

International Intelligence

Israel flooded Egypt with Lebanese hashish

The Dec. 22 issue of the *Sunday Times* of London corroborated long-term investigations by *EIR* that the Israeli Defense Forces was smuggling hashish into Egypt, as a matter of state policy, for decades, "to make the Egyptian soldiers so stoned that they would be incapable of fighting effectively." The *Times* story was based on interviews with eight IDF officers "who were directly involved." Operation Lahav (Hebrew for "Blade") began in the 1960s, when the IDF sought to "cut off the traditional smuggling routes out of the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon," one of the world's major sources of this potent marijuana concentrate. But, "according to senior military sources, IDF officers soon realized . . . they could run the drug shipments themselves, flooding Egypt with cut-price narcotics. . . . The Egyptian military said last week that during the late 1960s and early 1970s drug consumption in the ranks rose by 50%, with almost two out of three soldiers regularly smoking hashish."

According to *EIR*'s Nov. 8, 1996 story, "The Anglo-French Patrons of Syria's Hafez al Assad," Lebanon's hashish crop in the 1980s averaged 600 metric tons per year. Half of this was consumed in Egypt. Although Israeli involvement in the Lebanon-Egypt hashish trade predated the 1967 War, it was only after Henry Kissinger gave Lebanon to Syria and Israel in the 1970s, that Lebanese drug production exploded. Ariel Sharon's 1982 invasion helped reorganize this production. George Bush continued to provide protection for this drug trade during his 12 years in the White House.

Rodionov says Cold War with Russia is not over

Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov said in a television interview broadcast on Dec. 22, after he had returned from meetings at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Dec. 18, that the Cold War is not over. "There exist two countries, Russia and the United States, with powerful nuclear potentials ca-

pable of destroying the globe and turning each other into dust," he said. "Is there a 100% guarantee that a possible conflict can be avoided?"

At a news conference on Dec. 18, Rodionov, saying NATO's plans to enlarge eastwards were unacceptable, declined a NATO offer to exchange military officers as a first step to a radical new relationship between the former Cold War adversaries. "We don't understand why other countries are being taken on board [NATO] and Russia is being ignored," he said, warning that exclusion could mean "a return to the bad old days of the Cold War."

NATO had hoped that Rodionov would take the first concrete step toward a charter after Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said a week earlier that Moscow was ready to talk despite opposition to NATO's eastward enlargement plans. During his television interview, Rodionov said that NATO members wanted to expand the alliance as a curb against Russia. "They thought, okay, Russia is weak economically, and from the military point of view, and its geography is changed, and it has more internal problems now and fewer allies, if any, so we can carry on with a policy of force," he said.

Blind terrorist acts strike world hot-spots

In addition to the atrocity in Peru, a crescendo of blind terrorist acts struck several nations targeted for destabilization by Prince Philip's Club of the Isles over the Christmas holiday period. Most prominently, dozens of Indians are feared dead, after a train was bombed in the northeastern state of Assam on Dec. 30. The bombing occurred in the village of Sensapani, in the center of the activity of the Bodo guerrillas, a tribal insurgent group. One day earlier, Bodo guerrillas blew up a bridge on the main roadway that links India's northeast regions to the rest of the country. The Bodo terrorists receive safe haven and training in the Royal Manas Tiger Preserve, administered by Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature in nearby Bhutan, which borders the Manas Tiger Preserve in Assam, India.

East of Assam, in the Myanmar capital

of Yangon, a bomb exploded on Dec. 25 at a Buddhist shrine which was displaying the much-revered "Buddha's Tooth Relic," that had been lent to Myanmar by the Chinese government. Four worshippers were killed and 18 wounded. A government statement on Dec. 26 charged the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) and the Karen National Union with responsibility, saying their intent was "to create a diplomatic row between the People's Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar." The principal sponsors of the ABSDF are the International Republican Institute, George Soros, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In France, bombs exploded at a Renault affiliate in Corsica on Dec. 26, and on Dec. 23, a bomb attributed to Corsican terrorists damaged the headquarters of the national statistics institute. The government also says it has received new threats from the British-protected Algerian gang, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), threatening to "destroy France," if French policy toward Algeria doesn't change. In Algeria itself, a huge car bomb exploded outside one of the busiest cafés in Algiers, on Dec. 23, killing at least three and wounding about 70.

In the South African town of Worcester, 100 kilometers from Capetown, two pipe bombs exploded in shopping centers filled with Christmas shoppers. The city is not known for political tension, no motive has been provided, and no group has claimed the atrocity. Three men masked in balaclavas were seen rushing from the crime scene. Most of the 80 who were wounded by the shrapnel were children, and three shoppers were killed. The African National Congress has condemned the act.

Denmark, Belgium end 1996 in turmoil

The governments of Denmark and Belgium may face crises early this year, according to the Swiss financial daily, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. In Denmark, Social Democratic Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen was able to pass his austerity budget in December, only by mustering the votes of the leftist opposition, against the stance of his own conservative Centrum Party. Two Centrum cabinet mem-

bers resigned on Dec. 20. Although elections are not set to take place until 1998, rumors have it that Rasmussen's reign may not last that long.

In Belgium, the government of Christian Democratic Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene announced plans for new drastic budget cuts, to bring Belgium into line with the rigid Maastricht Treaty criteria. Dehaene, who obtained special powers to rule by decree for 18 months, until the end of 1998, can impose this new budget-cutting drive, but he may be forced to call upon his economics minister to sell the new budget to the rebellious labor unions and pensioners, who will be hard hit. However, his economics minister, Deputy Prime Minister Elio di Rupo, is an overt homosexual whose name has recently been tied into the pedophile scandals. Outrage over a series of murders by the Belgium-based international pedophile ring brought 300,000 out in protest in Brussels. The Parliament has, for now, rejected a move to lift Di Rupo's parliamentary immunity. But, were his immunity from prosecution lifted, Dehaene would face a major government crisis, with Di Rupo being the first high-level official to be brought before the bar in the pedophile scandal.

Cengic may head Bosnia reconstruction

Bosnia's former deputy defense minister, Hasan Cengic, who was ousted on Nov. 4, 1996, after U.S. Congressional Republicans targetted him as the "Iranian connection" in re-arming Bosnia's military, may now be appointed to the post of minister for Reconstruction and Development, according to Sarajevo's *Dnevni Avaz*, of Dec. 24. Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic "will most probably remain," wrote the daily "while, judging by everything, Hasan Cengic will head the Ministry for Reconstruction and Development. . . . The Croatian Democratic Union will nominate Vladimir Soljic for President of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina." Soljic is the former defense minister, who was also removed, reportedly under pressure from Washington.

As *EIR* reported on Dec. 13, 1996, Cen-

gic was forced out by accusations that he was the contact for "Iranian mujahideen" and arms coming into Bosnia, a campaign launched by Henry Kissinger and the Gingrichites, on behalf of London's geopolitical design to keep Bosnia divided. In fact, Cengic had maintained military and logistical contacts with both the West and the Muslim countries during the war.

While still deputy defense minister in postwar Bosnia, Cengic sought both to build a unified national defense force, and to ensure productive employment for demobilized soldiers. As chief responsible for reconstruction and development, he would face intransigence from the International Monetary Fund-World Bank, which demand that Bosnia first pay former Yugoslavia's debt, before releasing agreed-upon reconstruction funds.

N. Korea expresses 'deep regret' after sub incident

North Korea issued an official statement on Dec. 29, expressing "deep regret" after an incident in which one of its submarines ran aground in South Korean waters, ending in a firefight between the crew and South Korean security forces. The September incident effectively froze relations between the two, after concerted efforts by both the United States and China to open dialogue between them. Reportedly, South Korea may now pledge to resume construction work in the next few months on two civilian nuclear reactors in the North, and lift its blocking of food aid that had been earlier promised to the North.

U.S. President Bill Clinton on Dec. 30 hailed North Korea's move in a written statement: "I am pleased that Pyongyang has pledged to prevent the recurrence of such an incident and has expressed its willingness to work with others for durable peace and stability on the peninsula. I hope discussions can now begin to move forward on the four-party peace talks which [South Korean] President Kim Young-sam and I offered last April." Clinton thanked Kim for his efforts to resolve the issue "in a way that opens the door for future South-North dialogue."

SIR JIMMY GOLDSMITH has struck a deal with the Ulster Unionist party of Northern Ireland, paying the party \$400,000, in exchange for which Unionist European Parliamentarian Jim Nicholson will leave Britain's Conservative party bloc and cast his European Parliament votes with Goldsmith's U.K. Referendum Party and continental Other Europe party.

BURUNDI'S National Council for the Defense of Democracy (CNDD), the main Hutu group of Burundians fighting against the new imperialism of the East-Central African region, announced a unilateral 11-day ceasefire, beginning at midnight on Dec. 24. CNDD head Leonard Nyangoma made the announcement, while reiterating that the Burundian army had massacred tens of thousands of defenseless civilians in 1996, including women and children, and refugees forced to return to Burundi from eastern Zaire in November.

THE ISLAMIC COLLEGE of Hebron was reopened on Dec. 28 after having been closed for over a year by order of the Israeli Army. The demand to reopen the college, a hotbed of Hamas activities, was reportedly made by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

ALEKSANDR LEBED founded his own party on Dec. 27, called the Russian Popular Republican Party (RPRP). At the founding meeting Lebed described the party as a centrist party aiming to unite those "disappointed in both communists and the so-called democrats." Lebed said again he might run for governor in the Tula province south of Moscow, but he has not formally declared his candidacy for next year's election.

DRUG DEALERS in Western Australia are selling children as young as 14 "starter kits" for \$20. The kit includes heroin of 60-70% purity and a syringe. In early December, six people from the state capital of Perth died after overdosing on the high-grade heroin.