

International Intelligence

London Times Has Field Day with Blair Mishaps

Rupert Murdoch's *Times* of London has been having a field day throughout July publicizing Prime Minister Tony Blair's staff memos on how to clean up his flagging image. The *Sunday Times* on July 30 trumpeted the headline "Drowning Street," along with the contents of a June memo by Blair's image-maker Philip Gould, who expresses concern that "New Labour" will lose the next general election.

In one memo, written by Blair and leaked to the *Times*, the Prime Minister suggests that Downing Street churn out a series of extreme "anti-crime" and "pro-family" initiatives to prop up his image. Another memo was written by Gould in May, before "New Labour" lost miserably to expelled "Old Labour" maverick Ken Livingstone, in London's first mayoral election. Gould warned, "I think our situation is serious. There is absolutely no room for complacency. Perhaps worst of all . . . the New Labour brand has been badly contaminated. It is the object of constant criticism, and even worse, ridicule."

In its July 18 issue, one day after printing Gould's May memo, *Times* commentator Michael Gove wrote of Tony Blair, "Now we can see that the real TB (Testosterone Bully?) is an image-obsessed, spin-driven, ego-absorbed, huckerish hypocrite." With the media, Blair is "constantly seeking our approval, while proceeding to trash our values," he said. "Shouldn't he now stand down?"

Britain Sued by Victims of Belgrade Bombing

Five Belgrade families who lost family members in the NATO bombing of Serbian Radio and Television (RTS) in 1999, are suing the British government in the European Human Rights Court, lawyers for the families announced in mid-July. If the court agrees to hear the case, the trial should result in an official indictment of Prime Minister

Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook for their parts in violating the European Human Rights Convention, article 2, guaranteeing the right to life.

The London *Sunday Times* on July 16 quoted lawyers working for Amnesty International saying that the bombing of the RTS building "could dog Prime Minister Blair" throughout his entire political career, because he and Cook tried to publicly justify the bombing, in which 16 people died. One of the plaintiffs, Zanka Stojanovic, whose son was among those killed, remarked to the *Sunday Times*, that "Prime Minister Blair is celebrating the birth of his fourth son" at the same time that he has "taken away my only son."

The plaintiffs' lawyers believe that published international documents demonstrate sufficient grounds for bringing the suit. Investigations by Amnesty International and Human Rights Council have shown that the bombing of RTS was a war crime. Prominent British lawyer Mark Litman has, based on his own research, testified before the Parliamentary Committee of Foreign Affairs that the bombing "did not have any grounds according to the international law."

Zimbabwe To Increase Land Redistributions

Zimbabwe's government TV network reported on July 31 that the government will increase its land redistribution from 804 farms to 3,000 by the end of the year. The state-owned *Herald* newspaper quoted George Charamba, spokesman of President Robert Mugabe, saying that the National Land Acquisition and Redistribution Committee had agreed on July 30 "to expedite the process of identifying more farms" for settlement. Local Government Minister Ignatius Chombo remarked, "The numbers are not important. What is important is that we are accelerating the resettlement program and that we are involving all stakeholders in the process. . . . The resettlement process technically has started at a very fast pace. This coming week we are going to see quite a lot of persons being settled in all provinces."

The military will be employed to assist in the process of redistribution.

In part, the move is a response by Mugabe to the threat by the large landowners—most of them white, commercial farmers, who obtained their land through British colonial looting—to strike.

Russian Weekly Mourns Loss of Taras Muranivsky

The July 20 issue of the Russian weekly *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta* informed readers of the passing on July 17 of Prof. Taras V. Muranivsky, a regular contributor to the newspaper. The following note from the editorial board was titled, "At the Peaks of Knowledge."

"Taras Vasilyevich Muranivsky has died. He was a doctor of philosophical sciences, a professor, and leader of the Schiller Institute in Russia.

"He was from that pleiad of real scientists, who did not make their way onto presidiums and official delegations by means of truths and untruths, but unflaggingly and consistently laid their own pathway to the peaks of scientific knowledge.

"For readers of *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, his articles opened up the West—a West, which we know poorly. Thanks to him, we discovered a world of higher learning, the world, upon which all the successes of the developed countries in science and production are really based. He introduced us to that world and to its people, and it was thanks to his efforts, that our readers could get to know the works of L. LaRouche, H. Böttiger, H. Cramer, and other scholars, who represent new scientific thought in the West.

"Like any genuine member of the intelligentsia, Taras Vasilyevich was modest, and it was extraordinarily easy to talk with him. But, at the same time, he was an uncompromising and stalwart fighter, against what he considered to be hopelessly obsolete and outdated, a fighter against the unjust system of world economic relations.

"The bright memory of Taras Vasilyevich Muranivsky will always remain in our

SHIMON PERES, the Mideast peace architect, lost his bid to become President of Israel on July 31, when the Knesset voted up the Likud party's Moshe Katzav, to replace Ezer Weizman of the Labor Party. The vote was a blow to Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who also narrowly survived a no-confidence vote.

THE 'QUEEN MUM' came in for some criticism on the occasion of her 100th birthday in late July. British historian Theodore Zeldin pointed out to France's *Journal du Dimanche* that Queen Elizabeth II's mother had supported Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in the 1930s and backed apartheid in the 1980s. Other media pointed out that her grudge against Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor, was life-long, and that she bore a similar grudge after Princess Diana divorced her grandson.

BARONESS Caroline Cox, whose Christian Solidarity Worldwide has made her a leading figure in the human rights mafia, presented lying testimony in late June to the House of Lords on the Christian-Muslim strife being fanned in the Maluku in Indonesia. Cox's *forte* is to allege Muslim oppression of Christians to provide cover for an Anglo-American intervention into sovereign nations. Her previous prime target had been Sudan.

ASHRAPNEL BOMB exploded at a commuter train station in Düsseldorf, Germany on July 27, wounding two seriously, including a pregnant woman; seven others were treated for minor injuries. No terrorist group has claimed responsibility.

ETA, THE BASQUE separatist terrorist gang, detonated another car-bomb on July 25, its seventh since June 4. One person was killed in the bombings, and a second was shot outright by the ETA. One bomb was planted outside a police station, and another, which failed to go off, was attached to a local prosecutor's automobile.

hearts, and his cause will live in the works of his students."

Dr. Muranivsky's last article appeared in the July 20 issue of *Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*. His life and work was eulogized in last week's *EIR*.

Sudan To Supervise All Relief to Warring South

The Sudanese government vowed on July 24 that it will fully supervise delivery of all humanitarian aid from abroad to its famine-stricken South, where John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army is siphoning off relief to its own troops. The Khartoum government also charged that aid operations are being used to funnel weapons to the SPLA. For years, Garang has been the darling of British geopolitical designs, operating under "human rights" cover, to break up Sudan, Africa's largest country.

Sudan "will not allow the exploitation of relief facilities for the delivery of supplies that fan the fighting and will exercise full control of the relief operations," said government spokesman Ghazi Salah Eddin Atabani. The government "sticks to its right of supervising humanitarian supplies as indicated" in the 1987 agreement with the UN-sponsored Operation Lifeline-Sudan (OLS).

On July 22, President Omar al-Bashir had blasted phony relief efforts, and declared that Sudan was closing its airspace to relief flights from abroad, and considering a ban on the OLS for allegedly helping the rebels. Mutref Siddeiq, Bashir's adviser in the peace talks with rebel groups (most of which have signed accords with Khartoum), said that Khartoum had "concrete evidence" that the OLS was helping to arm the SPLA, according to the July 24 daily *Sahafi Ad-Dawli*: "The UN has no right to object to a revision of the OLS agreement," which became necessary, due to "unfair relief distribution and violation of the country's sovereignty," he said. Stressing that the government has zero tolerance for aid groups that help Garang, Siddeiq warned that "strict measures will be clamped on for regulation

of operations of the foreign organizations in southern Sudan."

These development occurred amidst reports of heavy fighting, where the SPLA has planned a major offensive on the southern oilfields.

In addition, Sudan has accused Eritrea of building up troops and equipment on its border with eastern Sudan in support of the National Democratic Alliance rebels. The NDA have been using Eritrea to attack border towns and military garrisons in Sudan's East. However, in late July, Sudanese Defense Ministry officials were reportedly in discussions with Eritrea on easing the tensions between Khartoum and Asmara.

Bangladesh Leader Hasina Gets Threats

Serious threats to the life of Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed have grown since nearly 140 pounds of explosives were found in her election district, where she had been scheduled to speak, according to *The Hindu* of India on July 23. She told thousands of her constituents in Kotlipara that "threats and obstacles" would not stop her from establishing people's rights. "Like my father, I'm ready to sacrifice my life for the people," she said.

Sheikh Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was the founder of Bangladesh, which had been set up in the breakup of British India as East Pakistan. On Aug. 15, 1975, Sheikh Mujib was killed in a coup, when the military killed 15 members of his family, including one infant and a child, in order to "eradicate" the family. Sheikh Hasina and one of her sisters were in Germany at the time, and thus, had escaped the murders. For the next eight years, she lived in New Delhi under the protection of India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She returned to Dhaka in 1983, and became prime minister in 1996.

Sheikh Hasina's closeness to India makes her a target of the right-wing "Islamic" parties at home, and Pakistani intelligence abroad. She has also become a target of Northeast India's secessionist guerrillas, who use her country as a base.