Blair secretly allows US missiles on British soil

LONDON, 18 Oct — Prime Minister Tony Blair has secretly agreed to allow Washington to station US missiles on British soil as part of President George W Bush’s missile defence programme, The Independent on Sunday newspaper reported.

The paper said Blair’s Downing Street office had given an “agreement in principle” to the US Defence Department that the weapons — so-called interceptor missiles — could be sited at a Royal Air Force base in Fylingdales, northern Britain.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence denied the reports, saying no approach had been made by the US Government over the deployment of interceptors in Britain, and there was no deal.

“No agreement has been reached,” he said.

Although the British Government has said it will allow Washington to use early warning radar at the Fylingdales base for the missile defence programme, it has said nothing publicly about whether missiles would be sited there.

The Independent on Sunday report angered some left-wing members of Blair’s Labour Party, many of whom want their government to play no part in the US defence system.

“(This) is another example of how we appear to be in the pocket of America,” Labour Member of Parliament Diane Abbott told BBC television. “We have nonnational interest in having American missiles on British soil.”

The Independent on Sunday said the agreement was reached at a meeting between British and American officials in May but that London had asked that no formal request be made by Washington until after British elections, widely expected in May 2005.

Menzies Campbell, foreign affairs spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, Britain’s third party, expressed concern that a decision may have been reached in secret.

“These reports, if true, are a source of grave concern given that a decision appears to have been taken behind closed doors before a full public debate on the costs and strategic implications,” he told the newspaper.

“This could have major implications for the defence posture of Britain, our relations with NATO countries and other allies, and the strategic balance of nuclear weapons around the world.”

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam to put heavier penalty on IPR violators

HANOI, 19 Oct — Vietnam plans to put harsher punishment and higher fines on violators of intellectual property rights (IPR), in a move to deal with the rampant piracy in the country, according to Vietnam Investment Review on Monday.

Under a draft decree, organizations or individuals that are involved in intellectual property rights violations may be subject to temporary or permanent revocation of their business licence, while producers and sellers of fake products could face fines of up to 100 million Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly 6,400 US dollars).

Stiffer fines are expected to reduce the rampant sales of fake products, especially electronic devices and sport brands like Nike and Adidas, Tran Viet Hung, deputy head of Vietnam’s National Office of Intellectual Property, said, noting that penalties stipulated in a decree issued in 1999 are relatively mild.

Under the expected new decree, organizations or individuals giving false information regarding rights ownership of any item will be fined 1-3 million VND (64-191 US dollars) instead of the current 0.5-2 million VND (32-128 US dollars).

Penalties will also be based on the value of the product in question. A fine of 15-30 million VND (955-1,910 US dollars) is proposed for producers or counterfeit goods worth 20-50 million VND (1,274-3,185 US dollars).

Vietnam has made great efforts to combat piracy and comply with international rules on intellectual property rights. At the 4th round of negotiations for its entry into the World Trade Organization in Switzerland in June 2004, the country basically pledged to abide by the organization’s agreements, including the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese police arrive in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti), 18 Oct — A contingent of 95 riot police from China arrived in Haiti on Sunday to help restore order in the Caribbean nation.

Chinese police arrived Sunday to assist in the battle against gang violence that has plagued the nation over the past week. The police mission is expected to last for about a month.

MNA/Reuters

Central American nations may send troops to Haiti

TEGUCIGALPA (Honduras), 18 Oct — Central American countries are considering sending troops to Haiti at the request of the United Nations to cope with the rising violence there, Honduran President Ricardo Maduro said on Saturday.

Brazilian-led UN troops are stretched to the limit as they try to prevent the looting of aid supplies, and to stop gun battles and political clashes in the Caribbean island.

Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua are looking into sending a “humanitarian rescue unit” made up of soldiers, Maduro told a news conference at government headquarters.

“This is something that the region’s defence ministers are going to look at jointly. I understand we have to take a decision quickly,” he said.

El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua sent troops to Haiti as part of the US-led coalition last year, but only Salvadoran forces remain after the other two countries pulled out.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said on Thursday the UN peacekeepers in Haiti urgently need reinforcements to cope with surging violence in the Caribbean country, which was also devastated by tropical storms.

The UN force has just 2,600 soldiers, said Amorim — a fraction of the 6,700 troops and 1,600 police authorized for Haiti.

MNA/Reuters
Nine Iraqi police killed in ambush

KERBALA (Iraq), 18 Oct — Gunmen ambushed a minibus carrying nine Iraqi police recruits home from a training course in Jordan, killing all of them, police in Kerbala said.

The attack happened late on Saturday as the men were passing between the volatile towns of Latifiya and Yusufiyya, about 20 miles southwest of Baghdad.

“They were returning from a training course in Amman,” a police spokesman said. “No one survived and the attackers escaped.”

Guerrillas regularly attack military convoys and vehicles carrying foreign contractors on the main road which leads south from Baghdad towards the holy city of Kerbala.

US forces recently launched an operation in the region surrounding Latifiya and Yusufiyya to try to weed out guerrillas and bandits carrying out attacks there. Hundreds of Iraqi police and recruits have been killed in car bomb attacks, drive-by shootings and ambushes over the past year as guerrillas try to disrupt US attempts to establish a stand-alone Iraqi security force.

The US military has established a centre in Jordan to try to speed up the process of training new recruits. Training grounds in Iraq have frequently been attacked, as have recruitment posts throughout the country.

More than 40 people were killed last month after a suicide bomber detonated his vehicle outside a recruitment centre in the heart of Baghdad. — MNA/Reuters

A British Army soldier arrives at the site of a roadside bomb attack in Basra on 18 Oct, 2004. — INTERNET

Jordan denies detention of trucks in Iraq

AMMAN, 18 Oct — Jordanian Transport Ministry on Sunday said there were no Jordanian trucks that have been detained inside Iraq, the official Petra news agency reported.

Local Arabic newspaper Al-Dostor reported earlier in the day that about 100 Jordanian trucks were detained in the Iraqi border region with Jordan because those Jordanian drivers have not paid the insurance fees to the Iraqi Customs.

The ministry has not received any information on imposing insurance fees by the Iraqi side on Jordanian trucks crossing into the lands. Abu Batayneh, general secretary of the ministry, was quoted as saying. Transport situation between the two countries is normal and under the control of transport agreements, Batayneh added. The official said that “as for Iraq, the International Land Transport Agreement between Jordan and Iraq, commits vehicles used for transport between the two countries to take the necessary insurance measures in accordance with laws and regulations.” — MNA/Xinhua

Russia opens second military base in Central Asia

MOSCOW, 18 Oct — Russia opened a new military base in Tajikistan Sunday, the second in Central Asia since the Soviet collapse in 1991, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin raised a Russian flag at the base, saying that “the military base in Tajikistan, along with the air base in Kyrgyzstan, will be a reliable element in the united system of collective security in the region.” The forces there would create conditions for neutralizing terrorist and extremist attacks across the entire former Soviet Union, said Putin.

On Saturday, Putin and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rakhmonov signed a protocol on the commencement of a Russian military base in the Central Asian country. Russia’s 5,000-strong 201st Motorized Rifle Division, now deployed near Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan, after retreating from Afghanistan in 1989, will station in the new military base. As part of the deal, Russia will write off 330 million US dollars of Tajik debts and pledge investments totalling 2 billion dollars over the next years. — MNA/Xinhua

Eight Egyptians deported from South Africa

CAIRO, 18 Oct — Eight Egyptians, together with two Algerians, were deported by Johannesburg Airport security authorities on Sunday, Egypt’s official MENA news agency reported.

It said the measure was taken after the South African authorities suspected the entry visas held by the deportees were forged. However, the Egyptians said they got the visas from an Egyptian living in South Africa and denied knowing that the visas were false. MENA said Cairo Airport security started investigations with the returnees to find out why they were expelled from South Africa.

Poll shows Bush underestimated number of troops needed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 Oct — A majority of US troops serving in Iraq and their families said the Bush Administration did not send enough forces to Iraq and relied too heavily on the National Guard and reserve troops, a poll showed on Saturday.

Almost two-thirds of those surveyed by the Annenberg Public Policy Centre, or 65 per cent, said they believed US President George W Bush “had underestimated the number of troops needed in Iraq,” the poll said. But while 60 per cent said part-time troops were overburdened and the number of regular troops should have been expanded, a larger majority, 74 per cent, said they were opposed to restarting the draft.

Annenberg researchers surveyed 186 troops who were serving on active duty in Iraq between February and October, including full-time, National Guard and reservist forces. If they were not available for polling, a family member was surveyed. The results were part of a larger survey of 635 troops or their families. Forty per cent of National Guard members and reservists surveyed said they did not have enough training or supplies for their mission in Iraq, compared with 35 per cent who said they were adequately prepared, the poll found. — MNA/Reuters

260 Iraqi detainees to be released from Abu Gharib

BAGHDAD, 18 Oct — An official at the Iraqi Ministry of Justice announced that the American forces agreed to release 260 Iraqi detainees from the notorious prison of Abu Gharib, west of Baghdad, Al Nahdah newspaper reported Sunday.

“The American forces would release 260 detainees from the prison of Abu Gharib,” said the official, pointing out that 120 detainees would be released with bail while the other 140 would be released without bail. He added that the released are from different governorates of Iraq, 110 from Baghdad and 130 from the other governorates. He also pointed out that the release of those detainees came as a result of the efforts exerted by the quadrilateral committee to follow the issues of the detainees, which includes representatives of the ministries of justice, interior, and the multi national forces.

The American forces announced earlier a programme to release thousands of Iraqi prisoners and detainees after the scandal of abusing Iraq prisoners in the prison of Abu Gharib by the American forces. — MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi boy inspects a destroyed car in Baghdad, on 18 Oct, 2004, after a car bomb exploded near a police patrol in Baghdad’s Jadiriyah district, killing at least six people, including three police officers, and wounding 26. — INTERNET

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It quoted a security source at the airport as saying there was nothing wrong with the passports of the deportees, adding the stamped visas were referred to specialists to make sure of their validity. — MNA/Xinhua
The University for Development of National Races will become a six-year-old institution on 20 October this year. As the university was founded for progress of the whole Union, its aims are noble and its teaching programmes profound and significant. The UDNR has been training its students and trainees to become not only qualified teachers but also junior leaders and good organizers having strong Union Spirit. The university is conducting master’s degree courses for education and philosophy (education), qualification examinations for master’s degree candidates, one-year basic education courses, bachelor’s degree courses for education, a two-year education bridge course, diploma courses for teachership, junior teachership courses, primary teachership courses, and special primary teachership courses. Trainees and students of the university have studied the subjects including teachership subjects in accord with the curricula classes at the university now. As the number of students and trainees has increased, its staff organization has been enhanced. It was opened as the Academy for Development of National Groups in 1964 with a director, an assistant director, 20 teachers and 15 other staff to run it. Now it has become a university which is being run by 184 administrative staff led by a pro-rector (admin) and 348 teaching staff led by a pro-rector (teaching) under the management of the rector.

The university has included the subjects on development in its teaching programme. It is teaching development subjects covering physical education, music, agriculture, art, mechanics, domestic science, history of independence struggle, morals and manners, ethnic languages and culture, traditional martial arts, basic military, basic health, school health, farming, traditional medicine, and computer science to turn out junior leaders who among the locals are the places they are assigned to after completing their studies. In this way, the university is helping further cement national solidarity.

In addition to producing qualified staff and organizers, the UDNR has also made arrangements to enable them to pursue their further studies from the places they are assigned to. Apart from primary assistant teachership courses, the institution is conducting junior assistant teachership courses, degree courses for education and master’s degree courses. After completing a one-year service, a primary assistant teacher can attend the teachership course conducted by the university. As Myanmar has become a continuous learning society, they can pursue arts and science courses through the universities of distance education. After completing a one-year service as a junior assistant teacher or charge duties for one more year, a teacher can attend the one-year education diploma course at the UDNR after discharging duties for a period of one year. And then they will have to discharge duties for one more year, before attending a two-year education bridge course to get a degree in basic education. National races in the entire nation who have passed the matriculation examination can attend the four-year education course at the university if they pass the entrance examination.

While the UDNR is nurturing and producing education staff, it has also selected 30 outstanding students from among their counterparts of the courses from No. 30 to No. 35 to allow them to sit in the entrance examinations of the technical universities. The Government is providing stipends to students who have passed the examination to pursue education at the universities. A total of 101 are attending classes at the universities and 15 have got a degree or completed a diploma course, and are now discharging duties in various sectors of the border areas, as they are changing and developing at present.

### The UDNR’s 40-year journey

*Hway Luwin (Development)*

The system is also called parental guardianship system as its main aim is to look after and guide the students in a way parents do. Teachers are closely watching, helping, guiding and teaching their pupils, who come to the university from far away places, with goodwill and loving kindness like their parents.

The University

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All in all, during the period of 40 years, the University for Development of National Races has produced 1,905 efficient education staff who have the ability to strive for further strengthening of Union Spirit among the national races, and further improvement of their socio-economic standard. After completion of their studies at the university, the students are striving without fail for human resources development in the border areas, regional development, progress of the socio-economic system of the national people, and promotion and propagation of Union Spirit among local people in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Thus, I firmly believe that in the future also, the UDNR that has performed its duties well for 40 years, will continue to stand as an institution training and producing good education staff and organizers on whom the nation can rely.

(Translation: TMT)

***Yacht built by Myanmar Shipyards...***

(from page 1)

YANGON, 19 Oct—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected laying of concrete files on Bogyoke Aung San Road and between Shwebontha Street and 29th Street.

Head of Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) U Bo Htay reported on tasks being carried out. The mayor gave instructions on speedy efforts, quality and supervision.

He also inspected sanitation works on alleys in Mingaladon. — MNA

***USDA CEC member meets trainees***

YANGON, 19 Oct—Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein met with 80 trainees of the Basic Organizing Training Course No 46 here today. During the meeting, the deputy minister explained the lofty aims of the national policy and success in materializing it. The course is being conducted by Dagon Myothit (North) Union Solidarity and Development Association. — MNA

***Kursk State Technical University of Russia donates teaching aids to YTU***

YANGON, Oct 19—Kursk State Technical University of Russia donated five kinds of teaching aids equipment to Yangon Technological University of the Ministry of Science and Technology this morning.

The donation ceremony was attended by YTU Rector Dr Hla Than, Pro-rector of Yangon Computer University Dr Nila Thein, professors and heads of departments, Rector of Kursk State Technical University Dr Zakhardt and Dr Zhubarvc and officials. Dr Zakhardt and Dr Zhubarvc explained the purpose of the donation and presented five kinds of teaching aids to Rector Dr Hla Than. — MNA

***Deputy Minister inspects railway projects***

YANGON, 19 Oct—Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than arrived in Taunggyi and met officials from the departments under the ministry on 16 October and gave necessary instructions.

The deputy minister proceeded to Ponchaung together with officials from Myanmar Railways and inspected the construction tasks and fulfilled the needs for Saikong-Ponchaung railway road project. He also guided to start Ponchaung-Taungsa new railway. The deputy minister then inspected Ponchaung-Htooikan railway section.

Deputy Minister U Pe Than arrived back to Taunggyi and met officials from the departments under the ministry and gave necessary instructions. On 18 October, the deputy minister and party left Taunggyi for Myitthar and proceeded to Mandalay. On the way, the rail deputy minister inspected railway projects and attended to the needs. He gave necessary instructions to the officials from the departments under the ministry and fulfilled the needs.

On the evening, the deputy minister for rail transportation met division level officers of Myanmar Railways on his way to Yangon and inspected the upgrading tasks on Yangon-Mandalay railway line and attended to the needs. He arrived back here on 19 October morning. — MNA

***Mayor inspects measures undertaken for greening, cleaning and upgrading of the city***

YANGON, 19 Oct—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected laying of concrete files on Bogyoke Aung San Road and between Shwebontha Street and 29th Street.

Head of Engineering Department (Roads and Bridges) U Bo Htay reported on tasks being carried out. The mayor gave instructions on speedy efforts, quality and supervision.

He also inspected sanitation works on alleys in Mingaladon. — MNA

***Sittway Port inspected***

YANGON, 19 Oct—Managing Director U Soe Tint of Inland Water Transport on 17 October inspected durability and maintenance of ships at Sittway Dockyard and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Next, the managing director inspected the passengers’ ticket booth and durability of the bridge at the port and Danyawady Craft-1 and Aungtagon Craft-1 and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA