

# International Intelligence

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## Haiti's bishops condemn embargo

Haiti's Roman Catholic bishops have condemned the embargo against their country, according to a front-page story in the April 17 issue of *Camino*, the weekly newspaper of the Bishops' Conference in nearby Dominican Republic.

"We find ourselves at the bottom of the wave of misery that has been hitting Haiti for a little over two years," says the statement. "Thousands of children are dying in some regions because of epidemics," the bishops said, adding that regardless of the causes that "led to the imposition of sanctions against our country, we think that the solution of a political problem should not come through endangering the lives of thousands of people."

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## Britain blocked wartime plan to save Jews

The British Foreign Office blocked a plan in World War II to save 70,000 European Jews from destruction, at the height of the Nazi Holocaust, the *Sunday Times* of London reported on May 15. Most of these Jews died.

According to the newspaper, newly released British government papers, now available at the Public Record Office, reveal that Britain urged the United States to abandon the rescue, which would have given thousands of families safe passage at very low cost. According to the article: "Historians say that if the rescue had gone ahead it could have changed the fate not just of the 70,000 people targeted, but of 1.3 million Jews living in parts of Europe that were not under direct German rule. Up to half a million victims transported to the Nazi death camps from Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Italy could have been saved.

"By 1943, Winston Churchill's government knew Germany was exterminating Jews from throughout Europe. But the Foreign Office thought it impossible to countenance a scheme that would enable Germany

and her satellites to unload their unwanted nationals on the allies.' One hand-written Foreign Office minute says: 'Once we open the door to adult male Jews to be taken out of enemy territory, a quite unmanageable flood may result.'"

A document of the American Embassy in London at the time reports that the embassy was told that the Foreign Office was "concerned with the difficulties of disposing of any considerable number of Jews should they be rescued from enemy-occupied territory. It is likely to prove almost if not quite impossible to deal with anything like the number of 70,000 refugees whose rescue is envisaged."

The British Foreign Office was also involved in sabotaging international efforts to support the internal patriotic German resistance to Hitler.

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## Drug money scandal hits Monaco casino

A scandal is breaking out against the Monte Carlo Casino, run by the Société des Bains de Mer, and 65% owned by Prince Rainier of Monaco. It is likely that mainly through pressure coming from France, Monaco has finally decided to close down the worst aspects of this operation, because six national counsellors of Monaco have called for an official investigation of the casino and the company running it.

The German daily *Bild Zeitung* on May 13 ran the headline, "Monte Carlo: Laundromat for Dirty Drug Money." According to the paper, the Monte Carlo Casino is part of an extended mafia structure.

From reports in the French daily *Le Figaro*, it appears that the story involves a wealthy artist, Italo Casadei, who lost some 7.5 million francs at the casino. Casadei paid an initial installment of FF 5 million; his wife then put down a deposit of FF 2.5 million, and both paid an extra FF 322 million. A couple of months later, the casino pretended never to have received the FF 322 million. It then tried to cash the check illegally, and when the check was blocked, pro-

ceeded with outright thuggery, beating up Casadei, tying his wife up, and looting their apartment several times. The latest incident was the burning of his car, leaving next to it a half-filled gas tank with a courtesy card from the Monte Carlo Casino hanging from it.

The French parliamentarian and "mafia expert" François d'Aubert has been sounding alarms about the casino. Yearly, 20 billion deutschemarks in cash pours into Monaco bank accounts, mainly from the casino. Most of this money comes directly from the drug traffic and from kidnapping, says *Bild Zeitung*.

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## Vatican gives U.N. 'a slap in the face'

The pope has given the United Nations "a slap in the face," accusing it of "contraceptive imperialism," according to an article in the Italian daily *La Repubblica* on May 14. In what the paper calls "a further escalation of the Vatican war against the United Nations," it reports on a new document, "Demographic Evolution: Ethical and Pastoral Dimensions," prepared by the Pontifical Council for the Family, headed by Cardinal Alfonso López Trujillo of Colombia.

The document is part of a Vatican effort to oppose the agenda of the U.N. Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), scheduled to take place in Cairo in September. It states that "none of the public international institutions has the right to put pressure on states or on national communities, to impose on them policies incompatible with respect for people, families, and national independence."

The Vatican document, addressed to Catholic bishops, accuses the U.N. of betraying its mandate: "Such institutions were born of the desire to bring together, freely, the attempts of all nations toward a more just society. They must, therefore, respect the legitimate sovereignty of nations, as well as the just and correct autonomy of the couple, man and wife."

At this point, *La Repubblica* notes, the

## Briefly

● **HELGA ZEPP-LAROUCHE**, candidate for chancellor of Germany of the Civil Rights Movement-Solidarity, broadcast a short campaign statement on nationwide television in Germany May 16, addressing the economic crisis and the need for implementing Lyndon LaRouche's Productive Triangle plan for European high-technology infrastructure development.

● **FRENCH** President François Mitterrand vowed not to lift his moratorium on nuclear testing, decided upon after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Speaking in a nationally televised press conference on May 10, he said that it is a "major point of disagreement" with the right-wing majority in Parliament, and that were the Parliament to vote in favor of resumption of the nuclear tests, he would call for a national referendum.

● **ZAIRE'S** minister of foreign affairs and an emissary of the Tunisian President were killed in a plane crash near Kinshasa on May 6. The two were part of a mission to try to mediate in the Rwandan crisis. This initiative, which had started independently, had later received the support of the Organization of African Unity, which is considering deploying peacekeeping troops into the country.

● **THE UNITED NATIONS** Human Rights Committee has ruled that sodomy laws are a violation of human rights, according to a dispatch in *Outline*, a Chicago homosexual newspaper.

● **CUAUHTEMOC** Cardenas, presidential candidate of Mexico's Party of the Democratic Revolution, met with Subcommander Marcos of the Zapatista Army in the jungle on May 15, to express sympathy for the "just" demands of the guerrillas. Marcos warned that if "democracy" is not installed in Mexico, "then there is another way: war." Cardenas said that "the demands of the Zapatistas are the same we have fought for, beginning years ago."

document "goes in with the knife": "As a result, these institutions would be going beyond the limits of their competence and their right, if they incited states to adopt demographic policies that they have authored, and if they chose pressure politics, in an attempt to facilitate the execution of these policies."

*La Repubblica* protests that the tone of the accusation is "without precedent," and that this is an unfair polemic, since "the U.N. is not authoritarian but democratic."

The newspaper writes that the Vatican document "hints at the hypothesis of a great plot, an alliance of very well-heeled financial organizations fighting for birth control and companies which develop and produce contraceptive devices and methods of sterilization." This is a sign that the Vatican is "sparing no weapons" in its fight against the U.N. conference, the paper concludes.

### ***Will Thatcher be extradited to Argentina?***

"We may have to ask for Margaret Thatcher's extradition," said Argentine President Carlos Menem, speaking in San Carlos de Bariloche on May 16.

Menem made these remarks in the context of being asked about Erich Priebke, an ex-Nazi SS official who has resided in Bariloche for 40 years, but was recently "found" by ABC News. His extradition has been requested by the Italian government for taking part in the Ardeatine Caves massacre in Italy during World War II. Menem was cautious on the Priebke case, saying that from all reports, Priebke was a "good person . . . but there is a request from the Italian government and we must await the decision of Italian authorities."

Menem then said: "We will have to determine if the sinking of the *General Belgrano* was a war crime. . . . If it was, with all due respect, we would have to seek Mrs. Thatcher's extradition." The Argentine ship was sunk by the British during the 1982 Malvinas War, as it was moving away from

the British-created exclusion zone around the Malvinas. Three-hundred and twenty-three Argentine sailors died as a result of the attack. Menem added that if the extradition of Priebke is being requested "on the grounds that the Jewish Holocaust was a war crime, so was the sinking of the cruiser *General Belgrano*."

Menem's startling departure from his generally slavish pro-British policy, comes in the context of his growing concern over the potential for destabilization of his country, as Mexico has been destabilized since January by the Zapatista insurgency.

### ***Argentina, Caricom back invasion of Haiti***

Argentina and several Caribbean countries are the most enthusiastic backers of an invasion of Haiti, according to an Associated Press report on May 17. Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said on May 16 that Argentina would support "an eventual multinational military intervention against Haiti—led by the United States—to restore democracy, if this is approved by the United Nations or at least the OAS."

According to Associated Press, only Argentina and Trinidad and Tobago, and perhaps some of the Caricom nations of the Caribbean (i.e., British Commonwealth countries) support the idea of an invasion. Support among the rest of the Organization of American States (OAS) is weak. "Not even disguised as a collective decision would [invasion] be acceptable," said Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas. Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Dominica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba maintain the same position.

During Di Tella's recent trip to London, according to British sources reported in the Argentine daily *Página 12* on May 17, he toasted British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd with the statement that he was "proud to be an Anglophile," and proposed that Britain and Argentina together set up a South Atlantic Treaty Organization.