

Q: The Soviets are accusing the Chinese of being behind the terrorism. What do you think that is about?

A: I think this is the pot calling the kettle black. In my view, the Soviet Union, particularly through its satraps in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Cuba, have long been producing surrogate terrorism and training people for years in the Patrice Lumumba University, for example, in Moscow for just this sort of work. To suggest that the Chinese are doing the same is sheer impertinence. They probably are, but as I was saying, this is the pot calling the kettle black.

Q: Do you think that terrorists have any capability for dealing with these counterterror operations?

A: Defensive capability, no. But one has to plan one's operations. For example, an offensive operation such as (Mogadishu) would have been impossible in Washington, D.C. in the Hanafi situation. The building simply couldn't have been stormed. If the terrorists take a building such as that, they may die in the attempt, but they'll kill an awful lot of people in the attempt to dislodge them. This is just bad strategy; they were not farsighted. I had confidently expected an assault, of course, but I would have calculated that we would have lost at least 30 passengers and 10 members of the assault team. I was amazed that we were so lucky in the event.

'Everyone Wants To Make Terrorism Look Like A Conspiracy'

The interview excerpted below is the second Executive Intelligence Review interview with J. Bowyer Bell in the last two weeks. In the first interview, Bell predicted Baader-Meinhof (Red Army Faction (RAF)) revenge in Europe "within two weeks" of the successful release of a hijacked Lufthansa jet in Mogadishu, Somalia. Since that time, the RAF bombed a West German Federal Court building in Bavaria.

Bell is the current Director of Columbia University's Institute on War and Peace in New York City and is a member of the British round-table group, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). The following interview occurred on Oct. 28.

Q: Did you read a feature article in the New York Daily News (Oct. 23) by Russ Braley? (see excerpts above)

A: Everyone wants to make it look like a conspiracy so they don't have to face terrorism. It is here to stay.... The biggest fans for the conspiracy theory come from the East bloc, you know.

Q: Which countries?

A: Well, the Yugoslavs are big on this. I would also include the Soviets and the Poles. The East bloc generally. The idea is if you can pin terrorism on one or two individuals etc. you can solve the problem. They delude themselves that way.

Q: An Associated Press wire identified the names of the hijackers of the Lufthansa airliner and associated them with Wadi Haddad.

A: You haven't gotten anywhere until you understand Middle East terrorism. You know, a couple of Arabs get together in a bar, start a new terrorist organization, carry out a hijacking, and then split into different organizations. Each time, they change their names.

Q: You mean, it's just a small group of individuals?

A: Yes, that's it. Often, they only know each other, if that.

Q: The AP wire made the distinction between Haddad and Dr. George Habbash. What is the difference?

A: The difference is funding. Haddad is funded by Iraq.

Q: Who does Habbash get money from?

A: Anybody he can. Mostly the Syrians.

Q: The AP wire reported that the leader of the Lufthansa Airliner hijacking was a London-trained aviation engineer.

A: (angrily) How are we to know what he was? He could be anything! He may have gone to some London high school for twenty minutes!