

# International Intelligence

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## ***Bipartisan Israeli group forms against Netanyahu***

Participants from opposing political parties and factions turned out on July 24, for the first meeting of a new organization, dedicated to abolishing the law which provides for direct election of the prime minister. The new law, under which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the first to be elected, vastly increases the power of the prime minister. It also makes it far more difficult to topple the government. Earlier in the week, Netanyahu's government lost a no-confidence vote in the Knesset (parliament), which under previous legislation, would have led to the collapse of his government.

Among the notables present at the meeting, were former Prime Ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Shamir, otherwise bitter enemies. Former Begin Defense Minister Moshe Ahrens is the chairman of the group. Peres's longtime operative Yossi Beilin, who is considered the most accommodating Israeli political figure toward the PLO, was also a prominent participant. Cabinet member Ariel Sharon did not attend the public meeting, but is widely viewed as being a crucial figure behind the scenes. The convening of the group follows reports of secret meetings between Peres and Sharon.

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## ***Colombia drug lawyers go on trial in Miami***

Guillermo Pallomari, former Cali Cartel accountant, now a U.S. government witness, testified in July for five straight days on the corruption of Colombian President Ernesto Samper's administration, as well as that of his predecessor César Gaviria, specifying names, dates, and bank account numbers.

Speaking in U.S. District Court in Miami, where two American lawyers (including former Justice Department official Michael Abbell) and four Florida smugglers are on trial, Pallomari reiterated that Samper had taken more than \$5 million in drug money for his 1994 Presidential campaign. Pallomari said Samper and his running mate, Humberto de la Calle, had dined with the

Rodríguez Orejuela brothers prior to the election, supposedly to discuss the terms of the drug lords' surrender. He insisted that cartel infiltration was such that the Rodríguez brothers—currently in prison—were regularly supplied with internal documents from the offices of the Prosecutor General and Attorney General.

Pallomari also said that the Cali Cartel had, in collaboration with its "rival" Medellín Cartel, corrupted the 1991 Constituent Assembly into banning one of the most serious threats to their expanding drug empires: extradition to the United States. Abbell, according to Pallomari, had written the briefs arguing against extradition, which the cartel provided the Constituent Assembly members. Abbell was the U.S. Justice Department expert on extradition before he resigned in 1985.

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## ***N. Korean famine recalls Somalia, Ethiopia deaths***

As many as 5 million people are near death in North Korea from famine, aid officials reported in Washington, D.C. on July 29, the same day that the Schiller Institute presented the names on an emergency petition to President Bill Clinton and other world leaders, asking major new food and development aid. The petition, "Feed North Korea Now!" (see *EIR*, June 20 for text), was signed by dozens of U.S. and Australian officials, religious leaders, and farm activists, led by top Korean-Americans.

The June 4 warning by UN World Food Program official Catherine Bertini, that North Korea's food would run out in late June, has now tragically come true. "The consensus of aid workers operating in North Korea is that at least 5 million people" are on the verge of death from famine, Ted Yamamori, president of Food for the Hungry International, said on July 29, following a four-day trip to North Korea. "The people of North Korea appear to be suffering from hunger on the level of the notorious Somalia and Ethiopia famines," he said. "It is a disaster in the making. Only, in North Korea, they are suffering in silence, out of view of the world's media. About 30-50% of children I

saw had signs of serious malnutrition. . . . Urgency is obvious. They want food, food, food."

North Korean state radio also warned on July 29 that this year's crop may be devastated by a "catastrophic drought" which could destroy 20% or more of the harvest, due in October.

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## ***Karadzic moves against Bosnian Serb President***

Biljana Plavsic, the President of Republika Srpska, was expelled from the ruling Serb Democratic Party on July 19, after a growing confrontation with her predecessor, war criminal Radovan Karadzic. The SDS Committee also demanded that she resign as President, although it cannot legally force her to do so.

In the period preceding the July 10 arrest of one Serb war criminal and the fatal shootout with a second by a British SAS team, Plavsic was gaining support inside Republika Srpska. She had gone on an all-out personal attack against Karadzic and his gang, based in the Srpska capital, Pale. She stated that Karadzic was still the man in power in Republika Srpska, and that the main official leaders were just his puppets, including the Serb member of Bosnia's collective Presidency, Momcilo Krajisnik.

Further, she also accused Slobodan Milosevic, the dictator-President of Serbia proper, of being heavily involved in Republika Srpska's lucrative black market, while the population starved. Reportedly, Plavsic had succeeded in polarizing the situation, gaining growing support in the cities of Banja Luka and Bjelina and proceeding to isolate the "Pale group," before the SDS Committee made its move against her.

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## ***Blair sizes U.K. for Empire's new clothes***

A "second revolution" of high fashion, rock music, and film "industries" will be the basis for Britain's economic empire, wrote Prime Minister Tony Blair in a commentary for the *Guardian* on July 22. Blair eulogized: "Brit-

ain was once the workshop of the world . . . defined by ship-building, mining and heavy industry.” Today, he said, “the overseas earnings of British rock music exceed those generated by the steel industry.”

The ardent Thatcherite in Labour mufti continued: “I believe we are now in middle of a second revolution, defined in part by new information technology, but also by creativity. . . .

“Tonight I am hosting a reception at Downing Street for some of the best talents in fashion, agriculture, product design, graphics, animation and film. . . . They are becoming a power in the British economy. . . . Our rock music is taking both America and Europe by storm; our musicals are playing to packed audiences in over 20 countries. . . . These people are ambassadors for New Britain. They embody strong British characteristics as valuable to us today as they have ever been: know-how, creativity, innovation, risk-taking, and most of all, originality. All the things that put us ahead of the game 150 years ago are once again giving us a competitive edge.”

That, gunships, and opium, sir.

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## ***EC recommends expansion for European Union***

The European Commission’s ambassador to the United States, Hugo Paemen, gave a briefing to Washington press on July 17, to discuss the EC’s recommendation for enlargement, contained in a document, “Agenda 2000,” that will be presented to the EU heads of government meeting to take place in Luxembourg in December.

The five countries recommended are Hungary, Poland, Estonia, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia. These five were deemed as having established stable, democratic institutions; functioning market economies with the ability to cope with competitive forces, in the medium term; and, the ability to take on the responsibilities of membership, such as adopting all of the legislation and regulations that have been added to the 1958 Treaty of Rome. Paemen said that “the door is still open” to five more candidates: Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Roma-

nia, and Slovakia. Slovakia was singled out as the only country that didn’t meet the criteria for having established “democratic institutions.”

The EU has already committed to opening accession talks with Cyprus (meaning the Greek-allied, official government) six months after the Luxembourg meeting, but Paemen said membership for Turkey “is not on the agenda.” Turkey and the EU signed a “customs union” relationship in 1995, but it has yet to be implemented.

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## ***Britain’s separatists unite in UNPO conference***

Separatist movements from around the world came together in Tallinn, Estonia for the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) General Assembly (July 14-21) and conference on “Nonviolence and Conflict: Conditions for Effective Peaceful Change” (July 21-23). The latter was keynoted by José Ramos-Horta, the former head of East Timor’s terrorist Fretilin, who was co-winner of this year’s Nobel Peace Prize. Ramos-Horta has recently been given extraordinary public backing by Britain’s Foreign Secretary Robin Cook and by Minister for Overseas Development Clare Short.

Other speakers included:

Tibetan Minister of Foreign Affairs Kalon T.C. Tethong, who “revealed that an unannounced UNPO mission visited Tibet, in April of this year, to investigate whether China’s rule over Tibet could be considered a form of colonialism. He said the answer was an unqualified ‘yes.’ ”

Representatives of Cabinda province in Angola discussed “tensions with oil and mining companies.”

Various Myanmar “ethnic” groups—Shan, Karenni, etc.—attacked the ruling SLORC, especially for economic development projects.

The Mapuche Indians of Chile stated that the “government of Chile should respect and uphold its own, and international, laws concerning indigenous peoples, especially in relation to dams in the Bio-Bio region, a bypass in the Ninth region, and highways.”

**SAUDI ARABIA** is mediating the effort to normalize ties between Iran and the United States, according to *Teheran* of July 19. The magazine quoted Al-Sharq Radio of Paris that “Saudi Arabia is currently endeavoring to convince the two countries of the need to negotiate, to resolve major differences between them.”

**SPANIARDS** across the spectrum continue to express their disgust with the Basque terrorist ETA and its “legal” front Herri Batasuna. In late July, the Basque city council of Mondragon ousted the Herri Batasuna mayor in a vote of no confidence, involving the Socialist Party, the Basque National Party, and the Eusko Alkatasuna party.

**JORDAN’S** opposition Muslim Brotherhood has called for a boycott of the November elections, on the grounds that the democratic process in the country has been degenerating. Laith Shubeilat, the former independent Islamist member of parliament, has been leading the campaign for a boycott for months, ever since the government introduced new press laws limiting freedom of expression.

**NEW ISRAELI LABOR** Party chairman Ehud Barak held his first meeting with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat at the Erez Crossing on July 24. “I regard the meeting with Chairman Arafat as the first important step in the dialogue between Labor’s new leadership and the PA,” said Barak.

**THE PUGWASH GROUP** held a somewhat desultory annual conference in Lillehammer, Norway over Aug. 1-8. There are indications, that the Pugwash structure is cracking up. Top German Pugwashite Hans-Peter Dürr recently told a journalist that he, as well as Pugwash President Dr. Josef Rotblatt and other key members, would either be leaving the organization, or scaling back their activity, because they see the group as “no longer very relevant.”