

Facts Behind Terror by Jeffrey Steinberg

Mitterrand and terrorism

Three assassinations and an attempt on the Pope follow the Socialist victory in France.

As the result of last week's elections in France, security services world-wide are bracing for the most intensive wave of international terrorism in decades.

France under President Giscard had played a pivotal role for seven years in countering the activities of left and right terrorist bands throughout continental Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

In contrast, François Mitterrand is an asset of the Socialist International of Willy Brandt, Bettino Craxi and Olof Palme. The Socialist International convened a series of conferences beginning with a December 1980 session in Washington, D.C. at which an international political destabilization program—placing heavy emphasis on reconstituting 1960s style "disarmament movement" and adjunct underground terrorist network—was spelled out. France under Mitterrand will be a flagship for terrorist actions against the targeted enemies of the Socialists.

Less than 12 hours after the Mitterrand victory, the first serious act of political violence occurred.

Heinz Karry, the economic minister of the West German state of Hessen, was assassinated in his Frankfurt home by an as yet unidentified killer. West German police now report that Karry had been under surveillance for a month, but had refused police protection. A member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), Karry had been an

outspoken supporter of nuclear energy development and the expansion of the Frankfurt airport, both of which have been attacked by the West German environmentalist-terrorist networks.

While West German authorities have been anticipating an all-out terrorist offensive from the "greenies" and from the second generation Baader-Meinhof terrorist underground, they have been hesitant to pin the Karry hit on those networks. The unstated view among West German intelligence pros is that the Mossad Israeli intelligence service may have played a role through a German-based terrorist capability similar to the U.S.A.'s Jewish Defense League.

Within hours of the Karry assassination terrorist incidents were reported in France and Spain. In France, three trains had bombs placed on board. One bomb on a Paris to Lyons train exploded, injuring several passengers; the other two bombs were defused. A group calling itself the Jacques Mesrine Organization claimed credit for the incidents. Jacques Mesrine, the most-wanted French criminal until his recent death, headed a gang of bank robbers that included several former members of the Secret Army Organization (OAS)—the right-wing terrorist organization that carried out over 30 assassination tries against Charles de Gaulle.

Then on Wednesday, May 13, the world was shocked when Pope

John Paul II was seriously injured by a team of assassins as he made his regular weekly appearance at St. Peter's Square. The one individual identified as a would-be assassin was Mehmet Ali Agca.

Agca escaped from a Turkish death row cell in November 1980 after he murdered a Turkish newspaper editor. Agca has been confirmed by Interpol to be a member of the Grey Wolves, a neo-Nazi Turkish organization founded in the early 1940s by its current head, Alparslan Turkes. The Grey Wolves has an extensive network throughout Western Europe drawn predominantly from poorly educated *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers) and has been repeatedly implicated in heroin trafficking between the Middle East and Western Europe.

In addition, the West German magazine *Der Spiegel* published in March 1980 a lengthy dossier on Christian Social Union head Franz-Josef Strauss and a European-wide cabal, *Le Cercle Violet*, which controls, according to *Der Spiegel*, the Grey Wolves and its head Turkes.

Turkish officials, aware of Agca's profile as a high probability assassin (he had issued a death threat against John Paul II during the Pope's 1980 visit to Turkey), had alerted West German and Italian authorities on Agca's presence in Western Europe one week before the shooting in Vatican City.

But despite the Grey Wolf neo-Nazi posture, security officials throughout Europe point out the Mossad has a history of secret agreements with Turkish security agencies and corporate circles involving the use of Istanbul and southern Turkey as training bases and transshipment points for illicit Israeli intelligence activities.