

# International Intelligence

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## ***Euthanasia fanatic plans 'how to' suicide clinic***

Australia's own "Dr. Death," Philip Nitschke, who killed three people under the Northern Territory's "Right to Die" legislation in 1996-97, has announced plans to open an advice clinic in a Melbourne suburb, to assist people who are seeking to end their lives. Although insisting that he will stay within the law banning euthanasia, Nitschke has further declared that he intends to use illegal drug dealers when he refers patients to sources for the suicide drugs. "I can direct them towards the fast-diminishing sources of the necessary drugs . . . illegal sources and black market sources," Nitschke boasted.

Nitschke moved to Melbourne, in Victoria state, in order to run in the recent Federal election against Liberal MP Kevin Andrew, who was responsible for the Federal reversal of N.T.'s "Right to Die Act." He is receiving support from Andrew's fellow Liberal, Victoria State Premier Jeff Kennett, a Mont Pelierin stooge and openly pro-euthanasia. Kennett announced that his government will not block Nitschke's plans to set up a clinic, shrugging off protests by claiming that "as long as it's only an advice service, I don't think there's any laws that could stop you setting it up."

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## ***Laith Shubeilat freed from prison in Jordan***

Jordan's leading opposition figure Laith Shubeilat was freed on Oct. 8, after having served his prison term of nine months. An outspoken opponent of the International Monetary Fund, Shubeilat is a former member of Parliament and headed the country's largest professional union, the Jordan Engineers Association, until his latest arrest. According to the Arabic press, he commented again on the unconstitutionality of his detention, saying that what he was jailed for, should be recognized as a civil right. He was referring to his public criticisms of government policy. Shubeilat also commented

on King Hussein's pardon of him on May 18, which he had refused at the time. His reasoning was then, and remains now, that since he was innocent, he did not need a pardon. Furthermore, if Jordan were a true constitutional monarchy, he said, then he would have enjoyed his constitutional rights to political activity.

Early this year, he was arrested while returning to his home in Amman, after having delivered a Friday sermon at a mosque in Ma'an. Demonstrations, which took place long after he had left, ended in clashes between protesters and police. In his most recent remarks, Shubeilat offered an interesting insight regarding the power relations in the country, saying that he had been accused of having provoked the population of the city of Ma'an against the government. If this were true, he said, if he had had the power to mobilize the city or the nation, then he would propose that the King discharge the government and give him the prime minister's position.

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## ***Taliban open fire on Iranian border troops***

The tensions in Afghanistan exploded on Oct. 8, when Taliban forces attacked Iranian border posts with mortars and machine guns. The border guards, in Khorasan province, returned fire, whereupon the Taliban withdrew. According to the commander of Iran's ground forces, Brig. Gen. Azizollah Jaafari, the Taliban incurred heavy casualties in the early-morning clash about 100 miles southeast of Mashhad. A Taliban spokesman denied the report, and claimed it was Iranian propaganda.

This is the first time that the conflict between Iran and the Taliban has erupted into an armed clash. Iran currently has up to 200,000 troops deployed in maneuvers along the border with Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghan affairs, Lakhdar Brahimi, has been in Tehran, en route to Islamabad, Pakistan to meet government officials, in an attempt to impose a political solution for the Afghan crisis. Brahimi is working on the basis of deliberations made

at the meeting of the "6 plus 2" group, in New York on Sept. 21. The group includes Afghanistan's six neighbors, plus the United States and Russia. At their meeting, they agreed to send a UN fact-finding mission, to investigate reports of ethnic cleansing and gross violation of human rights by the Taliban. The group seeks to facilitate a government in Afghanistan, made up of all ethnic groups, which the Taliban reject. Brahimi met with Iran's special representative for Afghan affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who assured him of Iran's full support for the initiative.

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, in receiving Brahimi on Oct. 6, characterized the Afghan situation as a "full-scale human catastrophe," and "genocide." He said Iran would not tolerate instability on its borders, adding, "Of course, we do not consider war as the first alternative."

"Real peace will be restored," he said, "when the Afghan nation has the power to choose and when a broad-based government comes to office in the country." He emphasized that even if the Taliban gained military control over the entire country, it would not find stability unless a political solution were reached.

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## ***Chechnya heating up amid kidnappings and murder***

Four employees of a British firm building a telecommunications system in Chechnya were kidnapped in the capital, Grozny, on Oct. 3 following an early morning gunfight, reported the Russian news agency, Itar-TASS. The British Foreign Office has warned citizens against travel to Chechnya until at least April 2002, the Russian agency reported. Chechen officials said they have identified the kidnappers and believe they will be able to free the four captives. Chechen Prosecutor General Mansur Tagirov told Interfax that he believes the kidnapping was intended to discredit Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov.

On the same day, the Russian representative in Chechnya, who had been kidnapped from Grozny on Sept. 29, was found murdered. The body of Akmal Saidov, the

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S** trip to Malaysia to attend the APEC conference next month has been downgraded as "neither a state visit nor an official visit" according to the *Straits Times* of Oct. 11. This will be seen as concern about Anwar Ibrahim, but the *Times* also falsely asserts that the intent is to register U.S. discontent with Prime Minister Mahathir's policies.

**CHINESE PRESIDENT** Jiang Zemin will visit Australia after the November 1999 APEC leadership conference in New Zealand, according to a spokesman for the Australian Embassy in Beijing. This will be the highest-level official Chinese visit.

**LEFT-WING KNESSET** member Ran Cohen's car was set on fire on Oct. 8 by Israeli fanatics who oppose his pro-peace leadership. Cohen is the key sponsor of a bill calling for the demolition of the tomb of Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish Defense League crazy who gunned down 50 Arabs during Friday prayers in a Hebron mosque.

**NORTHERN IRELAND'S** Assembly held its second plenary session Oct. 5, with Unionists opposed to allowing Sinn Fein members to hold executive positions. First Minister-designate David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party supported the hardline Unionist opposition's demand that the IRA must disarm before Sinn Fein is allowed on the executive. The same provocation in 1994 by British Prime Minister John Major helped sabotage peace talks, then.

**HUNDREDS** of Mexicans turned out for a music seminar and concert in Mexico City on Oct. 11-12, organized jointly by the Schiller Institute and the Schola Cantorum of Mexico, a children's singing school founded by Alfredo Mendoza. Speakers included Marivilia Carrasco and Hugo López Ochoa of the Schiller Institute, Alfredo Mendoza, and the director of the University of Mexico's National Music School Children's Choir.

head of the social and economic department of the Russian government office in Grozny, was found dead near the border between Chechnya and Ingushetia, Interfax reported.

In a related development, Shamil Basayev, a Chechen field commander and leading opposition figure, told an opposition meeting in Grozny on Oct. 5 that his group will seek to remove Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov by peaceful means, ITAR-TASS reported. "We have been fighting enough, and our actions are aimed at ensuring that there is no civil war in Chechnya." He said he hopes that a special state commission will examine the opposition's charges and then present its conclusions to the parliament and Supreme Shariat Court. In June 1995, Basayev led a raid on the town of Budyonnovsk in neighboring Dagestan, during which he took over 1,000 hostages and set up the hospital as his headquarters.

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## **Malaysia sets Nov. 2 trial for Anwar Ibrahim**

Former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim appeared before the High Court on Oct. 5, where Justice Datuk Augustine Paul set a trial date of Nov. 2-14 on four counts of corruption. Court proceedings will be suspended during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Kuala Lumpur, and will resume on Nov. 23. A second trial remains to be scheduled on one further corruption count and five sex charges.

Justice Paul denied bail, and imposed a gag order on any further public discussion of Anwar's guilt or innocence. He also said that the trial will be conducted in English, as "Justice must not only be done, but be seen to be done."

Anwar, who appeared in court with a neck brace on Oct. 4, following a medical exam, was blocked from speaking to press. Photos of Anwar wearing a neck brace, after he had accused the police of beating him, were picked up by media throughout the world. In fact, as his wife, Dr. Azizah, acknowledged, the neck brace was to treat an old and recurring injury.

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## **Pakistani Army Chief ousted as violence grows**

Gen. Jehangir Karamat resigned Oct. 7, and was replaced by Lt. Gen. Parvez Musharraf. Sources close to the Army, cited by the press, said that Karamat had proposed the creation of a national Security Council, to try to stabilize the country, wracked by violence and economic breakdown. There were also reports that the Army might attempt to take power from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, to impose law and order. Violence has been increasing, especially in Karachi, where 12 people died on Oct. 7-8.

Pakistan's Afghanistan policy is a major point of conflict. Pakistani intelligence ISI and other military sectors have supported the Taliban insurgency. It was recently reported in the Iranian press, that Nawaz Sharif had declared that the government would run Afghanistan policy, and not the ISI.

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## **Rohrabacher meddling in Cambodia's elections**

On Oct. 2, the U.S. House International Relations Committee unanimously passed legislation submitted by International Republican Institute mouthpiece Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (D-Calif.), calling for creation of a tribunal to investigate criminal culpability of Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen in violation of international humanitarian law. While pegging the immediate pretext as election period violence, Rohrabacher slandered Hun Sen, as the "trigger man of Pol Pot" during hearings.

Rohrabacher is a major supporter of Sam Rainsy, the biggest loser in Cambodia's elections, in which 90% of the eligible voters cast ballots. Rainsy was in Washington in late September, demanding that Cambodia's UN seat remain empty, that its membership in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations be blocked, and that the United States refuse to send a new envoy to Phnom Penh, when the current ambassador's tour ends, until such time as a "legitimate" government takes office.