

National News

Virginia violates rights at 'supermax' prisons

After being denied the right to tour Virginia's Red Onion supermax prison in March, the George Soros-funded Human Rights Watch issued a scathing, 24-page report on April 19 week; the prison is supposed to house the state's most violent and incorrigible inmates. The report charges that "the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC) is assigning to Red Onion men who are not the incorrigibly dangerous for whom supermaximum security may be warranted. Inmates who pose no extreme security or safety risk are subjected to unnecessarily restrictive controls and are arbitrarily deprived of the activities and freedoms available ordinarily even in maximum security prisons." The report also charges that prison staff "use force unnecessarily, excessively, and dangerously"; conditions are "unnecessarily harsh and degrading," with general population inmates confined in their cells more than 20 hours a day, and inmates in segregation isolated 23 hours a day.

Virginia legislators are now in discussions with the state Crime Commission, regarding an investigation of the allegations.

Clinton's statements spark debate in Iran

The Iranian Republic News Agency reported on April 18 that President Bill Clinton had made remarks at the White House on April 14, saying: "I think it is important to recognize . . . that Iran, because of its enormous geopolitical importance over time, has been the subject of quite a lot of abuse from various Western nations . . . and I think sometimes it's quite important to tell people, look, you have a right to be angry at something my country or my culture or others who are generally allied with us today did to you 50, 60, or 100 or 150 years ago."

IRNA treats the statement as an apology for Anglo-American policies, especially for British policies, but it has sparked a wider

debate throughout the country. Generally, Iranian commentators are encouraged by the remarks, but stress that Clinton must support his words with actions and reopen normal relations with Iran, lift trade sanctions, and unfreeze Iranian assets in the United States.

The English-language *Iran Daily* editorialized on April 19 that "Clinton's recent remarks regarding normalizing ties with Iran is in itself indicative of the emergence of a new phase in Washington's stance towards this country, at least in words. . . ."

"The time to exchange words is over, and it is high time to ensue practical steps for normalizing ties. Tehran-Washington rapprochement is not only of interest to both parties, but has also appealed greatly to the regional countries and the rest of the international community. Undoubtedly, the strategic importance of Iran, and the sensitive role that it plays in global equations, are of major interest to other countries."

Ledeen rants against Clinton Balkans policy

Speaking in Washington at the American Enterprise Institute on April 20, Anglo-Zionist agent Michael Ledeen called for special forces to assault Yugoslavia, and backed a policy of forcing out Slobodan Milosevic. One incident, he ranted, "sums up" the U.S. administration's weakness in rejecting the British demand for ground troops. He reported that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright thought she had to correct Blair when he said that Milosevic has to step down. Ledeen railed, "Blair's English is *not* garbled." Blair is right: Milosevic, like Saddam Hussein, he said, has to step down, and the fact that Saddam is still in power after 10 years, means that every dictator and would-be dictator in the world is just laughing at the United States, and saying in effect, "We can wait it out."

The failure to use Special Forces is one of the biggest missed opportunities ever, he went on, complaining that the administration wouldn't authorize them.

Ledeen shared the podium with Jeff Gedmin, Josh Muravchik, and John Bolton, all initiators of the British-American-Com-

monwealth cabal's "New Atlantic Initiative." The three BAC stooges blasted President Clinton for doing everything possible to come up with a deal to end the war, declaring that that would be a defeat for NATO, not a defeat for Milosevic.

"Elder statesman" Jeane Kirkpatrick, the senior AEI person, played the role of "moderate extremist": She proclaimed her support for the President, saying he is defending civilization against the travesty of ethnic cleansing. The former U.S. Ambassador to the UN declared that Washington should stay the course with the bombings, and also arm the Kosova Liberation Army.

Ledeen has long been close to Israel's Temple Mount Faithful terrorist circles, which have also penetrated U.S. intelligence and military institutions. He is a leading figure in the espionage ring, which included Jonathan Jay Pollard, known as the X Committee.

McDade-Murtha forces prosecutors to obey law

Despite its strenuous efforts, the Justice Department could not stop the McDade-Murtha legislation, enacted in the previous session of Congress, from going into effect on April 19. The legislation, originally co-sponsored by Pennsylvania Congressmen Joe McDade (R) and John Murtha (D) as the Citizens Protection Act, aimed to end Federal prosecutorial abuse, exemplified by the "Get LaRouche" and later "Get Clinton" operations.

Even though there was an effort led by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to delay implementation of the legislation and to set up a commission to "study" prosecutorial misconduct, the Hatch bill did not go through, and therefore the McDade legislation is now in effect. Justice Department spokesman Brian Steele told *EIR* on April 19 that the department would have preferred it not go into effect, as they maintain it will have a "chilling" effect on Federal prosecutors.

The portion of the McDade bill enacted last fall requires Federal prosecutors to comply with the laws and ethical standards of the state laws and state bar associations.