

International Intelligence

Baghdad daily condemns Brits' colonialist lies

The Iraqi paper *Al Iraq* of Jan. 16 reported that members of Britain's Parliament, "known for their hostility to Iraq and its people's legitimate right to reject all forms of subservience and imperialism, have launched a new propaganda campaign to influence the British public through the dissemination of lies. . . . In the context of this campaign, and its obvious vicious aims, Labor MP Ann Cloyd and Lord Avebury, chairman of the [bicameral] parliamentary Human Rights Committee, held a debate in the House of Commons the day before yesterday on the topic: 'Trial of Iraqi War Criminals.'

"British MP Ann Cloyd and her colleague Lord Avebury are two glaring examples of the British colonial mentality and arrogant racism, which was associated with the monopolies and companies which plundered peoples' resources in the old colonial times. But, what is most ridiculous and nauseating, is Ann Cloyd's and Lord Avebury's defense and bemoaning of the Iraqi people, when they are fully aware of the crimes and sins which Britain had committed against the Iraqi people during its 40-year odious colonialization of Iraq."

'Asia Times' put its words into Lebed's mouth

The *Asia Times* indulged in fakery by translation, in its eagerness to attribute to Russian politician Aleksandr Lebed, an endorsement of the so-called "Southeast Asian model" of economy. In its Jan. 20 "Off the Record" column, the *Times* purported to quote from Lebed's speech at the German Society for Foreign Policy forum in Bonn on Jan. 15, as follows: ". . . Those countries, like Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore, created the foundations for their amazing economic growth on the basis of their own unique national models, which contained strong central government regulation and control, not the advice of the IMF [International Monetary Fund]."

The text of Lebed's speech, published in the Russian daily *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* on Jan. 23, gives that sentence as follows: "Russia should study . . . the experience of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, which, incidentally, created the foundations for their prosperity not according to prompting from the IMF, but on the basis of their own models and approaches."

EIR's correspondent, who attended the Jan. 15 lecture, confirms that Lebed departed from his written text, and made impromptu reference to the Witte and Stolypin reforms at the turn of the century, and did not name any specific Asian countries, except China, and that in a different context. Lebed repeatedly used the term "Asia-Pacific region," which subsumes China and the "Tigers with Teeth" (e.g., Japan and South Korea), as opposed to the *Asia Times's* preferred "Southeast Asian model" of the hot-money economies, the alley-cats wearing pink ribbons that masquerade as "tigers" (see *EIR*, Jan. 31, 1997, p. 6 for a fuller report on Lebed's remarks).

Protesters take over town of Vlora in Albania

Some 40,000 protesters took over the town of Vlora, Albania on Feb. 11, following a funeral procession for two demonstrators killed by police one day earlier, in this town of only 70,000. The marching crowd chanted "Berisha is filling our cemeteries," and repeated calls for President Sali Berisha and the government to resign. The Vlora headquarters of the ruling Democratic Party was burned to the ground.

Berisha dealt gingerly with the situation, painfully aware that the country is a tinderbox after four pyramid scheme funds collapsed, in which nearly 70% of the country's impoverished population had been induced to invest. Berisha had publicly distanced himself from calls to impose martial law on the town, leaving it to Prime Minister Alexander Meksi to demand that parliament order a clampdown. On Feb. 11, Meksi's government repeated the line that the Vlora protests were led by "left extremist terrorists."

Berisha's second thoughts about martial law stemmed from fears that this could spark a nationwide upheaval, and he is moving to sacrifice Meksi and the cabinet, which was reflected by the sudden change in coverage from Radio Tirana. Starting late on Feb. 10, Radio Tirana began regularly adding the protesters' demand for Meksi and the cabinet to resign. Radio Tirana censored the calls for Berisha to leave.

MI-5 flunkies tries to sour Irish peace effort

In an interview with *Fortnight* magazine, released early this month, British intelligence undercover agent Sean O'Callaghan, claimed that Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams had suggested a plan to kill Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) leader John Hume back in the early 1980s. O'Callaghan was a deep-penetration agent into the IRA during that time. This past December, Queen Elizabeth made use of a rare legal provision to have O'Callaghan freed from prison. Since then he has been used to attack Sinn Fein's credibility.

O'Callaghan's latest tale emerges at a time when there is dissension between the SDLP and Sinn Fein over strategy for the coming general elections, but, also at a time when Adams and Hume's personal efforts to restore a peace initiative have greatly intensified. Sinn Fein Chairman Mitchel McLaughlin told the media that O'Callaghan's allegations are "a lie. . . . It is but the latest of a series of wild and untrue claims that he and his MI-5 handlers have made as part of the British dirty tricks agenda."

Maurice Strong tapped to head UN 'reform'

New UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has picked Canadian Maurice Strong, former head of the eco-fascist International Union for the Conservation of Nature, as his senior adviser for UN reform. Strong is currently head of the Costa Rica-based Earth Council, which is leading the campaign for the UN to pass the Earth Charter, as "a universal code

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of conduct for states and people." The Council's periodical, *Earth Ethics*, champions human rights for apes, describing them as "our closest relatives" and "fellow animals," entitled to "the basic rights of human beings," while treated as "full members of the community of equals."

Under UN aegis, Strong headed a commission to draft a reform plan, issued in 1995 under the title, *Our Global Neighborhood: The Report of the Commission on Global Governance*. The report calls for national sovereignty to be "exercised collectively," though Strong demurs that "global governance is not global government." Strong's "neighborhood" would create a UN criminal court, enhance the role of the International Monetary Fund, strengthen the World Trade Organization for the purpose of "managing global competition," and have the UN enforce disarmament of national armed forces, while establishing a standing "UN Volunteer Force." The new, reformed UN would be funded by global taxes: "It is time for a consensus on global taxation for servicing the needs of the global neighborhood," says Strong's report.

Terrorists continue international rampage

A one-day summary of terrorism, just for Sunday, Feb. 2, shows Britain's international terrorists continue unrestrained. Most prominent is the resurgent threat of terrorism on U.S. soil. On Feb. 1, a bomb squad from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department in California, defused the third mail bomb in one day. Police said the bomb was mailed to the Chula Vista home of a federal employee. Another was received by Laidlaw Waste Systems, a waste disposal firm, in Chula Vista, and a pipe bomb was also mailed to FBI headquarters in San Diego.

• In Algeria, the independent newspaper *El Watan* reported on Feb. 2, that 31 people had been butchered in Medea, with their throats cut and heads severed. At the same time, the Islamic Jihad Armed Front (FIDA), a little-known Afghansi-linked group in Algeria, claimed responsibility for the killing of union leader Abdelhak Benhamouda,

who was said to be close to the government. The group vowed to stage more attacks against the regime of Liamine Zeroual.

• Thirty-seven bombs hit the French Mediterranean island of Corsica on Feb. 2. Although no one claimed responsibility for the blasts at banks, tax offices, and administrative buildings, it is believed to be the work of "separatists."

• Three separatists and two soldiers were killed in a gun battle in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, in the tea and oil-rich district of Tinsukia.

• In Sri Lanka, Tamil Tiger rebels killed 24 soldiers in overnight attacks in the north and east, according to military officials on Feb. 2. A large group of Tamil Tigers overran the government's Mavadivembu military camp, 125 miles from the capital city, of Colombo.

Rodionov warns: Russian military unreliable

Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov sent off a letter to President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Feb. 6 which contained a harsh warning about the condition of Russian military forces. Rodionov did not make the letter public, but he told members of the Russian media that a lack of funds had hit morale, reduced combat readiness, and badly affected the Armed Forces' command and control centers. "No one today can guarantee the reliability of our control systems," Interfax news agency quoted Rodionov as saying. "Russia might soon reach the threshold beyond which its rockets and nuclear systems cannot be controlled."

"Reform in the Armed Forces has turned into a struggle for their survival, a struggle against disintegration," Rodionov stated. "The whole horror is in the fact that, as Russian defense minister, I am becoming a spectator of the destructive processes in the Army, and can do nothing about it." He expressed alarm about the psychological condition of many soldiers, especially officers, saying that the number of suicides in the military, once minimal, had risen to about 100 in 1996.

EIR MOURNS the death of Colombian labor leader Pedro Rubio, 63, who died in Bogotá early this month after a long battle with cancer. A deeply religious man and founding member of the Club of Life and Schiller Institute Labor Commission, Rubio dedicated much of his life to the advancement of the international LaRouche movement. He is survived by his wife, 9 children, and 14 grandchildren.

BULGARIAN King Simeon, who lives in exile in Madrid, has offered to head a constitutional monarchy as an alternative to the tumult wracking the country, according to Spain's *ABC*. The daily also reported on Feb. 4 that Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov nominated Prince Kyril as Economics Affairs councillor for the Bulgarian Presidency.

SERBIAN POLICE arrested over 100 ethnic Albanians in Kosova over the first week of February, according to the Democratic League of Kosova (LDK). The arrests reached a peak after three ethnic Albanians were killed in a Jan. 31 shoot-out with police near Vucitrn. Senior LDK officials held an emergency meeting, and charged that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was attempting to divert attention from the protests against him in Belgrade.

HANOI has denounced the launching of Radio Free Asia's Vietnamese-language broadcasts, scheduled for Feb. 6, the start of the Tet holiday, as "an assault tool of the hostile forces," wrote *Nhan Dan* newspaper Jan. 31. The paper said that a review of RFA broadcasts over the past several months into China and Tibet "always contain obvious incitements and hostility towards China's government."

RUSSIAN Federal Security Service chief Nikolai Kovalyov met with President Boris Yeltsin on Feb. 4 at the latter's country house, and presented evidence of "a significant rise in the activities of foreign special services on Russian territory," according to a Presidential spokesman.