

# International Intelligence

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## **Indonesian lawmakers hold special session**

Indonesia's the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) scheduled a special legislative session for Nov. 10-13, to debate new laws governing political parties, elections and the composition of the electoral body and the lower house of the legislature, in preparation for legislative elections in spring 1999. Since the ouster of President Suharto, scores of new parties have been created; 50 of these organizations not currently represented in the MPR plan to hold major protests against the special session.

According to sources in the Indonesian military (Abri), these organizations, operating under the umbrella of the National Front, an association of retired generals, officials, and former ruling Golkar leaders, may be planning rallies of 20,000 at the Parliament itself, with supporting rallies of students in major cities, including Medan, Lampung, Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surabaya and Ujung Pandang.

Abri Commander General Wiranto warned on Oct. 30 that Abri will protect the MPR session against "any effort aimed at aborting it," adding that protests are "no longer a demonstration but a show of force and anarchy which violated the law."

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## **Spy Pollard rages over failed bid for freedom**

Jonathan Pollard, the Israeli spy who is serving a life sentence in the United States, flew into a rage against Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, accusing him of sabotaging the campaign to have Pollard sent to Israel, as part of the Wye River peace negotiations. During an interview with Israel's Channel 2 television, Pollard ranted: "General Mordechai, for two years you have done everything in your power to avoid the issue of Jonathan Pollard. For two years you have disgraced the uniform you wear and you have betrayed the oath you took to your country. You've betrayed an agent in the field in the most disgraceful and unaccept-

able way any officer could possibly do, by stabbing your own prime minister in the back during the recent negotiations at Wye. . . . I worked for you. You are responsible for me."

Meanwhile, according to the London *Times*, the deputy head of the Shin Bet, Israel Hasson, passed a security report to Netanyahu hours after Wye River Accords were signed, warning that "a newly formed Jewish underground may try to bomb Muslim holy shrines or assassinate Arab or Israeli leaders in an effort to stop troops withdrawing from the West Bank." The report urged Netanyahu and Mordechai, in particular, to wear bullet-proof vests at all times. The report noted that the gravest danger from the new Jewish underground was a threat to blow up the Al Aqsa mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The report compared the new Jewish underground to the Greater Israel fanatics that assassinated and maimed a number of Palestinian mayors on the West Bank during the 1970s.

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## **U.S.-Thai efforts seek Cambodian reconciliation**

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific Stanley Roth and Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Sukhumbhand Paribatra met in Singapore, and agreed to pressure the losers in Cambodia's elections, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy, to return to home and form a government with Prime Minister Hun Sen. Both Ranariddh and Rainsy are backed by the misnamed National Endowment for Democracy (NED), which is helping them hold up the formation of a government, after 90% of eligible voters went to the polls. Hun Sen won 42% of the vote.

U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) who has acted as NED's standard-bearer against Cambodians' mandate, immediately shot off a public letter to Roth denouncing "actions by the Department of State, especially your bureau, to undermine efforts by the House to promote democracy and bring rampant human rights violators such as Hun Sen to justice." Rohrabacher said there's no

problem in his effort to remove the elected Prime Minister in Cambodia, since "the Cambodian people voted for parties and not for individual PM candidates. There is no reason that [Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party] CPP must be wedded to Hun Sen."

Meanwhile, the economic hardships are further aggravated, in no small part, because aid sanctions continue and investments are declining, pending the formation of a government—which is being stonewalled by Ranariddh, Rainsy, and Rohrabacher. Sok Hach, economic adviser to the Ministry of Economics and Finance told the *Khmer News* of Oct. 16 that Cambodia had been immune to the Asian crisis, and even the sanctions on aid and investment were tolerable, but the enormous cost of the election, forced on them by the international community, and the cost of integrating the surrendered Khmer Rouge troops, had forced them to print money, threatening a collapse.

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## **Brits scale down some overseas missions**

According to the Oct. 25 issue of Papua New Guinea's *The National*, Great Britain has revealed plans to close down 30 of its embassies, high commissions, and consulates, in a bid to save money; missions will remain open in areas deemed to be too "sensitive." Diplomatic missions likely to go include Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), Aden (Yemen), Casablanca (Morocco), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Cleveland (U.S.), Kuching (Malaysia), Pusan (South Korea), Seville (Spain), Adelaide (Australia), Alexandria (Egypt), Brisbane (Australia), Lyons (France), Managua (Nicaragua), Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Bonn (Germany), Florence and Naples (Italy), Nuku'alofa (Tonga), Vila (Vanuatu), and Ulan Bator (Mongolia).

More interesting are the areas reportedly deemed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as "too sensitive" to close. These include Amsterdam, Ho Chi Minh City, Geneva, Marseilles, Auckland (New Zealand), Durban (South Africa), Lahore (Pakistan), and Vatican City. Foreign Minister Robin Cook has already revealed that Britain's pri-

**SOUTH KOREAN** President Kim Dae-Jung will visit mainland China on Nov. 11-15 November, according to an Oct. 27 statement from his office. He will then attend the APEC meeting in Malaysia, and stop off in Hong Kong on Nov. 19 on his way home. His agenda includes the Asian economic crisis, the situation in North Korea, and regional security cooperation.

**NIGERIAN PUBLISHER** Lawrence C. Fejokwu has founded a new magazine, *NUSA*. The maiden issue, released in May, included *EIR*'s interviews with prominent Nigerians, all working on the transition to civilian government. The cover of second issue (October) shows a photo of President Clinton and the new head of state, Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, and includes *EIR*'s analysis of the myth of the "emerging markets."

**THE ISRAELI KNESSET** Constitution Justice and Law Committee passed a bill for early elections out of committee on Oct. 27. The bill can now read before the entire Knesset (parliament). If it passes, new elections could be held as early as March 1999.

**TWO TALIBAN DRUG** smugglers were apprehended in Iran's northeastern Province of Khorasan, on Oct. 25. According to the Public Relations Office of the Narcotic Campaign Headquarters, they were carrying 2,250 kg of heroin. The two confessed that they had been sent by the Taliban, which has decided to continue distribution of narcotics, particularly heroin.

**AUSTRALIA'S** Ansett Airline has announced that it will install syringe disposal bins in the lavatories of its airplanes, in response to the increasing use of IV drugs on its flights. Ansett officials claim the move is a safety precaution, to protect cleaning crews who had been finding used syringes. They also claim that they made the move in consultation with the Los Angeles-based International Airline Medical Advisory Council.

ority is to increase its missions in eastern and central Europe, the former communist nations around the Caspian Sea, and in China and Brazil, all areas where the Empire has high hopes of free-market looting operations.

## ***'Ecstasy' pushes fight Thai police drug raids***

Bangkok law enforcement officials seized over 2 million doses of the deadly hallucinogen "Ecstasy" during one week in October. The seizures were larger than the combined seizures over the past three years. There was at least one serious fire, leaving one dead and seven wounded. The Narcotics Control Board opened a new branch of the National Narcotics Operation Center near the Myanmar border, and announced that local producers in Myanmar, led by a "Dutch Chinese chemist," have obtained expensive laboratory equipment needed to manufacture high-quality Ecstasy, which will soon flood the market.

Gen. Chetta Thanajaro, who just stepped down as the Army chief, and is a likely future political leader, was put in charge of narcotics suppression as adviser on security affairs to Deputy Prime Minister Maj. Gen. Sanan Kachornprasart. Chetta has good relations with the Myanmar government.

## ***Vatican asks to be part of talks on Jerusalem***

Fearing that Israel's Netanyahu government will make official its de facto annexation of Jerusalem, when talks on the final status begin, the Vatican reiterated its call for "special international status" for Jerusalem's holy places. According to a report in the *Jordan Times* on Oct. 28, the Vatican asked the Palestinians and Israel, which both claim East Jerusalem as their capital, to welcome the assistance of the international community to formulate "a final status for the Holy City that takes into account the concerns and hopes of the faithful." The Vatican statement termed Jerusalem "a universal symbol of

brotherhood and peace," and called on Christians, Jews, and Muslims to cooperate to make the city "a place of meeting and reconciliation" as the millennium approaches.

With the approach of the year 2000, the Vatican said all should strive to "guarantee the sacred character and universal cultural heritage" of the city. The statement was issued at the end of a two-day symposium organized by Jerusalem's Latin Patriarchate, in which three cardinals, 30 bishops, Jerusalem Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, Coptic Christians, and Protestants participated.

On Oct. 25, the Vatican requested to be involved in the Israeli-Palestinian talks on Jerusalem. "The Holy See believes that it's important for its representative to sit at the negotiating table to make sure that they are fair, and that no aspect of the problems will be forgotten," Vatican Foreign Minister Jean-Louis Tauran said.

## ***Cárdenas's PRD party holds pro-drug forum***

The government of Mexico's Federal District, dominated by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas's Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) sponsored a "First Ibero-American Youth Conference" in Mexico City in mid-October, in which the consumption and legalization of drugs were openly promoted. One speaker, a Spaniard named Escotado, argued, "What must be done is to overturn prohibition and establish a system which does less damage than prohibition." He advocated starting with local "pilot projects" which could be scaled up or shut down "if the indicators are negative."

Escotado boasted that in certain autonomous areas in Spain, such as Catalonia and Andalucia, heroin instead of methadone is provided to those who ask for it. "Heroin today is cheaper than beer, not only in Spain, but also in France, Holland, or Germany. The Turkish connection worked very well, also the Irani connection. And then there is import of opium and morphine base from the Far East, through the new chaos stemming from the disintegration of the U.S.S.R."