

International Intelligence

Suharto's Golkar party sweeps Indonesian vote

The Golkar party of Indonesian President Suharto won its largest vote ever in parliamentary elections on May 29. The Golkar party, which has governed since the 1965 suppression of a Communist Party-linked coup attempt, had set a goal of winning 70%, up from 68% in the 1992 elections. Despite scattered violence in the month-long campaign, and extensive international press and non-governmental organization (NGO) targeting of Suharto's "oppressive military dictatorship," Golkar took 74.3% of the vote, with at least 90% of the country's 125 million eligible voters participating. The final tally will be released on June 17, allowing votes from the country's 17,500 islands to be counted.

The most serious attempt to disrupt the elections occurred in East Timor on election eve, when rebels linked to Fretilin, the guerrilla movement of Nobel Peace Prize co-winner José Ramos Horta, opened fire on military posts, polling booths, and villagers, in four incidents. Seventeen people were killed, including 12 civilians, 1 soldier, and 4 guerrillas. On May 31, one soldier and 16 policemen, returning from election security duty, were killed in a guerrilla ambush.

'Human rights' gangs, bombings plague Nigeria

The third bomb blast in two weeks struck the southwestern Nigerian city of Ibadan on May 11, described by press as "the hotbed of opposition to the military government." The previous week, two bombs went off in Lagos, wounding five soldiers going to work in an Army bus. Nigeria has blamed similar explosions on the British-run umbrella group, the National Democratic Coalition (Nadeco,) and its foreign affiliates.

The provisional ruling council discussed security on May 28 in the capital, Abuja. That same day, Nigeria offered to pay \$47,000 for information leading to the arrest of perpetrators, after new bombings on May

15 hit a mosque in the eastern city of Onitsha, killing five people. "This change of targets from military vehicles to places of worship is intended to provoke ethnic and religious conflicts in the country," said special anti-terrorism unit head Zakari Biu. Biu added that efforts by his unit to extend its investigations to Britain, the United States, and Spain had so far not been successful, because they had not been given visas.

As the bombing campaign was heating up, some 33 Nigerian "human rights" and "pro-democracy" groups announced the formation of the United Action for Democracy with "the broad aim . . . to terminate military rule as soon as possible," as Ayo Obe, president of Civil Liberties Organization, told British reporters. Representatives of the 33 groups met in Lagos over May 17-18.

'Netanyahu's map' offers PLO 40% of West Bank

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to offer the Palestinian Authority only about 40% of the West Bank in the final phase of the peace deal, the Israeli daily *Haaretz* said on May 29. The newspaper published a detailed front-page illustration of what it called "Netanyahu's map." The map, which will place the Palestinians in a half-dozen encircled bantustans, conforms to the 1983 plan of then-Defense Minister Gen. Ariel Sharon, which *EIR* exposed at that time. By contrast, *Yediot Aharonot* reported that the Israeli security establishment has recommended turning over about 60% of the West Bank to the Palestinians. Netanyahu has refused to comment on the accuracy of either newspaper's report.

News of Netanyahu's previously secret plan angered the Palestine Liberation Organization, which expected that the final accord, due to be completed by May 1999, would give Palestine nearly all of the West Bank. PLO official Ahmed Tibi told Israeli Army radio that the proposal is "a shot with automatic fire, at the dying body of the Oslo accord. Benjamin Netanyahu is successfully destroying this process."

Elaborating on Netanyahu's plan, Isra-

el's Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani explained on May 30 that the Oslo deal was a "fundamental mistake" that had to be corrected. He insisted that, in any final accord, "it is about half of the West Bank that must be in Israeli hands, in order to protect the interests we talked about earlier," he told Israel Radio.

EU announces food aid for North Korea

The European Union said on May 23 that it will send 155,000 tons of food to famine-struck North Korea, notably rice, maize, and vegetable oils. The EU statement said that the aid should help to avert a possible deterioration in security in the Korean peninsula, adding that the EU supports proposed four-way peace talks among North Korea, South Korea, the United States, and China. The decision follows an agreement by the EU on May 23 to join President Clinton's international consortium working to build new nuclear power plants in North Korea.

On May 29, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told visiting South Korean newspaper editors: "If the South Korean government asks us for assistance to compatriots in North Korea, there is room for the Japanese side to change its stance" and provide food aid. Up to now, strong South Korean lobbying in Tokyo, has kept Japan from opening its huge rice reserves to aid North Korea.

Dubious 'Mossad' death threats vs. French oil firm

France's *Le Figaro* daily reported on May 27 that its Jerusalem office had received a death threat against officials of the French oil firm, Total, which is planning to sign a new oil development contract with Iran.

The letter, in English, was signed by six individuals claiming to be "former Mossad agents," and telling Total's corporate heads, "You will be eliminated" if the Iran deal is concluded. The letter warns that "we have a certain experience in this field"—meaning

PAUL KAGAME'S entourage displayed outrageous behavior during the Rwandan dictator's official visit to the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate, according to the Christian Democratic caucus in the state parliament, which is requesting an investigation. His bodyguards reportedly assaulted people inside Mainz Cathedral, and destroyed furniture in the state-provided guest quarters.

BORIS YELTSIN met with Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda on May 23. Although Japan still wants Moscow to return four islands in the North Pacific seized by the Red Army in 1945, "a peace treaty and full normalization of our relations is the ultimate goal we are seeking," a senior Japanese official told reporters in Moscow.

CARLO PALERMO, a former Italian prosecutor, pointed to London's hand behind Europe's secessionist movements in a June 1 interview with the Naples daily *Il Mattino*. The Northern League, he said, was an idea blueprinted "not in Italy, but in London. It was a study made in the '80s by sociologists and economists, who raised the possibility of creating certain conditions in Europe and in our country."

POPE JOHN PAUL II arrived in Poland on May 31 to start an 11-day visit of 12 cities, his seventh visit to his homeland. He was met at Wroclaw airport by leaders of the Polish Church and President Alexander Kwasniewski. On the flight to Poland, the pontiff laid the blame for Poland's social and economic turmoil on free market policies.

CLARE SHORT, Lady Lynda Chalker's replacement at Britain's Overseas Development Agency (now the Department of International Development), threatened Britain's Third World "partners," on May 18, saying that if they didn't toe the Empire's line, "we need to work around them, so that we can reach poor people even where the overall environment is unfavorable."

assassinations—and its authors describe themselves as "professionals," involved in the liquidation of Palestinian terrorists. The operation against the Total directors "will take years, but we will do away with you. . . . One day, you will be on vacation, on a beach. . . . Whoever deals with Iran will learn the lesson." They say the Israeli government is "neither involved in, or aware of, the plan."

Asked about the letter, former top Mossad official David Kimche expressed doubts that it originated "from inside Israel," given that the Mossad never takes responsibility publicly, for liquidating terrorists. He does think, however, that the authors of the letter are "serious," and that the Total directors should "take precautions."

Le Figaro pointed out that there are only two companies competing for development of Iran's rich South Pars oil deposit: Total and the Anglo-Dutch group Shell.

British give arms backing to Algerian dictatorship

The London *Observer* appeared on May 25 with an unprecedented exposé of Britain's role in supporting the Algerian military government in its slaughter of civilians. The article, titled "The Blowtorch Election That Shames Britain," shows that massacres have taken place with increasing frequency and brutality in the pre-election period; that 60,000 have been killed since 1992, when the military took power to prevent the Islamic Salvation Front from winning the elections; that "blowtorching face and genitals is the favored means of torture."

As recently as May 18, Sweeny writes, an arms shipment was made to Algiers, "part of a package deal between the Algerian government and RBR (Armour) of the Old Kent Road, London." RBR also produces body armor, which the Algerian paramilitary, "known as ninjas because of their black masks," use, and may be providing the wherewithal to set up a helmet-producing factory there. RBR's managing director Douglas Garland is quoted: "It's all properly documented and licensed by the De-

partment of Trade."

Sweeny writes that "a special *Observer* investigation reveals suspicion that up to 70%" of the 60,000 killings since 1992, "may have been caused by *le pouvoir*" (the regime). Sweeny quotes former Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi that, "the Algerian junta is killing Islamists and blaming it on them. It's Machiavellian. The massive killings are always among the fundamentalists, in the area where they are strongest." Sweeny comments that, although the terrorist Armed Islamic Groups (GIA) have been held responsible, "the suspicion aired by Algerians and Western analysts, including a former CIA officer, Graham Fuller, is that some of the deaths, including bombings in Paris, may have been manipulated by Algerian intelligence."

Market reform in Russia breeding a new serfdom

A report in the May 25 issue of Germany's *Welt am Sonntag* by Victoria Bennett, paints a stark picture of the new form of serfdom under Russia's neo-liberal free market reforms. Bennett reports on her visit to a former state farm 75 miles north of Moscow. Her article is accompanied by a photo, showing three workers pulling a plow, a scene of unrelenting poverty and hopelessness. The so-called market reforms created a "new underclass in rural areas. It is forced to stay on the land, because it has no money to leave," she writes. The "new land-slaves" are worse off than their predecessors under the Tsar.

Bennett reported that she saw dozens of villages that were completely abandoned. Farm equipment stands rusting in the fields, where work has nearly come to a standstill, because people have no access to credit and cannot continue production. The school had burnt down, and there was no public transportation; supplies are brought by a peddler, once a week. Bennett quoted one peasant: "We used to have sheep, but now they say they are no longer profitable. We used to plant grain, but this, too, does not make any money. Nothing seems to be profitable any longer, not even life itself."