

International Intelligence

Positive signs in Shubeilat case

The international campaign to free Jordanian political prisoner Laith Shubeilat seems to have begun to bear fruit. Reports from Jordan confirm that King Hussein had visited Shubeilat's mother. Sources close to Shubeilat described this visit as a "prelude to a royal amnesty for Laith Shubeilat," a celebrated engineer and opposition figure, who was framed up on political charges and sentenced to three years in prison this past March. Shubeilat's mother told reporters: "King Hussein hugged me and told me that he considers himself 'as my son.'" She added that the visit was private and not really extraordinary, "since there are strong ties between our family and the royal family." She asserted that she and King Hussein did not discuss Shubeilat's case, and only talked about private family issues.

Meanwhile, *EIR* was told by Shubeilat's friends that "Laith is no longer staying in his solitary confinement cell, and was moved to a larger prison room with other inmates of his own choice." These sources stressed that there is a chance for a royal amnesty for Shubeilat soon. Traditionally, the king issues an amnesty for certain categories of prisoners on May 25 each year, Jordan's Day of Independence.

Ritalin approved for children in France

Ritalin (methylphenidate) was approved for distribution in France for the first time last summer, according to the February edition of the education magazine *Mutuelle Générale de l'Éducation Nationale*. Despite apparent misgivings about the drug, prominent French pediatric psychiatrists are touting the amphetamine-related stimulant as an acceptable treatment for youngsters diagnosed with "attention deficit hyperactivity disorder."

Despite tremendous opposition to its commercialization in France, methylphenidate was already being obtained from other

European countries where it has been legal for several decades. Ritalin was approved for use in 1956 in Denmark, in 1962 in Belgium, in 1969 in Holland, and in 1972 in the United Kingdom. Its use is also widespread in Canada, though not as much as in the United States, where about 10% of school-age boys are being treated with it.

Dr. Marie-France Le Heuzey, a child psychiatrist at the Robert-Debré Hospital in Paris, told an interviewer that Ritalin can be "very effective" when it is properly prescribed for hyperactive children. The purpose of administering the drug, she says, is to "help the child live, to help the parents and the teachers to tolerate the child," though she warns against "prescribing the drug to please the parents or certain teachers."

A second specialist is also interviewed in the publication, Dr. Paul Messerschmitt, child psychiatrist at the Armand-Trousseau Hospital in Paris. He notes that the French education system, while one of the best in the world, is ill-suited to helping children who are hyperactive: There are few hours of sports activity per week, and long class periods devoted to theoretical subjects. After admitting that the "ideal" would be to design special programs to deal with such children, "this is difficult to envisage in the current context."

Einaudi defends Peru's laxity in drug war

During the April 26-28 inter-American summit of defense ministers in Miami, sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command and the National Defense University, Assistant Secretary of State for Narcotics Affairs Robert Gelbard criticized Peru's Alberto Fujimori government for its retreat in the war on drugs.

Speaking before the continent's defense ministers and a large group of diplomats and others, a visibly angry Gelbard said that Fujimori's government was not showing the political will to eradicate the drug trade.

Congresswoman Luz Salgado, who chairs the Peruvian Congress's Human Rights Commission, insisted in reply that

Peru was busy fighting terrorism and poverty, and that anyway, what the Peruvian peasantry needed was coca leaves, not herbicides which could make them sick.

Gelbard took back the microphone and said that Fujimori had told him to his face that eradicating coca crops was "not a priority" for his government. "That is unacceptable," said Gelbard, who pointed out that Peru was the only country whose coca crops increased in size last year.

Congresswoman Salgado stormed out of the event and did not return. She was later approached by State Department special envoy Luigi Einaudi, who apologized for Gelbard's "off-the-cuff" remarks, and said they did not reflect the opinion of the U.S. government. Salgado later complained to *El Nuevo Herald* (April 27) that Gelbard had shown "bad taste in sharing a comment that could have taken place in a private conversation" with President Fujimori.

Anti-nuclear campaign stepped up in Germany

According to a report in the May 3 issue of German engineers weekly *VDI-Nachrichten*, a newly formed "Energy Alliance" has called for the shutdown of all nuclear power plants in Germany. It consists of 22 organizations, among them the Evangelical Church, several managers associations, the trade union Bau-Agrar-Umwelt, the municipalities of Hanover and Leipzig, and the Club of Rome. It is headed by the Alliance for Environmental and Nature Protection (BUND).

VDI-Nachrichten quoted the head of the German association of power producers (VDEW) Joachim Grawe, who says that due to the worldwide population growth, "nuclear energy is indispensable." Grawe said he was "shocked to see that serious people, the Evangelical Church, trade unions and the Club of Rome have signed this memorandum."

On the darker band of the ecologist spectrum, terrorist incidents are stepping up. On April 27 about 10,000 people demonstrated at the marketplace of Dannenberg,

Briefly

SINN FEIN, the leading party of Irish republicans, announced April 30 that it will participate in the May 30 elections in Northern Ireland. Voters will choose delegates to all-party Northern Ireland peace talks scheduled to occur in June. The Sinn Fein slate will include Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, both from Northern Ireland, as well as candidates from the 26 counties in the Irish Republic.

QUEBEC CITY was the scene of a three-hour riot by 1,500 youths on May 4, when police tried to arrest several people for starting a small campfire in a street in the city's historic Old Town. An eyewitness described it as a police provocation in an atmosphere of tension over independence from Canada.

SUDAN'S President Al-Bashir was quoted in the London-based Arabic newspaper *Al-Hayat*, saying the UN sanctions against his country "are in the first place a political issue which we will fight and at the end will win. . . . Despite all the evidence showing Sudan's innocence, they say 'you are guilty until proven innocent.'"

THE TORIES got trounced in local elections across Britain on May 2. It was only the second time in party's history it has polled below 30% in such polls. John Major's Conservatives lost about half the seats they were defending in the biggest test of voter opinion before a general election due within a year.

POLAND now has its own Schiller Institute. On April 20, 1996 in Warsaw, a founding meeting was held of the republican policy think-tank initiated in 1984 by Helga Zepp LaRouche. It elected a board, which is chaired by Anna Kaczor-Wei.

CHILD LABOR should replace "utopian" universal education, was the brazen message of a special television program which aired in Peru May 5. It was put together by Guido Lombardi, a top Mont Pelerin Society operative.

near the Gorleben nuclear waste facility, protesting against nuclear waste transports, among them 600 militant activists, who tried to destroy the rail lines. About 150 people were arrested by the police, but later 200 activists tried to storm the police buses to free their collaborators. Another 300 militants were trying simultaneously to destroy the rail lines in Rosdorf, near Göttingen. According to the daily *Die Welt*, there were more than 100 sabotage attempts against railway installations since spring 1995 in Lower Saxony alone. All over Germany, there were 76 sabotage attempts against railway infrastructure since mid-April 1996.

Sharon mobilizes against Hebron army withdrawal

The crazies in Israel are on a full mobilization to block government plans to withdraw military units from Hebron, the most populous Arab city on the West Bank. The city is the site of the Tomb of the Patriarchs, the supposed burial place of Abraham. The nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, is the Jewish Defense League headquarters, and was the residence of Baruch Goldstein, who killed 50 Muslim worshippers at the tomb in February 1994.

On May 3, Gen. Ariel Sharon wrote an op-ed for the *Jerusalem Post* entitled, "Hebron, Now and Forever." Says Sharon: "Hebron is next. 'You can't rule 160,000 Palestinians for the sake of 400 Jews,' is how the prime minister put it to the Torah sages and scholars. . . . But what matters is not whether there are 400 Jews in Hebron, but the 4,000 years of Jewish history. What other people has such a monument, where the patriarchs and matriarchs of the nation rest in a single place? . . .

"Deliberately, the government is creating a situation intended to force the Jews of the city to abandon their homes. But the government is wrong in its expectations. The Jews of Hebron will not depart. They are deeply dedicated individuals who know that without their presence no Jews will ever again visit Hebron and its holy sites. The *haredi* [ultra-religious Jews] world is up in

arms; the National Camp in Israel is stirred. The reaction of the Torah sages has surprised this government. The sages sense great danger for the very existence of the Jewish people. And they, with the Jewish residents of Hebron, will save the city. . . . The Jewish sector, including the cemeteries, the Tel Rumeida road, the Hadassah building complex, Beit Romano, the Mystics' Yeshiva, the 'Jewish Courtyard,' the Avraham Avinu Synagogue, the Machpela Cave area and the eastern casbah should be attached to Kiryat Arba."

Keating quits Parliament in Australia

Paul Keating ended his 27-year Australian parliamentary career on April 23 when he resigned from the House of Representatives, in the wake of his leading Labor to its worst ever electoral defeat on March 2, *The Age* reported on April 24. His disastrous "reforms" included:

- deregulating the banks and allowing international banks into Australia;
- floating the Australian dollar, so "speculators can speculate against themselves," he said;
- overhauling the tax system, though he failed in his bid to introduce a consumption tax;
- presiding over the Native Title legislation to give indigenous people sovereignty over the land mass;
- setting up APEC, and the push for Australia to be a "part of Asia" on behalf of British empire interests;
- the push for an Australian "republic," a fraudulent operation that is expected to go on hold under the new monarchist prime minister.

Although only 52, after 27 years in Parliament, Keating will receive a pension of \$130,000 a year. However, he is expected to earn much more than that if, as expected, he becomes a consultant to international companies in the Asian region. Keating's secretary for the next 12 months will be his former foreign affairs adviser, Allan Gyngell.