

# International Intelligence

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## ***Book by Judge Palermo exposes Italian masonry***

On Oct. 23, internationally known Italian magistrate Judge Carlo Palermo presented his new book, *The Fourth Level*, to a gathering of parliamentarians and journalists in Rome. Judge Palermo became famous for his investigations in the 1980s of the weapons and drugs mafia, including the "Bulgarian connection." Later, after he moved to Sicily, he miraculously survived a mafia car-bomb attack. Palermo's book seeks to find a common thread connecting many continuing investigations into the political networks behind the weapons- and drug-smuggling plague, including those intersecting Americans Theodore Shackley and Roger D'Onofrio.

The title of his book, *The Fourth Level*, underscores his denunciation and exposé of the international networks of parallel secret services, freemasonry, and financial oligarchy which exercise top-down control over organized crime activities. He told his listeners at the National Assembly building in Rome, "Through historical analysis, it is possible to identify the higher-level matrix, which is based essentially on the banking power. This is because everything goes through the banks, everything can be controlled through the banks, and all the operations go on through the banks."

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## ***Drug mafias increase in Karabakh, Tajikistan***

Since its takeover by Armenia, the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan has become a significant international transshipment point for opium grown in Iran and Central Asia, according to the Baku, Azerbaijan newspaper *Zerulo*. The paper says that dozens of hectares of land in the Khodzhasenky and Gadrutsky Rayons (regions) of Karabakh are also planted with opium poppies and marijuana. The presence of the drug mafia is indirectly confirmed by the Armenian ouster of the chief of the Gadrutsky Rayon police department. Armenian accusations of drug trafficking were also leveled against

several high-level military bureaucrats of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army and the military procuracy of Karabakh.

Reportedly, drugs are delivered from Karabakh to Armenia, and from there to Georgia, and thence to Russia; or, alternatively, to Turkey, using Armenian-Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) drug clans as carriers into Europe. The network was built up in part by Marius Yushbashian, the late head of the Soviet KGB in Armenia, who was closely tied to the terrorist Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

Similarly, anti-government Tajik rebels, who are tied to the Afghan Taliban, are involved in drug smuggling, Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov told visiting Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov on Oct. 30. "We have irrefutable proof that the criminal business, is one of the main sources for financing the armed opposition. These funds are used to purchase weapons, ammunition, and to pay mercenaries," Itar-Tass quoted Rakhmanov as saying.

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## ***Cambodian Khmer Rouge insurgency nears its end***

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen visited the former headquarters of the Khmer Rouge in Pailin late last month, marking the almost complete pacification of the bloody insurgency. Meeting with Khmer Rouge number-two man Ieng Sary, who has come over to the government, Hun Sen agreed to allow the population to retain their gem and timber businesses, and their weapons. Like the agreements in Myanmar between SLORC and the drug armies, the government pacification will mean total government control, but no revenge against those who submit peacefully. A faction faithful to dictator Pol Pot is still at large, but is rumored to have fled to Thailand.

Phnom Penh still has to put down the destabilization efforts run by the U.S. Republican Party's International Republican Institute, however. On Nov. 2, the government reversed its decision to allow opposition leader Sam Rainsy to lead a march

against illegal logging. Instead, Rainsy was told that his Khmer Nation Party would be allowed to hold a protest at their party headquarters, but not conduct a march. Sam Rainsy, former finance minister, is the IRI's man in Phnom Penh; in fact, the Cambodian capital is the only Asian "field office" listed in the IRI's annual report. Last month, Rainsy led a demonstration against the visit of Myanmar's top official, Gen. Tan Shwe, and in support of fellow IRI employee Aung San Suu Kyi. Working with Rainsy on the illegal logging protest is the British-based environmentalist group Global Witness, which accuses Phnom Penh of violating a self-imposed logging ban set in June 1995.

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## ***Daily moots 'special autonomy' for East Timor***

The Portuguese daily *Expresso* reported on Oct. 19, that the Indonesian government has agreed to grant "special autonomy" status to East Timor. The modified autonomy would be similar to that granted to the island of Java, the main island in Indonesia, which applies only to certain development and investment policies, and to education. It would allow East Timor to use Portuguese as the language in the schools. (Portugal was the colonial power until 1974, when it abandoned East Timor to civil war.) Timor would continue to be a part of the Indonesian state.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos Horta, the foreign spokesman for the East Timor National Liberation Front (Fretilin), responded from Australia that discussion of autonomy is only possible if Jakarta agrees that Timor will *not* be a province of Indonesia. Since the article's appearance, President Suharto has denied the special status, which he had earlier stated would create difficulties with other separatist movements in the country.

*Expresso* also reported that the Vatican is "embarrassed" by the Nobel Prize committee also granting the Peace Prize to Bishop Belo of Dili, East Timor, "given the clearly political nature of the prize." It pointed out that Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation, treats the Catholic

Church "with great deference, not even prohibiting the conversion of Muslims to the Catholic faith, something which does not occur in other Muslim countries."

### ***Israel plans settlements expansion in Galilee***

According to the Israeli daily *Yediot Aharonot* of Oct. 31, the government is about to declare the settlements in the occupied territories "National Priority Area Class A," reversing a 1992 decision under the Yitzhak Rabin government which downgraded them to non-priority status. The demand to change the status has come mainly from the settlement movement, as well as from Rabbi Meir Porush, deputy minister of construction and housing, who wants to boost new settlements.

Further, writes *Yediot Aharonot*, that ministry is currently working on the "Star of David 2020 Plan," with the objective of moving 2.4 million Jews into Israel's northern Galilee region. Two weeks earlier, the paper published a ministry report warning about the "demographic danger" from the growing population of Israeli Arabs, who would likely become a majority in Galilee and Haifa within several years. Since that report, the National Infrastructure Ministry of fanatic Ariel Sharon has reportedly held marathon deliberations on how to reverse it. Disclaimers about the plan's effects on Israeli Arabs aside, Sharon's plan is for the "Judaization of the Galilee."

### ***S. Africa reopens probe of Robert Smit killing***

The South African police investigation into the 1977 murder of Robert Smit, has been reopened. Smit was a South African financial expert involved with the head of Germany's Dresdner Bank, Jürgen Ponto, in ambitious plans for South Africa to become a launching pad for regional industrial development. Smit had been discussing the plan with *EIR*, and was intensely interested in Lyndon LaRouche's proposed International Development Bank. Ponto had set up a meet-

ing with LaRouche, but was assassinated before it could take place, and LaRouche was found to be high on the same hit-list as Ponto. Both Ponto and Smit were assassinated in 1977 within months of each other.

Sources close to the quietly reopened investigation said that Smit had intended to expose members of his own National Party, who were involved in smuggling large sums into Swiss banks to fund the dirty, Kissinger-orchestrated wars in Angola and Mozambique. Smit was running for office and would likely have become South Africa's next finance minister.

### ***Murderer Mladic 'fired' by Srpska President***

The head of the Bosnian Serb military forces during the war against Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ratko Mladic, was dismissed on Nov. 9. Biljana Plavsic, President of Bosnia's Republika Srpska, announced that she had replaced Mladic, who is under indictment for war crimes by the Hague International War Crime Tribunal. As commander of the Bosnian Serb forces during the Bosnia war, Mladic personally conducted most of its operations, including the assault against the so-called "UN safe haven" of Srebrenica, where 8,000 Bosnians were massacred and buried in mass graves in July 1995.

In her release, Plavsic thanked Mladic "for all he had done for Bosnia-Herzegovina Serbs during the war," and announced that she had replaced the whole General Staff of the Bosnian Serb forces, including Mladic's deputy, Milan Gvero, and chief of staff General Milovanovic.

Mladic is now living comfortably in his mountain refuge at Han Pijesak. The Hague Tribunal has a long-standing arrest warrant out for him, but the NATO peacekeepers who had been given the responsibility for enforcing the warrant did nothing to arrest him or former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, also wanted for war-crimes. According to journalist sources, war criminals Mladic and Karadzic have arranged to retire at a Serb Orthodox monastery on Greece's Mount Athos, where they have been offered refuge.

## ***Briefly***

**THE SUN YAT-SEN** Memorial Hall in the heart of Beijing, was opened to the public for the first time since 1949, on Nov. 8, the 130th anniversary of Dr. Sun's birth, Xinhua news agency reported. An exhibit includes 120 photos, as well as calligraphy and charts of Dr. Sun, spanning his political career from November 1924, when he came to Beijing, to his death in April 1925.

**POPE JOHN PAUL II** plans to publish the memoirs of his 50 years as a priest, which he celebrated on Nov. 1. The 76-year-old pope marked the 50th anniversary of his ordination, celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the first full-length public religious ceremony he has led since his appendectomy. The previous evening, Handel's *Messiah* was performed in his honor at the Vatican.

**MALCOLM RIFKIND**, Britain's foreign secretary proposed an Organization for Cooperation in the Middle East during his visit to the region on Nov. 5. It would include the Arab countries, Turkey, and Israel, and ultimately, perhaps, Iraq and Iran, he said. Pro-peace figures in the region, however, suspect his proposal would be a British-dominated regional NATO, and aims at undermining the "land for peace" formula.

**TEN ELEPHANTS** rented by the World Wildlife Fund for a publicity stunt in Frankfurt, Germany, fled the green maniacs, causing chaos in the downtown area on Oct. 30. The elephants were supposed to be part of the WWF's kickoff for a "Living Planet Campaign," but this time, the wildlife protectors needed protection.

**PRINCE CHARLES** arrived in Kiev, Ukraine on Nov. 3, to begin a nine-day tour of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. After preaching the "free market" to Ukrainian businessmen, the British heir was toasted at a Presidential reception, which suffered the "downside" of the free market, when it was struck by one of the country's frequent electrical blackouts.