

'The organizing process is like the Nazis'

Further insight into the sort of destabilization threatening Europe is provided by an interview, made available to us from an independent investigator, with Mr. H.H.A. Cooper. Known as an "expert" on terrorism, Cooper in fact coordinates aspects of terrorist deployments through a number of international institutions, among them the Aberrant

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Behavior Center in Houston, Texas. The interview, a part of which appears below, focuses on the coalescence of regional separatist-terrorist networks in Europe's Alpine region, a process just given new impetus by the "coronation" of neo-fascist Franz Josef Strauss as Minister President of the "Free State" of Bavaria. (In 1949 Bavaria voted en bloc against West Germany's federal constitution.)

Q: Why has there been so much terrorism in the South Tyrol and Alpine sections of Europe? Could the movement to create a "Europe of the Regions" in that area, which was the theme of the recent regional meeting of state governors at the Cini Foundation in Venice, be a pretext for a new outbreak of Alpine terrorism?

Cooper: As you know, ethnically speaking, and in terms of geography, that region has never been satisfactorily settled. Take the entire region stretching from Italy, the South Tyrol, and going right into Yugoslavia, that hodge-podge of ethnic breeding, that whole corner of the globe, and you get a very depressing picture.

The people there have a sort of ethnic uncertainty that is closed, particularly when you realize that the area, although very important, has little development in it, it's like Appalachia. The area is so depressing that when you travel through it by car you don't even want to get out, and yet it is on the main highway from Munich to Milan. And so the tensions build up, ethnic tensions going far back into the past, beyond the 19th century, and they engage in primitive terrorism.

What I mean by primitive terrorism is not the refined terrorism you see today, but things like blowing up telegraph lines or mail trains.... that's what the South Tyrol had happening to it in the early 1960s, similar to what the Scottish Nationalists were doing during the same period. It's really not terrorism, but a kind of protest, an announcement that they exist but are still too undeveloped to know what they want to engage in anything else.

So I don't think it is a cover for anything of importance. The South Tyrol section is rather

compressed, lying between the Red Cell terrorism in southern Germany, and the Red Brigades in Italy, I don't think this region is capable of the organization needed to carry out terrorism like the German Red Cells do.

Q: Strauss is friends with Otto von Hapsburg, the president of the Pan-European Union, and the Pan-European Union is calling for a "Europe of the Regions" just like the Alpine ethnics...

Cooper: You have this Pan-European Union concentration on the Europe of the Regions as the equivalent of our states' rights movement. What all these regions want is self-government on a factionalized scale, they want an ethnic substitute for government, but they still want the benefits of larger associations. And they have the problem that their units are so very small that they are not really viable without the benefit of larger associations.

Now 20 years ago the big thing was the Treaty of Rome (which created the European Community — ed.), while today the Europe of the Regions is the real concept. And the politicians are trying to capitalize on this. These people, take Strauss, are following the adage "If you can't beat them join them." And so every one is rushing to join the movement the British call devolution.

Q: There must be some links then between Strauss and the South Tyrol separatists who were ethnic terrorists in the 1960s. At his inauguration, by the way, he had an honor guard of the members from one of the South Tyrol sharp shooting associations.

Cooper: I'm sure there are. Look at the organizing principle in those regions — look at how the Nazis took power in that region. They soon learned that all the power is held by the political bosses called *caciques* in Spanish. And the Nazis would organize the two or three *caciques* in each area around there, and all their people would be called Nazis. But in reality, the *caciques* still held the real power, not the Nazis.

The same holds today. Politicians will do anything for votes, even ally with people the way Strauss does.

Q: Isn't there a similar alliance involved in the co-operation between the Austrian right-wing and the Austrian environmentalists in defeating the Zwentendorf nuclear reactor in the recent referendum?

Cooper: That could very well be. I hadn't thought of it that way, but if you look at terrorism as a power struggle you can see how these kinds of people achieve their ends. And remember both the environmentalists and the right-wing have a very similar philosophy.