

# International Intelligence

## *U.N. is an advertiser for U.S., says Saddam*

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein denounced the U.N. as "America's advertising agency," in a defiant speech commemorating the 1968 coup which brought the Ba'ath Party to power in Iraq. Hussein attacked the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, declaring, "What is needed is a jihad to purge the Arab nation of these treacherous leaders who have become a shameful burden on our region." He called Great Britain a "partner in crime" with the United States in trying to recolonize Iraq.

Oman and Bahrain, two members of the coalition in the war against Iraq, and Jordan, sent messages of congratulations to Hussein.

Despite increasing threats from U.S. officials, Iraq indicated on July 18 that it will not give in to demands from the U.N. Security Council that U.N. weapons inspectors be allowed to search the Ministry of Agriculture. "We will not back down and let the stray dogs desecrate the ministry building," said Agriculture Minister Abdul-Wahab Mahmoud al-Sabbagh, according to Reuters.

Iraq insists that the ministry is a civilian installation and dismisses the inspection as an insult, an infringement of sovereignty, and a U.S.-inspired attempt to prevent any lifting of the trade sanctions imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

## *Mitterrand feeling the heat on Maastricht Treaty*

French President François Mitterrand defended the Maastricht Treaty for European Union with "passion" in comments on Bastille Day on July 14, which indicates the "rising political temperatures in France," the London *Financial Times* reported. While polls are showing majority support for the treaty, French opinion is "very volatile," and there is concern in pro-Maastricht circles that the referendum, set for Sept. 20, could be "misused" to vote against the unpopular Mitterrand, the paper warned.

Former French Defense Minister Jean-

Pierre Chevènement, meanwhile, has resigned from the French Socialist Party executive bureau, and has created his own movement against Maastricht, which will be launched in August. Maastricht represents "the triumph of the bankers, high interest rates, and recession," he charged. He warned that the French Socialist Party was being converted into a "local version of the U.S. Democratic Party," and that, from here on, "I am going to express myself as a citizen and not as a leader of the Socialist Party."

Mitterrand, who recently was met with a wave of protest actions by truckers and farmers, admitted that "the likelihood of an explosion is increasing little by little" in France's big-city suburbs. The latest outbreak of rioting occurred in Epinay-sous-Severt, southeast of Paris. Mitterrand described the reality in such suburbs as "a world akin to a concentration camp." The government is taking measures to deal with the situation, he said, but it would take "years to see the results."

## *Rabin peace deal aimed at Jordan*

A "deal is being cooked up between Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan whereby Jordan is brought into the security orbit of Israel," a Middle East specialist recently told *EIR*.

The deal would reportedly designate Jordan's borders with other Arab states as the security borders of Israel. The deal would mandate Jordan to agree not to allow its territory or airspace to be used for attacks on Israel, and restrict the types of weapons Jordan can possess.

"The deal would require a lot of money, like the Camp David agreement that cost the U.S. taxpayer \$4 billion of aid to Israel a year as well as \$2 billion for Egypt," the specialist said. Israel would only give up land in an autonomy agreement in return for financial compensation which "could cost billions." The deal would not include a Palestinian state or any right of return. Palestinians living in camps outside the Occupied Territories, such as in Lebanon or Jordan, would be given Jordanian passports and fi-

nancial compensation and told to live somewhere else.

The deal would freeze out Syria, putting the "territorial question over the horizon."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told a scientific gathering in Cairo on July 11 that he saw no reason for optimism despite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's efforts to speed up the so-called peace process. Arafat noted that Rabin's language has changed since his election. "I say to Rabin, your political language has changed after the elections from that before the polls. Rabin [has now] said he would not withdraw from occupied lands without holding a public referendum. . . . I don't see Rabin as different from [former Prime Minister Yitzhak] Shamir. Unfortunately, some of our Arab brothers have slipped and welcomed him."

Rabin has suspended new construction contracts for housing in the Occupied Territories in preparation for the arrival in Israel of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on July 20.

## *U.S. economy too weak for superpower role*

The morose state of the U.S. economy provides no basis for any "new world order" as proposed by President Bush, former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said in a lecture at the European Chairmen's Symposium held in Rottach-Egern, Germany July 11.

Schmidt said that the project of a new world order cannot be taken that seriously outside the United States, as it has been designed by Bush mainly for domestic purposes. The main obstacle to a stable world economy and political order, next to the "floating constellation of forces" that has emerged from the collapse of the East bloc, is the bad condition of the U.S. economy.

"America is not in the situation to lead the world. . . . The United States is highly vulnerable, without the Americans themselves noticing it," Schmidt said.

Schmidt's assessment was echoed by the Swiss daily *Tagesanzeiger* on July 14, which said that the U.S. economy is too weak to provide any muscle to United States foreign policy.

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## ***Bosnian officials say 'Jihad' a myth***

The "Jihad" in Bosnia is a myth, according to Bosnian leaders interviewed by the Madrid, Spain daily *El País* on July 18.

Tarik Haberic, an Islamic scholar who is a member of the leadership of the Bosnian Liberal Party, said, "To be a Muslim in Bosnia does not correspond to any real category. It is a pretext to justify aggression against an entire people. . . . There is no chance that fundamentalism could take off here. I expect the same help from the Muslim countries that Sudan, Mauritania, or Palestine have gotten: nothing. The only help I hope for, is the conscience of western Europe."

Prof. Mohamed Filipovic, president of the Muslim Bosnian Party, said, "The word Muslim is false, as it does not correspond to historical reality; it recognizes a false nationality. I do not believe in fundamentalism. What we inherited from the Ottoman Empire boils down to material culture: architecture and art. We Muslims never identified with other states, Turkey for example, and never wanted to create a state alone. When the nationalist movement arose in the 1830s, for example, the Muslims expressed their wish to live together with the Serbs and Croats in Bosnia."

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## ***Egypt announces harsh measures against radicals***

Egyptian authorities have announced a series of harsh measures in response to an offensive of the radical Islamic "Gamaat" party in Upper Egypt, the French daily *Libération* reported on July 17. The measures include extension of the death penalty to such crimes as attacks on churches, resisting police by force, and establishing contacts with foreign powers to foment attacks. Harsh punitive measures have also been decreed for other criminal acts, and the Interior Ministry has said it will build four new prisons in the desert.

There is controversy over the means now being adopted, *Libération* wrote, but there is a broad consensus on the necessity for the eradication of extremism, especially

after the recent murder of Egyptian writer Faruq Foda.

Also critical, is the magnitude of the conflicts in the region of Assiout, Upper Egypt. According to official statistics, 25 people have died in the past two months in clashes, and several dozen have been wounded. Four thousand anti-riot police have been moved into the region but, despite 1,000 arrests and detentions and a cease-fire in certain villages, order has still not been reestablished. The authorities have found large amounts of arms, grenades, assault rifles, and other weaponry.

Meanwhile, Gamaat has also taken effective control of entire suburban areas in Egypt's capital city of Cairo. Fears of an "Algeria-like" situation are growing in Egypt, the paper reported.

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## ***Freemasonry targets Russia for expansion***

Jean-Robert Ragache, head of the French "Grand Orient" lodge of Freemasonry, and Jacques Orifes, a top French Freemason, recently traveled to Russia to discuss how Freemasonry could expand in post-communist Russia, the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* reported on July 14. "Will we have a Russian P-2? It's not to be excluded," the paper asked, referring to the P-2 freemasonic lodge in Italy which has been involved in the destabilization of several Italian governments.

The two Freemasons were invited, the paper revealed, by Pavel Voshchanov, a friend of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who took them to a secret location at a dacha outside Moscow where they met with intellectuals and journalists from *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, and with the editors of the "Vjesti" television show.

*Corriere* reported that the requests from Russians to become members of Freemasonry are growing. The names of the so-called "first level" recruits are being kept secret, in pursuance of the traditional practice of Freemasonry, but one prominent "second level" member is Georgi Arbatov of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute, who played a central role in concocting the "LaRouche ordered the killing of Olof Palme" big lie in 1986.

# Briefly

● **JAPAN** has launched a quiet diplomatic effort to limit Moscow's arms sales to Beijing, the July 14 *Washington Post* reported. Japan is said to be telling Moscow that upsetting the military balance in Asia by strengthening China with high-tech conventional weaponry will damage its chances for economic aid.

● **AN IRANIAN** crackdown on dissidents was condemned by 230 British Members of Parliament from all parties, who signed a statement protesting an Iranian air raid in April on a resistance base inside Iraq and called for a U.N. oil and arms embargo on Iran, Reuters reported July 15. The regime is even more brutal "than the Khomeini regime," Win Griffiths, one of the petition organizers, said.

● **PERSIAN GULF** nations should form a defense alliance on the model of NATO, Adm. Raynor Taylor, commander of U.S. naval forces in the Gulf, has urged, newspapers in Abu Dhabi reported July 13. He suggested naming the alliance GULFO. Taylor said the U.S. wanted to avoid scaling back forces too fast: "We don't want to leave a vacuum."

● **KUWAIT** and the U.S. backed a failed coup attempt in Sudan on July 2, *Africa Analysis*, a London-based bulletin, reported. The attempt involved former President Ja'afar Nimeiri. Azhari Mustafa Banaga, an intelligence officer in the Sudanese Army, was reported killed, and Gen. Ahmed Al Mehena, a former military attaché, and Abbas Madani, interior minister under Nimeiri, were arrested.

● **THE BRITISH** Labour Party yesterday selected John Smith, a Highland Scot, as its leader, to replace Neil Kinnock, who resigned after losing the general elections to Prime Minister John Major's Tory Party this past April. Smith was the shadow chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister) and drafted Labour's economic program, which is more neo-liberal and less pro-labor than it has been in the past.