

# International Intelligence

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## ***Cholera exploding in Mexico again***

Cholera is exploding in Mexico again, according to the director general of Epidemiology of the Health Ministry, Roberto Tapia Conyer, quoted in *Reforma*, by Jorge Reyes on May 20. In July 1991, when the disease was spreading throughout Ibero-America, an outbreak occurred in Mexico. But according to Tapia Conyer, in each month since January of this year, there has been a steady increase in the number of cases reported: 58 in January, 119 in February, 379 in March, 433 in April, and 748 cases so far in May, bringing the national total to 1,713. Each month the number of cases has tripled.

In May, 507 cases were reported between the 12th and 18th of the month, representing a 40% increase of the total for the year so far! Given the destruction of the economy and corresponding living and sanitation standards wrought by the International Monetary Fund's programs, the figure can be expected to zoom.

The southeastern state of Chiapas is the state with the highest incidence of cholera, coherent with the economic devastation it has suffered since the Zapatista "Liberation Army" began their insurgency in January 1994.

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## ***Iraq wants better ties with neighbors***

In an interview with the Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* given in New York and published on May 19, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohamed Said Alshahaf said: "Iraq's foreign policy is based on encouraging the best relations with the Arab countries and the Gulf states without exception." He specifically referred to Iraqi-Iranian relations, saying that Iraq rejects the so-called "rehabilitation" of Iraq to play once again the role of safety zone between Iran and the rich Gulf states, and emphasized that the two countries are serious in their pursuit to normalize relations

despite the "heavy heritage of distrust and negative aspects left by the eight-year war."

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, during a press conference in the Council on Foreign Relations headquarters in New York, replied to a question by *Al-Hayat* on Iraq's relation to the Gulf states saying: "I do not think that we in the U.S. should lecture our friends in the Gulf on the dialogues they might have with Iraq. Iraq is their neighbor, and they have their own views on the best ways to bring Iraq back to the group of nations with which we can have good relations."

Perry stressed the U.S. policy of the double containment of Iraq and Iran, but added that this policy "is not to be an alternative to diplomatic methods," asserting that the "containment" only provides a peaceful environment where diplomatic initiatives can find their way to develop and bear fruit.

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## ***Philip pushes 'religious' eco-fascism in Africa***

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) has put out a news release entitled, "WWF Supports World Environment Day in South Africa with Interfaith Celebration." WWF refers to the World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), whose outgoing president, Prince Philip, the British royal consort, is a leading force in using "environmental" pretexts for massive attacks on human population, especially in the underdeveloped countries.

The cited release reports that "thousands of adherents to the world's religions, spiritual, and faith groups are expected to celebrate the United Nations' Environment Day on Sunday, 4 June 1995." This "interfaith celebration," to be led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, will be the first "major event" in a series of week-long activities being planned in several towns and cities in South Africa, under the auspices of the South African Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism.

The event is being "sponsored jointly by WWF-South Africa and the Gold Fields

Foundation." This will be "the first time in South Africa that mainstream and traditional religious leaders, as well as conservationists and educationists, will come together on one platform. Under the slogan 'Committed to Earthkeeping, Unite for Life,' the faith leaders will call on their members and on other groups to join them in striving for a lifestyle which is in greater harmony with the environment."

Tutu will specifically "affirm" the 1986 WWF "Religion and Conservation" conference in Assisi, Italy, the UNEP release reports.

Other speakers include South African Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Prof. Kader Asmal; a UNEP official; and Dr. John Hanks, chief executive of WWF-South Africa: States Hanks: "As with the Assisi conference, we hope this event . . . will start a major partnership between WWF-SA and religious and spiritual groups. It is a tremendous opportunity for us to affirm our joint commitment and, through church and faith networks, to encourage community and individual responsibility to better care for the environment."

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## ***Dominican Republic in uproar over USAID budget***

The proposed FY 1996 budget of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has caused a huge outcry in the Dominican Republic. Vice President Jacinto Peynado traveled on May 19 to the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico to denounce the USAID report and to demand that his country be respected.

"This report should have been taken by the U.S. directly to the Dominican government. We don't have people analyzing the problem of Oklahoma. We demand respect for the Dominican Republic," Peynado told the members of the Inter-American Federation of Lawyers, who were meeting in San Juan, according to a front-page story in the Dominican daily *Hoy* on May 20.

The stated aim of USAID is to wipe out the lingering legacy of the late dictator Tru-

jillo, make the country "less autocratic," and cut down to size the "protectionist interests" that prevent the economy from developing and being truly free. Depopulation, particularly through "reducing fertility" and dealing with AIDS (i.e., condoms), and ecology are the other two areas where the pittance USAID has budgeted for the Dominican Republic, \$16.1 million, will be spent.

The budget report says that the Dominican Republic is key to U.S. strategic interests: It is the third largest recipient of U.S. visas, and one in seven Dominicans live in the United States, legally or illegally; it has become a significant point for the transshipment of drugs; it is the seventh most important U.S. trading partner in the hemisphere and its fourth most important source of finished clothing for the U.S. market.

Vice President Peynado was particularly incensed because there will be a Presidential election next May, just two years after the last one, "imposed by the Americans," he said. Much of the money USAID is budgeting for the Dominican Republic (85% of it to be spent through non-governmental organizations) is for "building democracy."

## ***Anti-separatist leaders under threat in Spain***

In a move that *EIR's* European intelligence specialists regard as a threat to the anti-terrorist apparatus in Spain, the former head of the Socialist Party in Vizcaya, Spain, Ricardo Garcia-Damborenea, has been accused of corruption. He allegedly accepted 40-50,000 pesetas per month from the former secretary of state for interior, Julián Sancristóbal. These small sums were used to pay for his trips from Bilbao to Madrid to meet with Interior Ministry figures. A number of former civil governors and government delegates to the Basque Provinces are accused of the same "crimes", i.e., using funds from the Reserved Monies of the Interior Ministry, the Spanish daily *El Mundo* reported on May 21.

Garcia-Damborenea, an outspoken unionist, is believed to have been an interface

between factions in all political parties, opposed to the separation of the Basque Provinces, and the Spanish counter-terror forces. How he can qualify as "corrupt"—there is no question of his having applied the Reserved Monies to his personal pleasures, but rather to Interior Ministry missions only—is a mystery.

The same applies to the civil governors and government delegates in the Basque Provinces. These are people from intelligence backgrounds, who are committed unionists assigned to these dangerous and sensitive posts. By necessity, they move around both in Spain and abroad, beyond what the salary of such an official would normally allow; many of these missions can never be made public, but they must be financed. Despite lip-service to "autonomist aspirations," the ruling Socialist Party has conducted an anti-terrorist policy on the ground, and leading party officials have been murdered for their anti-separatist views or activities.

## ***Will Confucianism help restore morale in China?***

Chinese leader Jiang Zemin may promote Confucianism to combat China's moral decay in the post-Deng era. In recent weeks, Jiang has been focusing on the crisis of morality in the country brought about by economic reforms and is pushing the revival of Confucianism as an "effective antidote against spiritual degradation," according to a dispatch from the official Xinhua News Agency monitored in English and Chinese sources in Hongkong on May 12.

The dispatch was the first time the official media have highlighted the point that Deng's reform had failed to curb the moral decline in the country. "Even though the market economics propounded by Deng Xiaoping have won the support of the Chinese people, complaints about the fall in moral standards have increased by the day," the agency said.

Jiang visited the scholars who attended the first conference of the International Confucius Association last October in Beijing.

● **THE TALIBAN** reportedly gave the positions it had occupied in Logher state south of Kabul to the Mujahideen Islamic Party forces of Ghulbuddin Hekmatyar fighting the Kabul government, in a strategic shift of power in Afghanistan, "trustworthy" Afghan sources told the Arabic-language paper *Al-Hayat* on May 17. The Taliban had been fighting Hekmatyar, whose forces they described as "criminal bandits."

● **BRITAIN** should "hang on for the Chinese miracle"—a divided China, wrote Norman MacRae, the former deputy editor of *The Economist*, in a *Sunday Times* of London commentary on May 21. He predicted that the 1.2 billion "prosperous" Chinese will "explode away from any backward Chinese regions left under any socialist centralizer" after the death of Deng.

● **THE FUJIMORI** "model" for defeating terrorism was presented to a meeting of 60 military officers, and to a gathering of 230 and political and military analysts in Bogotá, Colombia during the third week of May by Luis Vásquez, a leader of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement from Lima, Peru. Vásquez underlined Colombia's similarities today to Peru in 1991, when President Fujimori took office.

● **LONDON** is a "crossroads" for Islamicist terrorist support groups, averred the new Algerian ambassador to Washington, Osman Bencherif, at a luncheon in the U.S. capital on May 17, responding to a query from a French journalist. Bencherif spent eight years in London and based his judgment on direct observations.

● **BUENOS AIRES** became the second South American city to pick up the short-wave transmission of Lyndon LaRouche on the weekly interview show "*EIR Talks*," on May 21. Earlier, the broadcast had been heard loud and clear in Ecuador.