

# International Intelligence

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## ***French general: Soviets 'ambiguous' on Gulf war***

Since the beginning of the Persian Gulf crisis, the Soviet position has been characterized by "ambiguity," wrote France's Gen. Jeannou Lacaze, former head of the French Army, in a commentary in the Paris newspaper *Le Figaro* on Jan. 26.

The Red Army "sees in this war an interesting laboratory to test the comportment of Soviet military materiel," especially since 90% of the Iraqi military arsenal is of Soviet origin, he wrote. Also, there are still Soviet military advisers in Iraq, although the number is not known. "One may also ask if the U.S.S.R. has really respected the embargo on the sending of spare parts." What is certain, is that the Soviets are "very attentive to the evolution of the situation" in Iraq, and have insisted on maintaining diplomatic relations with Iraq.

It is also noteworthy, according to the general, that "the entire defensive strategy of Saddam Hussein is inspired by theories developed over decades by the U.S.S.R."

He concluded: "The generals of the Red Army, supported by conservative circles, have besides made no secret of their pro-Iraq proclivities and of their distance from the United States. Clearly, the Red Army, for which Iraq has always been a traditional ally, is politically reluctant in the face of the official Soviet policy of benevolent neutrality toward the United States."

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## ***Will the U.N. dismantle El Salvador's army?***

A spokesman for El Salvador's government announced on Jan. 24 that U.N.-sponsored talks between the FMLN insurgents and the government are so close to success, that a peace agreement could be reached before the mid-March elections. Both sides have agreed to let the U.N. secretary general set up two commissions to oversee the "cleansing" (read, dismantling) of El Salvador's army, the *Los Angeles Times* reported the same day.

U.N. negotiator Alvaro de Soto stated one year ago, at the opening of the negotiations, that his goal in the talks was to achieve "progressive and complete demilitarization, the final objective of which is the abolition of the armies."

This amounts to the application of the "Panama model" to El Salvador. Following the U.S. invasion of Panama, the Army has been turned into merely a constabulary force.

To facilitate such a goal, the FMLN has announced that it is setting up its own army, for the purpose of dismantling it! In a Dec. 4, 1990 interview with *Diario Latino*, just published in the State Department's translating service FBIS, FMLN Commander Ana Guadalupe Martínez announced that the FMLN has created its own separate military structure, called the National Army for Democracy. Martínez stated that in order to be able to negotiate "the parallel dismantling of both armies" without relinquishing FMLN power, the government must recognize that "two powers exist which are going to negotiate on an equal footing. . . . What is going to be dismantled in the negotiations is the military structure of the FMLN, but not ourselves as a political movement."

This restructuring is part of a combined military/diplomatic offensive launched by the FMLN on Nov. 20, 1990, whose goal, according to Martínez, is "to wear down the Salvadoran Army, which continues to be the principal obstacle to a negotiated settlement of the conflict. The operations had a clear objective: to wear down and punish the Army. . . ."

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## ***Opponents of Bush's war are not 'anti-Semites'***

The label of "anti-Semitism" is being thrown around in Mexico in order to stifle opposition to Bush's war in the Middle East. According to Mexico City press accounts, Colegio de México professor Enrique Krauze asserted in the January issue of *Vuelta* magazine that anyone who opposed Israeli objectives was an anti-Semite.

Manu Dornbierer, a respected author

and intellectual, responded in the daily *Excelsior* Jan. 25 that "to be an anti-Semite is to be against the human race." But, she asks, "What is and was Zionism? It was and is a deplorable position, according to which, in memory of the Holocaust and on the pretext of defending Israel, Jews have the right to do whatever they want against the Palestinians, whom they forced out, and against all who disagree with them, do not share their interests or support them. They sometimes act like real fascists. . . . Zionism uses anti-Semitism as a weapon, and few realize the damage this does to the Jews themselves. Zionists try to make people believe that anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are synonyms, but they are not."

Leftist journalist Gregorio Selser also responded angrily to Krauze's name-calling, citing several Jewish authors who protested against Israeli massacres of Palestinians, concluding, "under Krauze's criteria, these people would also be anti-Semites, although they are Jewish."

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## ***Jordanian MPs denounce betrayal by France***

Jordanian Members of Parliament are furious with France's support for the U.S.-led coalition in the war against Iraq. The Paris daily *Le Monde* on Jan. 23 published an interview with "the very popular independent Islamic parliamentarian" Leith Shubeilat, who said that if Gen. Charles de Gaulle were still in power, French participation in the war together with the Anglo-Americans would never have occurred. "The general had put an end to the submission of Paris to the dictates of the United States," stated Shubeilat. "It is especially for this reason, that the Americans detested de Gaulle more than Nasser."

The president of the Jordanian Parliament, Abdel Latif Arabiyat, sent a telegram on Jan. 20 to the president of the French National Assembly, expressing regret over the deterioration of Franco-Arab relations, relations which, "since the era of President Charles de Gaulle, were based on friendship, understanding, and mutual interest."

## Briefly

The Jordanian people and its deputies, wrote Arabiyat, reacted "with great astonishment to the active participation of France in the military operations in the Gulf and to the aggression against Iraq, a Muslim Arab country. The bitterness of our people and the Jordanian Parliament is all the greater, as the gathering of the French National Assembly approved the decision of its government to participate in this aggression."

### *Israeli veteran doubts U.S. pilots were tortured*

Gidon Dror, a retired Israeli Air Force pilot whose plane was shot down in the war of 1967, was quoted in a Deutsche Press Agentur release from Tel Aviv on Jan. 23, expressing skepticism that there was much to the story that Iraq tortured the U.S. pilots they shot down. He said it is much more likely that the bruises and other injuries seen on the pilots' faces were caused by emergency ejection under combat conditions and the shock of the charges the war planes received from Iraqi air defense. Glass splinters from the bursting cockpits could have caused the cuts seen on the pilots' faces, Dror said.

With a few exceptions in Germany, Dror's assessment, which does not fit with the overall propaganda line on "torture," is blacked out of the media.

### *Berlin conference will plan European 'Triangle'*

The Schiller Institute is sponsoring an international conference in Berlin on March 1-3, titled "Peace Through Development: The Infrastructure for a Free Europe." The meeting will build support for Lyndon LaRouche's program for a European development triangle, as the core of a worldwide economic reconstruction program.

Presentations will cover:

- The importance of the "Productive Paris-Berlin-Vienna Triangle" for the economic development and integration of East and West Europe;

- Neither Marx nor Adam Smith: the financial and economic-political structural requirements for a pan-European "economic miracle";

- The struggle for freedom and economic reconstruction after the collapse of the socialist system;

- The agricultural question: key to reform in Eastern Europe;

- The struggle for privatization: reports from Poland, Czechoslovakia, the former German Democratic Republic, and other countries;

- The state of agriculture in the United States and the countries of the European Community;

- Family farm, corporation, or collective: Where do we go from here?

### *British Parliament told Iraq will keep fighting*

Speaking before the British House of Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs at the end of January, Dr. Yezid Sayigh, a foreign policy expert from Oxford University, stated that, despite the reported success of American and British bombing, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would consider the war as going "reasonably well."

He said that Iraq had expected a very heavy air assault and was even prepared for nuclear attack. "I don't see any signs of shock and panic in terms of the management and the command of the war on Iraq's side." He went on to say that "even if they are driven from Kuwait still fighting, it will be a victory in the eyes of the Arabs because a Third World country was not expected to defeat the U.S." Comparing Iraq's army with the German army of 1939-45, which fought to the last man, he said the "cohesion and initiative" of Iraq's army should not be underestimated.

Dr. Sayigh expressed the fear that as casualties grew, there would be an "immense danger" of the West "using harsher and more indiscriminate bombing," and pressure would mount "in certain quarters" for the coalition to use tactical nuclear weapons.

- **EUROPEAN COMMUNITY** sanctions against Israel, enacted one year ago, were lifted on Jan. 25. The EC had imposed the economic sanctions in protest against the Israeli government's closure of all Palestinian universities in the occupied territories. The universities were closed at the beginning of the Palestinian uprising, the Intifada, in December 1987, on the grounds that they provided leadership to the uprising. The schools remain closed to this day.

- **THE CANADIAN** Supreme Court issued a unanimous ruling on Jan. 25, giving the Party for the Commonwealth of Canada, political co-thinkers of Lyndon LaRouche, the right to organize at airport terminals. In what has become a landmark freedom-of-expression case, the judges declared that the terminals are "extensions of streets, parks, and other public places [that] are traditionally viewed as public fora."

- **MALAYSIAN** Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed on Jan. 24 blasted the United States for trying to destroy Iraq, "We agreed that Kuwait should be freed, but never agreed that Iraq should be destroyed," he said. "Our stand is clear: We don't agree with the conquest of one country by another. We opposed Vietnam for trying to conquer Cambodia; we opposed the Soviet Union for trying to conquer Afghanistan; and we also oppose the U.S. for over-running Panama and Grenada."

- **FRENCH** President François Mitterrand looks today like Henry Kissinger, wrote the French financial daily *La Tribune* on Jan. 22. "He's appearing both as a tightrope walker and a poker player." The article quotes a French foreign policy expert: "The United States doesn't trust us, England detests us, Israel hates us, and the Arabs are appalled by us. We are wrong all down the line and we risk losing on all grounds."