

# International Intelligence

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## ***Retired officers seek India-Pakistan peace***

At a time when India-Pakistan relations are considered at their lowest ebb, a group of senior retired Army officers from both countries came together to form the Soldiers' Initiative for Peace between India and Pakistan (IPSI). At a press conference in New Delhi on Jan. 29, retired Chief of Staff of India's Northern Command, Lt. Gen. M.M. Walia, said that the officers were convinced that, for peace to prevail, negotiations between the two countries had to be reopened. IPSI had its first meeting in Calcutta on Jan. 18, and met again at the United Services Institute in New Delhi on Jan. 23. Four retired Pakistani officers attended, including the former Director General of Military Operations, plus six civilians, including a former cabinet minister under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in the 1970s.

General Walia reported that the message from the Pakistani side, was that talks with the present leadership in Pakistan would prove more fruitful than with any of the past political establishments, because it could speak for the military.

On Jan. 30, Pakistan's military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, told an interviewer that he was ready to meet with Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee, but only "as long as the centrality of the Kashmir dispute is accepted . . . and there is reciprocity on Kashmir." Then, "we are prepared to initiate a dialogue," he said, according to *The Hindu*.

On the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane by Kashmiri separatists on Dec. 24, 1999, and reports that the hijackers were currently in Pakistan, Musharraf replied, "I don't know at all that this is a fact. They disappeared from Afghanistan. . . . And I presume they are in Afghanistan." Only days earlier, on Jan. 27, one of the Kashmiri terrorists whom India had released from prison in order to end the hijacking, Masood Azhar, arrived at Pakistan's Lahore International Airport, where he was met by over 100 followers from the Harkat ul-Mujahideen, holding automatic rifles. There were no indications that the Pakistani authorities had attempted to prevent the demonstration.

"They advised us that they would be coming to the airport and all of their weapons are licensed," a police official said.

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## ***Australia, Canada back world genocide court***

The Dec. 24, 1999 issue of the *Australian Jewish News* carries a profile of the new International Criminal Court, established last year by the so-called Rome Statute. Two of the leading backers of this ICC, the first permanent international court with jurisdiction to deal with genocide and war crimes, are the British Commonwealth's Australia and Canada, both of which are among the 90 signers of the Rome Statute. Supposedly, the ICC will not replace domestic courts, but "will deal with cases as an independent institution where national courts are unwilling or unable to bring transgressors to justice." Representatives of Australia's Departments of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Attorney General, and the New South Wales Director of Public Prosecutions were at the UN in New York working with the United States and other countries in preparation for the ICC. The United States hasn't signed the Rome Statute, reportedly out of concern to protect its overseas personnel from possible prosecution. Furthermore, out of the 90 countries that are signers, only 5 have ratified the Statute.

Canada, which, like Australia, has the Queen of England as its head of state, has been most aggressive in signing over its token sovereignty to the new UN body. Canada chose International Humans Rights Day on Dec. 10 to introduce a Crimes Against Humanity law into its Parliament, which "recognizes the jurisdiction of the ICC to deal with war crimes and obliges Canada to surrender suspects sought by the ICC with no possibility of them claiming immunity from arrest or surrender. . . . It also creates new offenses of crimes against humanity and genocide, replaces and strengthens Canadian powers to prosecute war criminals, and reinforces Canada's extradition law by allowing those accused of genocide, war crimes, [and] crimes against humanity to be extradited to international criminal

courts with no possibility of refusing an ICC extradition request."

Canadian Attorney General and Justice Minister Anne McLellan said that the new law reaffirmed Canada's pledge that "Canada is not, and will not be, a safe haven for war criminals."

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## ***Venezuelans boo Chávez at softball game***

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez was booed at a softball game with the country's major players, which had been organized on Jan. 22 by one of the big names in Venezuelan baseball to raise funds for the victims of the Dec. 15 mudslides and rains in the state of Vargas. It was not meant to be a political event, but Chávez, a jacobin populist, who had lost a lot of credibility when he celebrated his success in pushing through a constitutional referendum last year rather than mobilize flood relief, decided it was a good opportunity to show off.

According to reports to *EIR*, the 15,000 fans at the university stadium were not pleased, and every time Chávez came up to bat, he was whistled, booed, and met with shouts of "Get out! Get out!"—the first such public display ever against the demagogue. The Chávez regime did everything it could to squelch coverage of the incident, which was mentioned only on a few radio programs and in short asides in coverage of the game in newspapers. No television networks touched the story.

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## ***Arab editor: 'If LaRouche were President'***

The economics editor of London-based Arabic daily *Al-Arab International*, Dr. Mustafa Al-Bazargan, who submitted two questions to Lyndon LaRouche during an international webcast with journalists on Jan. 27, dedicated his weekly column on Jan. 28 to LaRouche's Democratic Presidential campaign in the United States. Dr. Al-Bazargan writes under the headline "What If He Wins the American Presidency": "Despite all the obstacles being put in his way by the U.S.

**SPANISH POLICE** arrested eight leaders of the “international apparatus” of the Basque terrorist group ETA, including two as they arrived at Madrid airport from Mexico, on Jan. 29. In December, ETA had announced the end of its “cease-fire,” and on Jan. 21 had killed a colonel with a car-bomb. In protest, over 1 million Spaniards demonstrated against ETA the next day.

**EIR'S EUROPE** director Anno Hellenbroich reported on his three weeks with Lyndon LaRouche's U.S. Presidential campaign at a Jan. 27 press breakfast in Paris, addressing 13 press, embassy, labor, and political representatives. Questions about LaRouche's ideas ranged from his Middle East and Africa policies, to NATO expansion, to the fight against unemployment.

**A SENEGAL** prosecutor has opened the way for former Chadian President Hissene Habre to be tried in Senegal, where he has lived in exile since he was ousted in 1990, on charges of torture during his eight years as Chad head of state. A representative of George Soros's Human Rights Watch told the *New York Times* of Jan. 28: “This is the first time that an African court has opened a case based on human rights crimes committed by a former head of state in a foreign country.”

**INDONESIAN** President Abdurrahman Wahid embarked on his fifth international tour since taking office in October on Jan. 28. This latest trip began in Saudi Arabia, where he paid a courtesy call on King Fahd and Prince Abdullah, and made a brief pilgrimage to Mecca. From there he went to the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Switzerland. He was thence scheduled to visit Britain, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, the Vatican, Czech Republic, and Belgium. On his way back, he plans to deliver a speech at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, before going to South Korea and Thailand.

political establishment, and despite the methods of blacking him out through . . . the mass media, American economist and politician Lyndon LaRouche has succeeded in bringing his voice to American citizens through his principled humanist stances, which could be regarded as utterly alien to official American policy.

“Observers of the U.S. election campaign have asserted that the attempts to exclude LaRouche are an outright violation of the U.S. Civil Rights Act, . . . which demands attention, especially because it is not taking place in a Third World country, but in a country whose political leadership alleges that it is a defender of human rights in every spot on the planet.

“LaRouche is the only American Presidential candidate who demands that the UN sanctions on Iraq be lifted. This confirms the existence of a force in America . . . that understands what suffering these sanctions have brought to the Iraqi people.”

Dr. Bazargan concludes, “We might not believe that there is an American politician so fully committed to humanism and to justice and democracy, especially when we see what Washington is doing to Iraq. . . . [The fact that there is, raises] the legitimate question, what would things be like, both in the Arab region and the world, if we assume—even hypothetically—that LaRouche wins the Presidential elections and takes his post as President in the White House?”

## ***London terrorists war against Mideast peace***

A press release issued by Al-Muhajiroun (one of the many London-based “Islamist” terrorist groups headed by Omar al-Bakri) vowed to raise money and recruit British youths to fight against all parties involved in the Middle East peace process, and announced that it was hosting a mass demonstration and conference on Jan. 21, to organize a *jihad* against Middle East peace, and “to raise finances to fight against the occupiers and to recruit mujahideen to drive them out of Palestine.”

Meanwhile, the relatives of 18-year-old Omar Kyam, a student who was recruited

by al-Muhajiroun and left home in England, have flown to Pakistan to search for him in terrorist training camps. According to the London *Times* on Jan. 22, “up to 200 young Britons are believed to have been sent to fight in conflicts in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Chechnya in the past three years. A number have been killed, but despite protests from parents, the authorities say that there is nothing they can do to stop young men enlisting.” A senior police officer told the *Times*, “These men are over 18, they have valid British passports and we can't stop them getting on a plane.”

## ***Russia's Putin elected to head CIS at summit***

The Moscow summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), made up of former Soviet states, elected Russia's acting President Vladimir Putin to chair the Association of Heads of CIS States for the next year, although, under the rotation system, the President of Tajikistan was next in line. But, Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmonov endorsed acting President Putin, even though the elections to choose Russia's President have yet to take place. According to the Jan. 25 issue of the Russian daily *Kommersant*, the unanimous decision was inspired by Georgia's Eduard Shevardnadze, who had already spoken in favor of Putin before the summit.

“Belarus regards the fact that Vladimir Putin will head the CIS Council as quite natural,” said Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. “This choice suggests confidence of the Presidents, both in Russia and in him personally.”

During the summit, Putin organized a direct meeting of the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia. Such a meeting was supposed to take place in Istanbul during last year's meeting of the Organization of Cooperation and Security in Europe, but was cancelled because of the slaughter in the Armenian Parliament several days before.

The representatives of the 12 CIS members agreed to found a joint anti-terrorist center and to organize anti-terrorist exercises.