

International Intelligence

Australia should have a nuclear capability

Speaking at the launch of his autobiography on April 2, Bill Hayden, the newly retired Australian governor general, and former foreign minister (1983-88), warned that Australia cannot rely on the ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, United States) treaty for protection, because the United States was progressively withdrawing from the Pacific region. In order to be able to defend itself without outside assistance, Hayden said, Australia needed to develop a nuclear weapons capability, so that, in a situation of "absolute necessity, where there is a serious threat to our continued existence, it should be in a position to make a nuclear weapon within six months," according to *The Australian*.

Hayden was elaborating on revelations in his autobiography that as foreign minister in 1984 he proposed that Australia enhance its nuclear technology, and build a nuclear power generator. However, Hayden also echoed cynicism in Australia toward Indonesia's plans for a nuclear industry, saying that he was "just curious" about their plans when they had access to abundant hydroelectric and other power sources.

Afghanistan scores foreign interventions

At two meetings of the United Nations Security Council on April 9, the vice minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, Abdul-Rahim Gahfoorzai, charged that Pakistani military intelligence has been actively engaged in attempts to overthrow the government ever since the Islamic State of Afghanistan was established in April 1992.

He mentioned the abortive coup attempt of January 1994, in which the government had captured 25 heavily armed Pakistani militia. He said that Pakistani military intelligence coupled with Pakistan's Interior Ministry had created a mercenary group called

Taliban in September 1994, who were trained in Quetta, Pakistan, and sent into Afghanistan with Pakistani intelligence officers and frontier militia.

Taliban means "students of religious schools" and aims to implement "Islamic teachings" such as forbidding women and girls to leave their homes to work and depriving them of educational opportunities. He also said that narcotics cultivation, processing, and trafficking has dramatically increased in areas held by Taliban. Two hundred tons of narcotics have been exported from Afghanistan in those areas in the last five months.

The U.N. Special Mission in Afghanistan has only stressed the "transfer of power," he said, and failed to explicitly identify foreign interference as the root cause of the conflict and to recommend effective measures to terminate it.

Ghafoorzai said that no consideration of the situation in Afghanistan could be an in-depth one without an analysis of Taliban and their social-political agenda.

His statements, monitored by *EIR's* United Nations correspondent in New York, can be seen against the background of the broader analysis published in the *Strategic Studies* section ("Why the Afghanistan War Does Not End" on p. 44) of *EIR's* last issue, dated April 12, 1996.

BBC trying to meddle in papal succession?

A recent BBC provocation fits into a campaign to influence the election of the next pope, a Rome-based expert on Catholic Church matters told *EIR* on April 3. Just before Easter, BBC put out the story of an archeological find of a tomb of a family of a Jesus, son of Mary and Joseph, which allegedly would "prove" that the resurrection of Jesus Christ never happened.

The Italian daily *La Repubblica* of April 2 quoted Amos Kloner, Superintendent of Israeli Antiquities, who said that the possibility of identifying the tombs with those of the Holy Family is "close to zero." The

paper reported that "other scientists have noticed that in the past, the name 'Jesus' has been already found about ten times, in two occasions even followed by 'son of Joseph.'" "

The provocation as such was described as "trivial" by the expert interviewed by *EIR*, who added that, more important is a recent decision reforming the papal election process. "For a thousand years, popes have been elected with a two-thirds majority [of the College of Cardinals]. This ensured that no radical candidate would emerge, and that the pope was always a mediation candidate, who would preserve the unity of the church. Now, rules have been changed and the next pope will be elected with a majority-plus-one vote. This favors the counterposition of candidates who will split the church," he suggested.

Order of the Solar Temple saga continues

A "very sophisticated coverup" was the judgment of the French newspaper *Nouvelle Solidarité* regarding the findings of officials in Switzerland, released April 3, into the deaths of 53 members of the Order of the Solar Temple (OTS) in October 1994 in Switzerland and Quebec. The judge who led the inquiry said that at least 30 of the members were simply murdered, which includes most of the Canadian members. But, the investigator concluded that the whole story is just a one of a doomsday cult.

But in March 1996, sixteen more members of the OTS were found dead in the French Alps. Some of those members had previously given testimony in the official Swiss investigation. Two of the 16 found dead were French policemen. As if this weren't enough of a puzzle, the new Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, Guy Chevrette, has ordered a second official inquiry into the OTS penetration of Hydro-Quebec's leadership, because it has become known that an employee of Hydro-Quebec, who had refused to pledge allegiance to his boss in an OTS ritual, was forced to resign.

Briefly

FRANCE “wants a free, independent and sovereign Lebanon,” said Jacques Chirac, France’s President, before the Lebanese parliament April 4. He added that “1996 will be a decisive year, marked by deals between Israel and Syria, and between Israel and Lebanon.” Lebanon was a French protectorate after World War II.

THE ZAPATISTA narco-terrorists who infest Chiapas state in Mexico are at it again: On April 3, they gathered some 400 “delegates” from across the hemisphere in a tiny jungle town without electricity or running water, to give speeches on the theme “for humanity and against neo-liberalism.” A number of Hollywood stars were invited via Internet.

THE CATO Institute, one of the Mont Pelerin Society’s many arms, has threatened Venezuela through a new report presented in Washington by former Bush national security official Roger Fontaine. Caracas media reported him saying that unless the government adopts market reforms, Venezuela will undergo social chaos and “national catastrophe.”

A SOUTH AFRICAN book, *Contraband, South Africa and the International Trade in Ivory and Rhino Horn*, cites *EIR* for its exposure in October 1994 of Anglo-Dutch duplicity in the use of British SAS commandos in undercover operations allegedly against ivory and rhino horn smuggling.

THE PHILIPPINES is now the second major producer of marijuana after Mexico, having produced \$1.4 billion worth in 1995, according to a statement released in Manila April 7 by Sen. Ernesto Herrera.

A BRITISH professor of bioethics and veterinary science, David Morton, called for using people in comas instead of animals in medical experiments, reported the London *Guardian* of April 8. This repugnant proposal comes up just when more and more coma recoveries are being reported, the paper observed.

Hydro-Quebec said on April 3 it will take legal action against a former supervisor and the CBC’s French-language television network, over the report linking the utility with the Order of the Solar Temple. “This is a very sensitive issue,” Hydro’s communications director Guy Versailles told a Montreal press conference. “It has caught the public eye and we do not want circulating, among the public, ideas that we are being driven by some kind of cult. That is not true.”

French police arrested 30 OTS members March 20, because they said they had reason to believe they might commit suicide at the March 21 equinox. Now, the media in Canada have started putting the line out that on the June 21 solstice, there will be “another OTS mass suicide” in Quebec. As *EIR* pointed out 18 months ago, the whole OTS saga points toward a “clean-up operation,” inside an “intelligence lodge.”

Ariel Sharon suddenly in big trouble in Israel

Revelations from his own Likud Party implicated Ariel Sharon in massive deception during Israel’s 1982 Lebanon War fiasco, wrote correspondent Patrick Cockburn from Jerusalem in the April 4 issue of the London *Independent*.

“Did Ariel Sharon lie to the Israeli prime minister, about his plans 14 years ago, to take the Israeli Army all the way to Beirut? He denies it, but the fact that it is made by the son of Menachem Begin, prime minister during Israel’s disastrous invasion of Lebanon in 1982, is reopening a feud in the right-wing Likud Party, in which both men are leading figures. The dispute centers on the allegation by Benny Begin, that Gen. Sharon, then Israel’s defense minister, used permission for a limited incursion across the Lebanese border, to launch a full-scale invasion. In the two years of fighting that followed, 600 Israelis and more than 11,500 people were killed overall, including 800 Palestinians massacred in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

“The claim resurfaced this week—at a deeply inconvenient moment for Likud in the run-up to the general election on May 29—when testimony by Benny Begin, in a libel case brought by General Sharon, was made public. He quotes his father, whose political career was ended by the Lebanese war, as saying there was ‘no truth to the statements’ made by General Sharon, that the Cabinet had been informed about plans to go all the way to Beirut.”

Botero’s lawyer calls for anti-drug crusade

Fernando Londoño Hoyos, the lawyer for jailed former Colombian Defense Minister Fernando Botero, called for a national crusade against drug trafficking “which is a cancer that is killing us.” In an interview published by the daily *La República* on April 10, Londoño said that “it is very possible to do away with drug trafficking and the drug traffickers. All that is needed is the good will to make the decision to do it.” Londoño presented the example of Colombia’s extradition treaty with the United States, which is currently not in force. “I assure you that it would be enough to decide that it is in force, and then fill up one or two airplanes, preferably jumbos, with wanted drug traffickers, and issue a warning to all the others that anyone accused of drug-trafficking who is wanted by the United States will be sent there, to inflict a mortal blow on the mafias. Similarly, when drug-trafficking is hit where it should, in its financial nerve-center, with the banks as the great allies in that fight, we are going to succeed,” Londoño said.

However, he added, narco-President Ernesto Samper will have to leave office for there to be a successful crusade against drugs. “So long as we have the President we have, the Congress we have, the Attorney General we have, the Comptroller we have, the entire government apparatus we have, there is no possibility of beginning to successfully confront the deep challenge that drug-trafficking poses for the world,” said Londoño.