

# International Intelligence

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## *Egypt-Israel relations continue to go downhill*

The Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* of Nov. 26 wrote that the United States is worried about the deepening crisis in Israeli-Egyptian relations. Tensions climaxed on Nov. 25, when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak denounced Israel's policy toward Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, and raised the possibility of Cairo's recalling its ambassador to Tel Aviv, in view of Israel's failure to withdraw from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Mubarak held a press conference at central military headquarters on Nov. 25, in his first official visit there, where he told the press: "Although the Israeli prime minister has said that nothing is going to be built on the Golan, I really do not know whom to believe any more. Every day they say we are building and will build thousands [of houses], then they later deny this and say we will not build anything. . . . But regardless of how the statements may sound, they are scary and will extremely harm the peace process. If these statements are meant to agitate feelings, I tell them that this portends danger to the entire peace process. They must be careful about this, and I believe that the Israeli people, like the Arabs or any other people in the world, want peace and do not want war."

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## *Canada backs global 'indigenous rights' at UN*

On Oct. 31, the Canadian government announced a "dramatic revision" in its policy toward indigenous self-determination, at the UN Human Rights Commission's "Open-Ended Working Group Considering the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." Canada told the Geneva meeting that it now recognizes that the right to self-determination "applies equally to all collectivities, indigenous and non-indigenous, which qualify as peoples under international law." The statement referenced Articles 3, 31, and 34 of the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which go

to the heart of the attack on the nation-state by the UN's indigenous movement.

Article 3 holds that: "Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development." According to Article 31, self-determination includes "the right to autonomy or self-government in . . . land and resource management . . . and entry by non-members, as well as ways and means for financing these autonomous functions."

Article 34 includes the especially insidious clause that "indigenous peoples have the collective right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities." In 1994, the executive director of the Indian Law Resource Center argued in *Cultural Survival Quarterly* that the intent of this UN Declaration, is to establish, as international law, that *collective human rights* take precedence over the current, universally recognized principle of human rights of individuals.

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## *New Thai government reshuffles old coalition*

The New Aspiration Party (NAP) of Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudhedged ahead of rival coalition parties with a two-seat lead in the Nov. 17 voting, and has now substantially reconstituted the six-party coalition, which had been routed in disgrace in September. The one key change Chavalit has made is to drop outgoing Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa's Chart Thai Party, and replaced it with the Chart Pattana party of former Prime Minister Chatichai Choochavan, who was ousted in 1991 in a military coup. The six-party coalition will hold 221 of the 393 parliamentary seats. The Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai will lead the opposition.

The election was the most expensive ever, rivalling the U.S. Presidential elections, with between \$800 million and \$1.2 billion spent over a scant 45 days.

Meanwhile, General Chavalit told a Bangkok press conference on Nov. 26 that

he will travel to Yangon, Myanmar (Burma) to urge the military junta, SLORC, to hold new elections. Chavalit will tell SLORC, "I'm your best friend. We have a very long relationship, [but] you can't stay on like this any more." Chavalit's friendship dates from 1988 when, shortly after long-time Burmese dictator Gen. Ne Win "retired," Chavalit sought highly lucrative timber contracts with the newly installed SLORC government. Chavalit's announcement came the same day that U.S. President Clinton, attending a state dinner in Bangkok, praised Thailand's "democratic journey," while issuing his strongest criticism yet of SLORC.

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## *WWF founder seeking wildlife park investors*

Anton Rupert, a founder of both the South Africa Foundation, which controls economic policy in Pretoria, and the World Wide Fund for Nature, will establish the Foundation for Peace Parks in Southern Africa in February, to attract foreign investment for the development of seven cross-border wildlife reserves. John Hanks, who replaced Rupert as the director of the South African branch of the WWF, said that Rupert would make a "very generous" contribution to the new foundation. "The idea is to raise a very large sum of money for the seven trans-frontier conservation areas that involve South Africa," Hanks said. The proposals would merge South African parks with adjoining land in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho.

Hanks identified one of the parks as the Kruger National Park, which, at 20,000 square kilometers, is the biggest in South Africa. The World Bank, whose conditionalities have increased both unemployment and starvation across Africa, is already studying proposals to join the Kruger Park to an area of similar size in Mozambique. Gushed Hanks: "We've already had meetings with World Bank people, we've met with high-level authorities in Mozambique; it has enormous potential in terms of developing a sustainable eco-tourism industry and creating jobs of hundreds of people."

## **ASEAN to admit Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia**

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told a post-summit press conference on Nov. 30, that the seven heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations affirmed their commitment to bring Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia in as full members, at the same time. No date was given for when this will occur, but it had been expected that Laos and Cambodia would become full members at next year's summit.

Alatas also underscored to the press that there was no disagreement "as to the principle of Myanmar's entry into ASEAN," and Secretary General Ajit Singh told the press that, based on his recent tour of Myanmar, it is better prepared, on technical grounds, to join than Laos or Cambodia. The heads of state of the three countries were also present in Jakarta, and met with the sitting members, after the official summit concluded.

The ASEAN heads of state also officially "noted with increasing concern the efforts of [Portugal] . . . to introduce extraneous issues such as the question of East Timor," into relations between ASEAN and the European Union. Portugal, the former colonial power in East Timor, abandoned it to civil war in 1974.

## **Goldsmith crony created Afghanistan's Taliban**

Sir Nicholas Barrington, the former British High Commissioner in Pakistan, played a central role in the creation and arming of the Taliban, according to the November issue of *Impact*, a Pakistani Islamic publication based in London, and also confirmed by *EIR*. In 1993, Barrington, then stationed in Pakistan, deployed two British intelligence teams into Afghanistan under humanitarian non-governmental organization (NGO) cover, which prepared the logistical and ideological ground for the synthetic movement. Second, Barrington deployed another NGO, the Office of Peace and Develop-

ment, to hire Afghan mujahideen to train and lead the new group. Charles Santos, then the political adviser to UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri, also played a key role. "Mestiri's militia," as the Santos UN political team was called, oversaw the growth of the group, which he now advises.

Barrington, whose first British foreign service tour of duty was in Afghanistan in the 1950s, recently retired from the diplomatic service. Today, he is reportedly an employee of Sir Jimmy Goldsmith. Barrington supplied Goldsmith with the incriminating information on Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband's purchase of London real estate, which Goldsmith used to help topple her. Goldsmith's son-in-law, Imran Khan, an ethnic Pushtun, is now running for her post.

## **Deadly legacy of economic reforms in former U.S.S.R.**

As a result of the "free market" reforms in the former Soviet Union, imposed by George Bush and Margaret Thatcher, death by starvation, hypothermia, and disease, has struck hard. In the "newly independent state" of Moldova, for example, parents routinely abandon their newborn infants and children, because they see no way to feed or care for them. One-tenth of Moldova's young children are in state-run orphanages, which, thanks to these same economic reforms, now lack proper food for them. More immediately, they have no fuel for winter heat, nor any money to buy it. At least 1,000 Moldovan children froze to death last winter, and hundreds have already frozen to death this year.

Meanwhile, the "free market" is turning Russia into a favorite stop for German "sex tourists": No longer able to afford the airfare to the bordellos of Thailand or the Philippines, many German men are now spending their holidays in Kaliningrad. Of that city's 400,000 population, 6,000 are estimated to be prostitutes. AIDS cases, completely unknown before 1995, officially came to 70 last year, and to over 400 this year.

**IRAQ** has said it is ready to immediately implement the long-delayed UN Memorandum of Understanding allowing for "humanitarian oil sales." An Iraqi News Agency correspondent in New York, reported that Iraq and the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met on Nov. 25, and agreed on the necessary methods to put their Memorandum of Understanding into effect.

**PALESTINIAN** President Yasser Arafat met in Bethlehem with Jewish settlers from Kiryat Arba on Nov. 26. The delegation, which included 13 settlers, represented the 20% of Kiryat Arba's 15,000 residents who are not members of the terrorist JDL and Gush Emunim. The settlers expressed their readiness for coexistence with the Palestinian Authority, and voiced support for the peace process.

**HENRY KISSINGER** keynoted an award ceremony for Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew, who was made this year's Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom "Architect of the New Century" on Nov. 11. Lee, known as "the best bloody Englishman east of the Suez," is only the second recipient of the award. The first went to Newt Gingrich.

**THE ITALIAN NAVY** announced that for the first time, a NATO member had taken part in a joint naval exercise with China. The exercise took place in Shanghai on Nov. 28. "For the first time, the Chinese Navy has agreed to carry out a joint exercise with ships from a Western country," the Italian statement said.

**A NORTH AFRICAN** illegal immigrant in Italy was given an emergency heart transplant by Naples surgeons, who flouted National Health Service regulations, that a transplant patient must at least have a residence permit, in order for the government to pay. The chief surgeon decided the hospital would cover the costs, rather than lose a life.