

International Intelligence

Sharon wants military government for Israel

Ariel Sharon, who aspires to be Israel's version of Adolf Hitler, is proposing the formation of a government of national unity, with himself as defense minister, or else a period of military rule, according to a report in the London *Economist* at the end of March.

Sharon, former Likud defense minister and housing minister, says that he intends to run for prime minister in the next elections.

Adding to a climate in which the most fanatical tendencies of Israel are being unleashed, several parliamentarians have called for the lynching of Palestinians accused of attacking Israelis. An Israeli citizen was arrested in March for executing a Palestinian whose hands and feet were bound.

A senior Israeli source who is a member of the Likud Party's right wing told *EIR* that the imposition of martial law in Israel and the Occupied Territories is a real option at this time. "The situation is a lot worse a people think," he said. In March alone 26 Palestinians and 15 Israelis have been killed in an increase of violence not seen since the beginning of the Intifada (Palestinian uprising) in December 1988.

Martial law, said the source, would be a "declaration of war against the Palestinian terrorism" which would allow "Israeli soldiers to shoot to kill without fear of prosecution, as in a war." Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has already authorized the Israeli Army to shoot any Arab carrying a firearm.

Malaysian group appeals to Clinton on Iraq

The Special West Asia Peace Committee of Malaysia, in an open letter to President Bill Clinton at the end of March, called on the U.S. President to lift the sanctions against Iraq. "We believe that the world looks to you and expects you, as the leader of the young generation unburdened by the tired and evil considerations of geopolitics of Kissinger and his likes and flushed with idealism for a new, more just world, to act

decisively to break with the Bush past and open a new page in the United States relationship with the nation of Iraq," the letter states.

"We are asking that sanctions be lifted for several strong reasons: When Iraq withdrew from Kuwait in February 1991, there was no more reason to continue with the sanctions. Their continuance after that date is illegal. Secondly, every year the sanctions have caused 70,000 deaths of children due to insufficient nutritional food and medicine. Should such cruelty be allowed to go on? Can the international community regard lightly the burden of such guilt?"

The letter notes that "Iraq has shown enormous good will to you by its recent unilateral cease-fire when Bush attacked Iraq again to embarrass and entrap you just before your inauguration. It is only fair and proper that you respond positively to Iraq's show of good will to you."

Vietnam demands end to massacre of settlers

Speaking in Tokyo on March 26, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet called on United Nations authorities to end the massacre of ethnic Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia by Khmer Rouge guerrillas. Gunmen killed five ethnic Vietnamese, two of them children, in an attack in Kompong Chhnang province (central Cambodia) on March 24. This included a 12-year-old girl who was clubbed to death with an axe, according to U.N. officials. This followed the March 10 massacre in which 38 ethnic Vietnamese were killed. Thousands of Vietnamese settlers are now fleeing by boat.

The Cambodian government, meanwhile, has begun evacuating ethnic Vietnamese villagers to Vietnam. Over 400 Vietnamese-speaking people, most of whom were born in Cambodia, were sent to Vietnam.

A spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said that the Vietnamese cannot expect protection from the U.N. peacekeepers. "You have to realize, the fleet of boats we have is not

adequate to protect large numbers of people," said UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt about the maritime component of the 22,000-strong peacekeeping operation. Individual U.N. peacekeepers interviewed by Reuters contradicted the assessment, one saying, "There is no lack of resources . . . just a lack of will."

U.N. charged with 'abuse of power'

The Hun Sen government of Cambodia on March 19 accused the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia of abusing its power. Foreign Minister Hor Namhong charged that special UNTAC supervision teams had exceeded their mandate in raids on two district offices in the eastern province of Kompong Cham on March 15 and 16.

"It is not the first time that UNTAC has committed such an abuse of power," Hor Namhong said, pointing to February incidents in the southeastern provinces of Takeo and Prey Veng. He said that Prime Minister Hun Sen had written to UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi on March 18 to complain about the "abuse of power" in the raids in Kompong Cham. "UNTAC officials infringed upon the competent officials of the local authorities by taking them into custody for hours, searching the archives and making copies, without consulting the local officials," said the letter.

The prime minister described the behavior of the UNTAC teams as "a disgusting act which reminded me of those committed by the Pol Pot regime while in power."

NATO chief warns Serbia not to attack Kosova

The strongest NATO response would be brought to bear against a Serbian military assault on Kosova, warned the alliance's Secretary General Manfred Woerner, on March 21, after three days of talks with the Albanian government and military command.

Leaving it an open question just how

NATO would respond, Woerner said that an escalation in Kosova would be viewed as the tripwire to an instant expansion of the conflict beyond the borders of former Yugoslavia, and this would violate vital interests of the West and many other nations in the preservation of security and peace on the European continent.

Western elites suffer 'impotence and paralysis'

Hella Pick, commentator for the London *Guardian* newspaper, on March 30 characterized the gloomy mood at the annual gathering of the Anglo-German Koenigswinter Forum, held outside Bonn:

"In his gloom-driven excursion towards the next millennium, Paul Kennedy, author of *Preparing for the 21st Century*, calls for a new school of political leadership to confront the dire challenges that lie ahead.

"No better illustration of frustration with our current school of leaders could be provided than this year's Koenigswinter conference—the annual Anglo-German love-in, where the political and related chattering classes navel-gaze into relations between their two countries and pronounce on the state of the world.

"Meeting last week on one side of the river Rhine, while on the other unemployed steelworkers were marching to vent their furies on the Bonn government, it was one of the most morose gatherings on record. Speaker after speaker conveyed a sense of impotence in the face of deplorable events.

"'Impotence corrupts and total impotence corrupts totally,' one participant declared. Another quoted a Churchill dictum, 'So they [the government] go on in strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresponsible, adamant for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent.' . . .

As for the situation in the Balkans, Pick wrote, "The parliamentarians and the policymakers around the table ruled out military intervention, or indeed any risk-taking by U.N. forces that might lead to loss of life

among the blue helmets. They were not swayed by the school which believes that the West's own moral fiber was being destroyed on the killing fields of Bosnia."

Serbia charged with 'cultural genocide'

"Cultural Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina" is the title of a full-page ad appearing in the *New York Times* on March 31, signed by hundreds of scholars concerned with study of the region. The ad, which was paid for by the Bosnia Relief Committee, decries "the systematic destruction of Bosnia's cultural heritage."

The war, the ad states, "is not between Islam and Christianity: It is between a political vision that wants to build a Bosnian state on the foundation of the country's pluralist heritage, and an exclusionist Serbian nationalism that is using religion to mobilize forces of violence to destroy that heritage."

The cultural warfare of the Serbs has since 1992 "deliberately and successfully targeted national libraries, museums and archives, in the process wiping out nearly the entire written record of Bosnia's history." Bosnia's National Library at Sarajevo was bombarded for three days by incendiary grenades on Aug. 25-27, 1992, burning it to the ground. The Franciscan monastery in the city of Mostar, which contained the main historical archives of Herzegovina, was destroyed by Serbian forces last summer along with Mostar's cathedral, its 13 mosques, and other historical and architectural monuments. On May 17, 1992, Serbian shelling destroyed Sarajevo's Oriental Institute, which had the most extensive collection of Oriental manuscripts in southeastern Europe. The Gazi Husrev Beg Library in Sarajevo, founded in 1537, which had an extensive collection of illuminated Islamic and Jewish manuscripts, was destroyed by Serbian shelling on May 5, 1992.

The ad states that the targets of cultural warfare are not only buildings: "It is part of the same evil logic that Bosnian intellectuals and community leaders have been singled out for assassination."

Briefly

● **THE BILDERBERG** group of international oligarchs will be holding its annual meeting this year near Athens, during the third week of April. The choice of Greece as the site is intriguing, in view of Greece's pro-Serbian policies. Greece will be assuming the presidency of the European Community in July of this year.

● **EZER WEIZMAN** was elected as the new President of Israel on March 24, replacing British intelligence agent Chaim Herzog. Weizman's uncle, Chaim Weizmann, another British intelligence agent, was the first President of Israel.

● **MORE THAN FORTY** members of the German parliament have signed a call for lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia, to enable Bosnians to acquire weapons for their self-defense. The call, initiated by the deputies Stefan Schwarz and Christian Schwarz-Schilling, has been signed only by Christian Democrats so far.

● **BENAZIR BHUTTO'S** home was destroyed by fire following a bomb explosion on March 23 in Karachi, Pakistan. Bhutto, a former prime minister of Pakistan, was in London at the time. All her personal papers and records were destroyed.

● **RUSSIAN** Defense Minister Pavel Grachev attended a meeting in Brussels on March 31 of 37 defense ministers from NATO countries plus of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Grachev said that the Russian Army will maintain "strict neutrality" in the political struggle in Moscow.

● **ISRAEL** sealed off the West Bank and Gaza indefinitely on March 30, supposedly in response to the death of two policemen earlier that day. Speaking after an emergency meeting of his inner security cabinet, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also said he would send reinforcements to the territories and step up Army operations.