

# International Intelligence

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## ***Mideast expert: Lift sanctions, rebuild Iraq***

The March 19 issue of the *International Herald Tribune* ran an opinion column by Mideast specialist Judith Kipper, calling for the United States to take the lead in getting UN sanctions lifted from Iraq and rebuilding its economy. According to *EIR*'s sources, Kipper has contacts throughout the Middle East, and is connected to U.S. Democratic Party policy circles. Her proposal bears much similarity to one that has been attributed to former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, although he has never admitted it publicly.

Her proposal includes: rebuilding Iraq's conventional military forces under close supervision; a peace treaty with Israel and the construction of an oil pipeline to the Jordanian-Israeli ports of Aqaba-Eilat; and, an international fund for the reconstruction of Iraq, drawn from a percentage of Iraq's oil revenues, among others. Economic development, she writes, "would create a much-needed economic boom in the area and significantly contribute to stability in the region. . . . Tensions in the area over Iraq would be lessened and the stagnating Arab-Israeli peace process prodded, creating a new geopolitical landscape."

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## ***Annan slams Netanyahu on peace process***

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan sharply chastised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while in Israel on March 25. Speaking at the Israeli Council on Foreign Relations, he said, "As a friend, it gives me no pleasure to recite a list of grievances which the international community has against Israel. But I think it is important for you, my Israeli friends, to try to understand that those grievances do not come out of a clear blue sky. Here is what the great majority of the member states of the United Nations say: They regard Israel as having been responsible, directly or indirectly, for provocative acts that undermine

goodwill and spark hostilities."

Annan underscored that the formula of the Oslo agreements, land for peace, is "the only principle that has a chance of bringing peace to this land." In the view of the great majority of the members of the UN, he said, Israel has violated its obligations. He listed the settlements, hardships imposed on Palestinians by restrictions on their movements, and "other actions that take from Palestinians their homes, their land, their jobs, their residence permits—their very dignity."

Annan said that almost every Arab leader he had met before coming to Israel was "skeptical about the good faith of the current Israeli government" and suspected that the conditions Israel places on any progress "mask an unwillingness to carry out your side of the bargain. I have found, in short, a crisis of confidence."

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## ***British terrorist handler on pilgrimage to Syria***

George Galloway, the British Labour MP who led the fight to block legislation banning terrorists from operating in Britain, was on a pilgrimage to Hafez al-Assad's Syria in mid-March. Accompanying Galloway was John Taylor, a leading handler of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) terrorists. According to Syrian state television, "They looked forward to the day when Syria will impose its sovereignty over the [Israeli-] occupied Syrian Golan, and when the Israeli occupation of Syrian or Lebanese territories will be dismantled." Syrian TV added that their talks with Syrian officials "reflected a steady improvement in Syrian-British ties."

Galloway is quoted as saying: "When we speak of putting pressure on Israel, we mean what we say. If Israel's intransigence remains unchanged with the end of [British Foreign Secretary Robin] Cook's tour, if it continues with its utter defiance of international resolutions, and if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu persists in his defiance of the world public opinion, we must then identify the means that will make him comply, evacuate the territories he is

occupying by force, and show respect for international law."

The British are playing a double game, as usual. In motivating the House of Commons vote against banning terrorist gangs based in Britain, Galloway had urged that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter."

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## ***Indonesia sends new ambassador to Washington***

Dr. Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti submitted his ambassador's credentials to President Clinton on March 16, and read a statement on the importance of U.S.-Indonesian ties. "The United States and the Republic of Indonesia have, for many years, enjoyed a cordial and multi-dimensional relationship which has been tested in history," the statement said.

"While we acknowledge that our relationship has once in a while faced difficulties during these past years, however, those have been solved by the personal and cordial relationship that has developed between President Clinton and President Suharto. . . .

"Noting that the United States and Indonesia are respectively the third- and fourth-ranking large-population countries in the world, we are convinced that there is much we can do in our mutual cooperation, bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally. . . ."

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## ***U.S.-German relations boosted by new academy***

The united Germany is the most powerful engine for building the new Europe, said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in his keynote address at the March 20 inauguration of the American Academy in Berlin. "As a new Europe emerges out of what Americans still think of as the Old World," he said, "we see a united, democratic Germany as both an important symbol and a powerful engine of what is happening, and what can happen, in Europe as a whole."

Talbott also counterposed U.S. policy toward Germany to Britain's posture: "I'm

**ISRAEL** lifted the entry ban against Brooklyn Rabbi Avraham Hecht, who on Oct. 9, 1995 gave religious sanction to the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which occurred a scant month later. Hecht is the personal rabbi of Edmond Safra, a kingpin of the Israeli mafia. He is also a leading official in the Lubavitch Hasidic cult, itself deeply involved in organized crime, which bankrolled Netanyahu's election campaign.

**GEORGE SOROS** boasted to Italy's *Corriere della Sera* on March 22, that he is expanding into Africa. In Senegal, on Goree Island, which in the 18th century was the main center for slave trade to America, Soros is financing "an anti-racist think-tank." He also hopes to set up a "human rights tribunal" in Rome this May, but remains under investigation by two Italian agencies for his speculative attacks on the currency.

**THE PAKISTANI** government is considering banning 20 foreign-run non-governmental organizations, the *Pakistan Observer* reported on March 12. Pakistani official sources commented to *EIR* that the most problematic NGOs are: Amnesty International (Britain), Human Rights Watch (Soros), Christian Solidarity International (Britain), and Anti-Slavery International (Britain).

**CHECHEN** National Security Service Director Lecha Khultygov has made accusations that "secret agents of the Russian Federal Security Service, and Islamic fundamentalists in Dagestan, have in particular prepared a plan to launch a series of provocations in areas bordering Chechnya."

**CAMBODIA'S KING** Norodom Sihanouk on March 22 granted his son Prince Ranariddh a pardon from his conviction of working with the genocidal Khmer Rouge to overturn his own government in 1997, when the Prince was co-premier with current head of state Hun Sen. The pardon is part of a Japanese-devised peace plan, and came after talks between King Sihanouk and Hun Sen.

moved here to recall Lord Ismay's famously offensive witticism about NATO's putative purpose. The Alliance, he said, existed to keep the Americans in, the Russians out, and the Germans down. In 1949, when he made that remark . . . it would soon be downright wrong. NATO actually helped foster this country's security, prosperity and, very importantly, its international leadership."

A spokesman in the Berlin Senate told *EIR* that the American Academy was first conceived by Richard Holbrooke, Clinton's former special envoy to Bosnia, after Clinton's June 1994 trip to Germany. Holbrooke himself told Berlin media, that U.S.-German cooperation is particularly important, because the EU has been unable to formulate and practice a common foreign policy, such as in the Balkans. This kind of partnership is essential, he said, in the effort to deal with crises such as that in Kosova.

## *Iran rings in New Year; Clinton sends greetings*

"For the first time, President Clinton has sent a message to the Iranian people to congratulate them for the New Year," the official IRNA Iran news agency announced in Teheran on March 21. IRNA reported that President Clinton's message hailed what he called the close and historic links between the peoples of the two countries.

The Iranian New Year, 1377, began on March 20. *Iran News* listed among the country's achievements in 1376: the successful Presidential elections, the summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference, and rapprochement with many Arab countries, including the first visit by an Egyptian delegation in 19 years.

Among the difficulties, the editorial focussed on the oil price collapse, which has severely affected the economy, citing "the Southeast Asian financial crisis" and "a worldwide economic depression." Looking to the future, the paper said that the "most important topic" will be the economic crisis. It suggests that this crisis should be used as the incentive "to root out our economic de-

pendence on oil, and thus move toward a dynamic and constructive economy."

The White House, meanwhile, is reportedly backing away from imposing sanctions on foreign energy companies that are investing in Iran, the *New York Times* reported on March 20, citing senior U.S. official sources. No decisions on sanctions will be made, until Clinton holds his summit with the European Union in mid-May.

## *Korea four-power peace talks adjourn in limbo*

Four-nation talks for a peace treaty in Korea, convened by President Clinton, ended in Geneva, Switzerland on March 21, with no announcement of if, when, or where they would reconvene. The four powers are the United States, China, and the two Koreas. The issue is North Korea's demand that the withdrawal of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea be on the agenda, which has set Pyongyang and Washington at loggerheads from the start. "The current situation on the Korean peninsula, more or less a state of war, results from the stationing of U.S. troops on the peninsula, and foreign intervention," Pyongyang's Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan told the press. "Therefore, the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the conclusion of a peace treaty are essential issues. If we are not in a position to discuss these fundamental issues, I do not think we have any point in coming to this forum and wasting time."

U.S. delegation chief, Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth, told reporters, "We proposed to negotiate steps to reduce tensions and build confidence on the Korean peninsula. Unfortunately, the North Korean delegation was not prepared to do so." Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Chen Jian, who chaired the talks, said in his closing statement, "There were problems with all delegations. I understand why the United States and North Korea take the present positions. They feel it is their national interest. But we were disappointed. We were close to agreement, and that would have been an important step."