

secution of officers, and also soldiers, who fought subversion in the 1990s, under the Fujimori government. They are now being accused of human rights violations. It has reached the point that charges have been filed against the military heroes who risked their lives, and rescued hundreds of hostages who had been seized by the MRTA in 1997, at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador. Now, the judiciary—clearly under pressure from the Executive—has accused these heroes of being assassins. Hundreds of officers who saved the nation in the '90s are today in the dock of the accused, without so much as the funds to pay their lawyers. Others have gone into hiding.

Perhaps more destructive than Shining Path's bomb, was the appeal for clemency for terrorist Lori Berenson, an American citizen, which Bush delivered to his Peruvian counterpart, according to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. To intercede for Berenson in Peru is tantamount to a foreigner traveling to the United States, and asking for the release of someone implicated in the attack on New York's World Trade Center. Berenson was convicted after being caught red-handed preparing to blow up the Peruvian Congress, where, along with her MRTA cohorts, she had planned to take hostages to exchange for the release of MRTA prisoners.

Peruvians were stunned that Bush, after all his public declarations against terrorism, would ask for the freedom of a confessed narco-terrorist like Berenson.

Equally foolish was Bush's explicit backing for the "Truth Commission," which he said he would support with an additional \$3.5 million in financing. The Truth Commission in Peru, far from doing honor to its name, is heading up the persecution of military personnel who fought narco-terrorism during the 1990s, thereby setting a precedent for what will happen to any soldier who dares defend his country against a new round of narco-terrorist warfare. One look at who makes up this Commission suffices to reveal its true nature:

**Foreign Minister Diego García Sayán**, financial speculator George Soros' operative in Peru, who openly calls for drug legalization and an end to the war against drugs. García Sayán made jail conditions of terrorist prisoners more flexible, and has freed with impunity dozens of these terrorists, while handing over the prisons to Shining Path and MRTA.

**Iván de Gregori**, a "Senderologist" from the Institute of Peruvian Studies, financed by the Ford Foundation, and an anthropologist with a degree from the San Cristóbal University of Huamanga, where Abimael Guzmán taught.

**Carlos Tapia**, who was a sympathizer of armed struggle in the 1970s, and a member of the ILA (Iniciación de la Lucha Armada) movement then headed by Guzmán in Ayacucho. It is said that Tapia distanced himself from Shining Path when Guzmán stole his girlfriend, Augusta la Torre, whom he ended up marrying.

**Alberto Morote Sánchez**, nephew of Efraín Morote Best, one of Shining Path's bloodiest commanders.

The Jesuit **Msgr. Luis Bambarén**.

Why are millions of dollars going to these men, from a President who says he is at total war against world terrorism?

## Intelligence Intrigues Erupt in Blair's Britain

by Alan Clayton

As political tensions in Great Britain mount, because of the collapsing economy and intensifying opposition to Prime Minister Tony Blair's support for a new American war against Iraq, the fissures and frictions among the political elites may be reflected in a number of strange episodes in the domain of intelligence and security. While no clear pattern yet emerges from these disparate episodes, they all bear watching as signs that things are not exactly "in order," in Her Majesty's domain. There are three such peculiar developments in recent days.

On the 20th of March, the Blair government announced an independent inquiry into the theft of highly sensitive intelligence documents from a top-security police base in East Belfast, in Northern Ireland. Suspicion fell, in this unusual case, on the police themselves; or possibly, on British secret agents. The police refused to reveal the content of the stolen papers, but they are believed to relate to informants. There are fears in certain British security circles, that some of these sources could be at risk and that vital counter-terrorist work may be compromised. Britain is the "headquarters" location for the majority of the 29 organizations on the terrorist list circulated by the U.S. State Department.

### A Very Strange Break-In

The chief constable of Northern Ireland, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, appointed the most senior detective in Belfast, Chief Superintendent Phil Wright, to head a criminal investigation into the break-in at what was once Northern Ireland's main terrorist interrogation center and is still one of the most closely guarded police premises in Western Europe.

Security sources hinted that the raid on the Special Branch office within the fortified complex at Castlereagh in Belfast, bore the hallmarks of an "inside job." They suggested it might have been carried out by disgruntled police officers trying to discredit Special Branch, or by M15 (domestic intelligence), or by military intelligence for some as yet unknown motive. "We are keeping an open mind but it is fair to say at this stage it looks like the perpetrators had detailed insider knowledge of Castlereagh and the security system," said a police source. "It doesn't have the calling card of paramilitaries." "Paramilitaries" refers to the heavily armed Northern Ireland organizations of "Protestant" or "Catholic" profile.

The police spokesman said: “We are still weighing up the significance of what was taken, but it could be that trying to embarrass or discredit Special Branch, just by showing they could stage a break-in, was more important to them than what was actually taken.”

Both Unionist and nationalist politicians in Northern Ireland asked how three men, who were not masked and one of whom had an English accent, got into Castlereagh, found their way to the anonymous first-floor office, struck, bound, and gagged the police officer on duty, took the papers, and escaped unhindered! They would have had to produce identification to get past guards, and also know door codes to reach the office.

The men disappeared with Special Branch notebooks detailing times, places, telephone numbers, codewords, and information supplied by informers. Sources insisted that the stolen material did not relate to any particular investigation. They denied speculation that they were documents relating to the August 1998 terrorist atrocity in the town of Omagh, in which 28 people were killed; or the murders, by MI5-assisted Protestant Loyalist death squads, of lawyers Rosemary Nelson and Pat Finucane.

### **Mystery of a 1994 Crash**

The breach may well be related to possible MI5 implication in the Omagh bombing, and to factions within British intelligence determined to wreck the Northern Ireland peace process.

Coming along with this incident, is the news that the Boeing Corp. of the United States is to do a live re-run of the Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash.

Considerable doubts have emerged, over the hotly disputed decision by senior Royal Air Force (RAF) officers, to blame the pilots for the crash of a Boeing-made Chinook helicopter into the Mull of Kintyre in 1994, killing all 29 people on board, 25 of whom were MI5, army, and Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) intelligence officers from Northern Ireland, and four crew.

Papers leaked to *Computer Weekly* magazine show that, in a legal action in the United States, the British Ministry of Defence itself said the software on the Chinook was “unsafe.” An RAF officer told a board of inquiry that problems with the Chinook’s software had resulted in uncontrolled engine acceleration and cutouts and misleading instrument readings in the cockpit.

The Boeing Corp. is determined to prove that its aircraft and its computer software were sound, which raises the question: If the helicopter was safe and the pilots made no human error, what exactly caused a crash, in which so many senior intelligence and military people were killed?

### **The ‘SNLA’ Caper**

Almost at the same time as this was happening, there was a new “terrorism in Scotland” scare, involving the so-called Scottish National Liberation Army, or SNLA. This grouping

was charged with sending packages containing corrosive caustic soda, disguised as aromatherapy oil, to several leading British personalities. The story was played up, for a few days, as something similar to the anthrax scares in the United States in October 2000.

In a telephone call to police, a man claiming to be from the “SNLA” said that 16 packages had been sent. Only two ever arrived. Blair’s wife Cherie is thought to have been the target of the package sent to 10 Downing Street. It was detected at an off-site screening center set up after 11 September.

The Scottish National Liberation Army is typical of a weird kind of intelligence agency-run “throwaway,” or “cut-out,” that can suddenly emerge to public prominence, whenever that is convenient, but with no real threat involved. As the story goes, it was formed in 1980, by a Glasgow-born former soldier, Adam Busby, 53, who declared war on “mass English immigration” to Scotland. Busby now lives in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, to which he fled to seek political asylum in 1983, after having made a series of hoax bomb calls and death threats to the Queen. He lives in a poor district of Dublin, and his address and phone number there are well known to the Scottish press corps, who tend to phone him for quotes on his grandiose claims. Despite this, the British police Special Branch claim they cannot find him!

From time to time, “SNLA scares” pop up in the British press. In September 2001—a month when terrorism was highlighted—the sensationalist *News of the World Sunday* tabloid claimed that Busby had the support of the “Real IRA” terrorists, and was implicated in the Omagh bomb outrage; and that, in addition to this, the Russian Maoist Party, animal rights campaigners, and an American-based pro-Celtic group dedicated to damaging English business interests bankrolled him. This, despite the fact that he reportedly doesn’t have enough money for bus fare in Dublin!

Busby has also claimed, with no apparent evidence, to have access to “anthrax island,” the now-unpopulated island of Gruinard, on the west coast of Scotland, where anthrax was developed on a large scale in 1943, to be used against the German civilian population, if Germany showed signs of defeating Britain in the last war.

That he would be “surfaced” right now, is indicative of the kinds of intelligence games being played, and is obviously a cover for things more sinister, in the underworld of British intelligence operations.

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