifying its espionage blitz on Britain."

On May 19, only six weeks after McColl entered his position, eight Soviet diplomats and three journalists "were given their marching orders." According to the *Sunday Express*, the Soviet spies' main target "appeared to be a top-secret Anglo-American surveillance system being developed to monitor Russia."

An informed source told *EIR* that McColl is a "very tough" intelligence man, a

"Cold War warrior," with previous experience in Geneva, Vientiane, and Bangkok. He has spent nine years at MI-6 headquarters.

Soon after assuming the directorship of MI-6, he went to Mrs. Thatcher's office, in the company of the head of MI-5, Britain's domestic security service, and told her, "Forget the Foreign Office, something must be done against Soviet spying."

Swedes charge man in Palme killing

Swedish authorities are finally pressing formal charges against a suspect in the 1986 murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme. They have held the man without charges for six months. Still, there is every indication that he is the wrong man.

On May 29, Swedish authorities formally charged 42-year-old ex-convict Kristor Petterson, a known alcohol and drug abuser, as the "lone assassin" of Palme on Feb. 28, 1986.

But according to an account by the Stockholm correspondent of the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, on the same day that Petterson was charged, May 29, the man on whose testimony police relied to implicate Petterson told a journalist that he lied in his police interrogation about Petterson's whereabouts at crucial times on the night of the murder in order to collect the 50 million Swedish kroner reward offered for apprehension of the killer.

According to the report, "The man who accused Petterson said he finally did so under pressure from Swedish police who told him, 'Come on, this is SKr 50 million; it's a unique chance.'"

Palme's widow, who was walking with the Prime Minister when he was gunned down on a Stockholm street, reportedly has "identified" Petterson as the man at the scene of the shooting. But, reports *Corriere*, Palme's widow refused to view a police lineup to identify him, only agreeing to view a private videotape showing, which she saw *one day after* Petterson's photograph was in every Swedish paper as the suspected killer.

Briefly

● **SOVIET** Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told an interviewer that an Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories was "interesting." In the same breath, he said that the PLO plan for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories before such elections was also of interest.

● **FOREIGN MINISTER** Sosuke Uno, age 66, has become the new prime minister of Japan. Noboru Takeshita stepped down in the first week of June. Former Premiers Takeo Fukuda and Zenko Suzuki opposed Uno's nomination and said he would be a puppet manipulated by former Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone. Uno has had wide experience in negotiations with the United States, as state minister of science and technology for two years, 1976-77, and as minister of international trade and industry in 1983.

● **IN MEXICO**, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, whom many believe was elected President in July 1988, but defrauded, has formed the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), which has been formally registered and will be able to run under its own name in six state elections in July. Cárdenas is the son of one of Mexico's most famous Presidents, Gen. Lázaro Cárdenas.

● **POPE JOHN PAUL II** arrived in Norway June 1, beginning a 10-day visit to Scandinavia. The Italian press reported that the Pope has committed himself to challenging the "ideology of suicide" that prevails in northern Europe, and says he intends to "re-Christianize" the predominantly Lutheran Scandinavia.

● **75 MASKED YOUTH** broke into the Danish Parliament on May 30, and occupied it for a brief period, tearing up papers and wrecking furniture. Police arrested 36 outside the building, but the rest escaped.