

Cyprus Mail

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SPECIAL REPORT

The recently released report by the administrators of Polly Peck International shows a quagmire of problems which could take years to resolve

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PYLA

While politicians and newspapers get upset over minarets and telephones in Pyla, the residents are just getting on with their lives

Centre pages



SPORT

Ruud Gullitt's injuries have added to AC Milan's problems. They face an awkward match with Real Sociedad today

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Gulf states agree to Mid-East conference

Arabs boost Baker mission

Alan Elson

Shannon, Ireland (R) U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday won the agreement of six oil-rich Arab nations to participate in a regional Middle East peace conference with Israel, U.S. officials said.

A senior official on Baker's plane said the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would issue a statement agreeing to send its secretary general as an observer to the conference Baker is trying to convene.

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"The GCC announces its readiness to participate if invited as an observer in the forthcoming peace conference through representation by its secretary general,"

said the statement, which a senior U.S. official handed to reporters.

"The GCC members will also participate in any meetings that will include the countries of the region to discuss issues pertaining to arms control and destruction of all weapons of mass destruction, water resources and protection of the environment," the statement said.

The statement was a major boost for Baker's mission, his fourth to the Middle East since the end of the Gulf War.

"It's obviously a step forward. It breaks a rather major taboo that had heretofore existed," said a senior U.S. official.

He also said Baker had earlier tried to broker a deal whereby Arab states would suspend their economic boycott of companies doing

business with Israel in exchange for a freeze on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

"But we haven't got anything from either side," said the official.

Baker was on his way to Syria, where he is to meet President Hafez al-Assad today. From there he plans to visit Egypt and Jordan before ending his mission in Israel.

The GCC statement, which came as a complete surprise after Saudi Arabia said earlier it would not attend a conference, appeared to turn transform Baker's prospects.

Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Besmertnykh said yesterday he was cautiously optimistic that a Middle East peace conference could take place and warned that failure would spell tragedy for the region.

Iranians disappointed

THE Iranian Embassy in Nicosia has described the outcome of the trial of the four Israeli nationals found tampering with the telephone wires of the Iranian embassy in Nicosia as "far from" the hopeful expectations they had.

The four Israelis pleaded guilty on Thursday to charges of illegal entry and were fined £500 each. Another five charges were withdrawn.

The Iranian Embassy's press officer in a written statement said the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs had previously allayed Iranian concerns relating to the matter and assured that "it would seriously fulfil the duty which is undertaken under international law in protecting the accredited diplomatic missions."

But, it added, "whatever has been done in this regard, is very far from hope-

Ruthless cult has local company

Michelle Kambas

MEMBERS of the Church of Scientology, described as a thriving cult of greed and power in a recent *Time* magazine expose have been linked to Cyprus through offshore company Theta Management Limited, which deals in consultancy and investments.

In a special report dated May 6, *Time* reporter Richard Behar said the Church, which claims to have eight million followers, squirreled away an estimated \$400 million in bank accounts in Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Cyprus.

Theta Management Ltd was created on 29.10.1984, on £100,000 capital. Until November 4 of the same year, Costas Kemisis, an accountant, and Marina Marangou, a lawyer, were managers of the firm. Shortly afterwards US citizens

Michael and Marlene Parodi, and Canadian Murray Bauman were appointed Managing Director, Patent Officer and Managing Director of the firm, respectively.

In 1986 French citizen Sabine Eleyelle Bauman took over as Managing Director from Michael Parodi. New Zealanders Pauline Chatterton and Helen Wehl were appointed manager and accountant in the firm.

The Parodis and Bauman registered their address in company documents as 47-31 and 48-33 Fountain Avenue, Los Angeles.

The *Cyprus Mail* has discovered this address is the same as the Church of Scientology's headquarters in Los Angeles.

Registered addresses of Chatterton Wehl and Sabine Eleyelle Bauman are the same as that of Scientolo-

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FAMILY LOST: A woman cries at her home in Bashkhali, Bangladesh, over the loss of her daughter and two grandchildren in the cyclone (AP Wirephoto)

Bangladeshi floods leave 150,000 homeless

Dhaka, Bangladesh (AP) SURGING rivers in the north drowned at least eight people yesterday and left at least 150,000 people marooned after sweeping away their homes, newspapers reported.

A slight earthquake just across the border in India shook a hilly region of eastern Bangladesh, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The quake measured 4.9 on the Richter scale and struck about 90 kilometers southeast of the Bangladeshi town of Sylhet at 8:15

a.m., said S.N. Chatterjee, a seismologist with the Indian Meteorology Department in New Delhi.

The quake was the latest in a numbing cycle of disasters to hit this impoverished nation still struggling to help survivors of an April 30 cyclone that killed more than 125,000 along the southern coast.

At least 118 people have died in tornadoes and floods since the cyclone and accompanying tidal wave raged ashore from the Bay of Bengal. The foul weather has pummeled virtually

every part of the country.

The latest floods were in the area around Sylhet, 190 kilometers northeast of Dhaka. The region -- one of the few hilly parts of Bangladesh -- funnels rain-swollen rivers that cascade down the Himalayan mountains in India.

The *New Nation*, an independent Dhaka daily, said six people, mostly children and teen-agers, drowned in the Sylhet region. Another independent newspaper, *The Bangladesh Observer*, said two more people died when their houses collapsed in the swirling flood waters.

'Mafia - like' US cult has local links

(Continued from page 1)
 gy's college, in East Grinstead, Sussex, England.
 On Tuesday an article appeared in *Alithia* newspaper on Scientology, based on Behar's findings that the cult had millions stashed away in Cyprus. The writer of the article urged that the

group here be exposed.
 The following day Nicosia lawyer Tassos Papadopoulos wrote to the newspaper, acting on behalf of Theta Management Ltd.
 The letter said the said article made "unacceptable innuendos" about Theta, and was libellous.

The report, written by *Alithia* chief editor Alcos Constantinides, did not mention any company by name, and merely said that Scientology followers believed they were "Thetans."

Papadopoulos, a high ranking Democratic Party member and MP candidate, said yesterday the beliefs of the company's administration were of no concern to him.

Papadopoulos said Theta Management deals with investments and consultancy. A file at the Registrar of Companies' office lists the aims of the company as to "handle, invest, run and allot money or fortunes of charities, religious organisations, religious organisations and companies" and that it "advices and offers services through centres, promotes educational semi-

nars, and offer lessons to institutions, schools and companies."

Costas Kemitis, who is on company file as being a

boasts 700 centres in 65 countries, whilst many of its followers have been accused of committing financial scams, writes *Time*.

itable racket that survives by intimidating members and critics in a Mafia-like manner.

A youth from Pennsylvania, Noah Lotlik, 24, committed suicide last year by jumping off a hotel building. When police arrived at the scene, his fingers were still clutching \$171 in cash, the only money he hadn't yet turned over to Scientology, which he had discovered seven months earlier.

Before the youth killed himself, he had paid the Church \$5,000 for church counselling. After his death, the cult haggled with his parents over \$3,000 Lotlik had paid for services he never used.

His parents, *Time* claims, blame the church, and would like to sue them but are frightened by the organisation's reputation for ruthlessness.

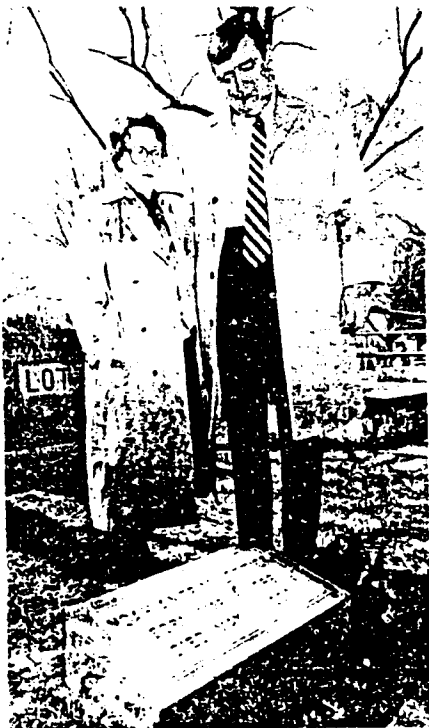
The church (is) a global scam, a hugely profitable organisation that survives by intimidating members -- Time magazine.

majority shareholder in Theta, could not give any explanation yesterday as to why the company felt bitter about the *Alithia* article. "I have no idea what the company does - and anyhow," he said, "I did register Theta, but I am just an employee."

The Church of Scientology was created by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, to "cure people of unhappiness." The group

The church attracts its followers through a wide array of front groups in such businesses as publishing, consulting, health care and remedial occupation. In the 1960s writes Behar, the cult decreed that humans are made of clusters of spirits (or 'thetans') who were banished to earth 75 million years ago by a cruel galactic ruler named Xenu.

Time calls the church a global scam, a hugely prof-



■ Grieving parents lost a son to the Scientology cult.

No word on Costa's extradition, police say

Jean Christie

DESPITE British press reports that the British authorities are considering applying for the extradition of Charliou Costa, police here yesterday re-confirmed that they have not as yet been approached in the case.

Millionaire fashion king Costa whose empire recently crashed, hit the British headlines on Thursday in *The Sun*, in what he has called a "politically motivated smear campaign", against his close friend Labour leader Neil Kinnock.

The Times reported on Friday that the Fraud Squad began an investigation into the affairs of Costa earlier this year assigning a detective to examine allegations surrounding a missing

£7m to £10m. According to the report, the Squad, on Thursday continued preparations to submit a report to the Crown Prosecution Service on the case. "The report might recommend extradition proceedings be started against Costa," the paper said.

However, police spokesman here, Savvas Antonides said yesterday that the British police have not asked their assistance in locating Costa as yet.

Costa fled to the island in February and has, friends in Nicosia say, been trying to sort out his financial troubles from here. He is believed to be in Larnaca, where according to his lawyer Polakis Sarris, the millionaire attended a number of business meetings on Friday.

Highlights from the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account, of the Arab Bank Group as at 31 December 1990.

	US\$
Total Assets	13,131,522,000
Total Liabilities	12,228,655,000
Shareholders' Equity	902,867,000
Contingent Exposure	2,353,784,000
Total	15,485,306,000
Total Revenue	351,802,000
Total Expenses	197,001,000
Net Profit (before tax)	154,801,000

Geographical Distribution of Main Financial Items (in percentage points)

	Jordan	Middle East & North Africa excl. Jordan	Europe	Far East & Australia	North America
Total Assets	10.5	19.4	58.0	4.9	7.2
Loan Portfolio	11.7	23.8	41.4	10.0	13.1
Deposits	11.7	19.9	58.5	1.7	8.2
Revenue	14.6	24.8	54.4	3.0	3.2

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TEACHING VACANCIES

IN THE CYPRUS POLICE ACADEMY

Applications are invited by Cypriot citizens for the following teaching posts in the Cyprus Police Academy:

- (a) Managing and Monitoring the Learning Process.
- (b) Research and development in Criminology and related areas of the Criminal Justice System.

Annual salary £2,100+ basic plus increments and cost of living allowance.

Applications including a detailed curriculum vitae, should be submitted on the appropriate form (Form P 80) to the Chief of Police, Police Headquarters Nicosia, not later than the 30th of May, 1991.

Applications must be fluent in English and Greek.

The appropriate forms can be obtained from Police Headquarters Nicosia, Police Academy, or Divisional Police Headquarters.