

INTERNATIONAL PRESS GRID ON THE TERRORIST RAID ON THE OPEC
MINISTERIAL MEETING IN VIENNA

Dec. 27 (IPS)--The following grid of international press on the terrorist raid on OPEC Vienna meeting is broken down into five parts:

- Part 1: Early reports on the Vienna raid
- Part 2: Reaction by Arab and OPEC sources
- Part 3: Other Third World Reaction
- Part 4: Reaction of East Bloc and Western Communist Parties
- Part 5: Western Reaction

Part 1: Early Reports on the Vienna Raid

Associated Press, Dec. 21--Early AP dispatches, which were widely carried in the U.S., West German, and Latin American press, had two idiosyncratic features which colored all early perspectives on the Vienna events. First, the "Arm of the Arab Revolution" terrorists were portrayed as a pro-Iraqi group which strongly opposed the Sinai pact and called for an Iraq-Syria front in terms similar to those used by Iraqi President Bakr in July. Second, in regard to the reports that the notorious international terrorist "Carlos" was among the terrorists involved in the OPEC takeover, AP noted that "on various occasions it has been said that "Carlos" is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" (a group with pro-Iraq connections) and is "perhaps an agent trained by the Soviets." AP further recalled that when Carlos was involved in operations earlier in the year in France, "three Cuban diplomats were expelled from that country." The AP release went into considerable detail in describing Carlos' past, noting among other things that Saudi Arabian Sheikh Yamani, is on his assassination list. The AP dispatch was conduited to most major U.S. press and broadcast media.

Part 2: Reaction by Arab and OPEC Sources

Ettelat, Iran, Dec. 22--An article by chief economist Ali Bastani stated: "The industrial West is attempting to gain control over OPEC and out of this reason, had worked with many tricks and even with military threats. Out of this reason, some people believe that in the very near future it will be revealed that Western security organizations are holding the strings of the armed attack of the terrorists in Vienna." The statement was reprinted by Pravda, the official Soviet Party newspaper, in an Dec. 22 Associated Press dispatch carried in the U.S. by the Seattle Times and the Chicago Tribune and in West Germany by the Suddeutsche Zeitung, and in the Mexico City papers El Dia and Excelsior.

Stimme der DDR, German Democratic Republic, Dec. 22--Official statement of the Palestine Liberation Organization issued by PLO foreign affairs representative Farouk Qaddumi: "The OPEC terrorism is aiming at destroying the solidarity of the Third World. The action is directed against the Arabian OPEC countries which intend to defend their rights against the oil monopolies and want to control their national wealth."

United Press International, Dec. 22--Quotes an unidentified Kuwaiti daily which charged: "The terrorists belong to a gang of international criminals... Only the U.S. gains from the attack in Vienna."

Neues Deutschland, German Democratic Republic, Dec. 23--A further statement by the PLO's Qaddumi denounced "the imperialist and Zionist forces" as being behind the attack and wanting to keep the OPEC organization from being an instrument of struggle for the developing countries.

Unita, Italy, Dec. 23--Quotes an unnamed Arab diplomat as charging that the terrorism could be a "sinister machination behind which there could be the CIA." The article was headlined, "Arab Countries are Unanimous in the Condemnation of the Attack."

L'Humanite, France, Dec. 24--Quotes the Kuwaiti paper Al-Rai al-'Amm as having charged that: "The commandos could very well have been recruited by the American secret service."

Part 3: Other Third World Reaction

El Dia, Mexico, Dec. 24--Reported that "Carlos," the alleged leader of the terrorists, "is wanted by the French police for having killed two policemen last July (and) was linked by several diplomatic sources on that occasion to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)."

El Sol, Mexico, Dec. 24--An editorial implies that "security agencies" are involved in terrorist activities and calls on them to end "kidnappings as a new weapon of the 'cold war.'... It not only violates human rights, but it constitutes a 'boomerang' with serious effects for their own governments and an affront to the rest of the world."

Part 4: Reaction by the East Bloc and Western Communist Parties

Stimme der DDR, German Democratic Republic, Dec. 22--Reports that the attack occurred "immediately after the Soviet Union had taken initiatives for reconvening the Geneva Mideast conference... The attack was made by a group that is against the PLO and is not interested in a solution to the Mideast situation."

Unita, Italy, Dec. 23--"Such an action can cause damage, as the PLO stressed, given the sudden appearance of such a totally unknown group on whose identity it is legitimate to formulate all sorts of hypotheses and suspicions. Regarding our position on this situation, ... in the struggle for liberation and in the anti-imperialist fight, isolated and absurd acts of terrorism... can frequently be concrete acts of provocation. These are acts that in any case... directly damage, and in a serious manner, too, precisely the cause of those interests they claim to serve."

Radio Moscow, U.S.S.R., Dec. 24--"According to western press sources, Western and Israeli secret services are behind the terrorist operation in Vienna."

L'Humanite, France, Dec. 24--"The fact that there weren't more victims is due to the firmness with which the Algerians dealt with the situation."

Part 5: Western Reaction

Los Angeles Times, Dec. 23--"What motive underly the Sunday morning violence is yet to be made clear."

Die Welt, West Germany, Dec. 23--"Carlos is a Venezuelan, son of a Communist lawyer, student of the Lumumba University in Moscow, where Third World revolutionaries are educated: representatives of international terrorism. In the past he worked for the radical People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine, for the left-fascist order of Dr. George Habash, since 1972 precisely... Was Habash actually able to win one of the most active terrorists for his professional mini-war against any collaboration, every peace negotiation, as a variant of how the Palestinians fight against Israel?"

Daily Express, Great Britain, Dec. 23--"Sunday's Vienna attacks came as little surprise to Israeli secret service agents who have been tracking this Moscow-trained killer for months across Europe. America's CIA as well as western European security forces have been given details of how the Russian KGB has exploited the skill and fanaticism of Carlos and other terrorists planted in groups in various Western countries."

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, West Germany, Dec. 23--"Observers in Cairo think it is possible that there could be a new crisis in the Persian Gulf and in the Arab world. The Vienna events could be the beginning of a new form of terrorism on the Arab scene, with which not only the Palestinian radicals, but also other Palestinian underground organizations would be active."

Daily Telegraph, Great Britain, Dec. 23--"Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika and the leader of the terrorist gang held an animated and apparently cheerful conversation,... laughed together and the ebullient Bouteflika gesticulated as they talked... The whole episode has caused deep embarrassment in the Arab world. It has proved that the volatility which has turned Beirut into a battle-ground affects the whole region... Not surprisingly, Algeria has not been very forthcoming on what is happening."

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, West Germany, Dec. 23--"How would the world look if Libyan-model military dictatorships were set

up in Iran and Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi, and the monarchs were overthrown? The raw oil supply from the Mideast would be even worse threatened than by any price rises by OPEC. These worries about revolution in the Persian Gulf are what the terrorists have unleashed. The terrorists paid no attention to Iraq, which has even greater oil reserves than Iran. At least in this regard, they are not only criminals but it is also a matter of certain political consequences which enable a glimpse of their goals. (The article proceeds to tie "Carlos" to Habash and the Soviet Union)...The slogans, "Fight the Arab Monarchs," "Down with the traitors," are sounding very dangerous to many Arab eyes. This is the program of the radical Arab left and above all of the most radical Arab-Palestinian groups."

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, West Germany, Dec. 24--"Without much proof, an international conspiracy was created... Everyone said it was Carlos... and if it was Carlos... then only the East could be behind this, said others... The bourgeois observer shivered. But the orthodox communist did too, for despite all the subversive fantasy, international anarchism does not fit at all into the picture of Moscow."