

The case of Abu Nidal: how the Nazi International controls terrorism

by Thierry Lalevée, Middle East Editor

As the Lebanese war reaches the end of its first phase by the evacuation from Beirut of the PLO, an international terror wave is expected to hit Europe, the United States, and even the Arab world in the upcoming weeks. The name of the mysterious international terrorist "Abu Nidal" is on all lips. It was Abu Nidal's action on June 4 against Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov which was the spark which set the Middle East on fire, followed on Aug. 9 by a massacre of unprecedented dimension in a Jewish restaurant in the city of Paris.

Is Abu Nidal the "mastermind" behind international terrorism as "Carlos" was in his time, or rather a mere pawn used by dozens of various services?

As official mythology has it, Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Khalil Al-Banna, is a former member of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Fatah military organization, and the Fatah Baghdad correspondent. Then in late 1973, Abu Nidal decided to join the most extreme side of the "rejectionist front" by first attempting to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who had been judged "too soft" toward the Israelis and the Americans. A few months later Abu Nidal was creating his own organization, "Al Assifa," named after the Fatah's official unit in the late 1960s. Abu Nidal took the leadership of a Baghdad-based "Fatah Revolutionary Council," which in late 1976 gave birth to a shadowy terrorist organization called "Black June," that name being a reference to Syria's military intervention into Lebanon and the subsequent massacre at the Palestinian refugee camp at Tal Zaatar.

From 1976 to the present, Abu Nidal's primary targets are known; these were Said Hammani of the PLO in London, Ezzedin Kallak of the PLO in Paris, Naim Khader of the PLO in Brussels, along with numerous operations inside the Arab world itself. To whose benefit? Up to 1978, it was said that Abu Nidal was Iraq's agent; later, after a short stay in Tripoli, he moved to Damascus to work with Syrian President Assad and Assad's other protégé in Damascus or Beirut, "Carlos."

According to Issam Sartawi and other Palestinian moderates, Abu Nidal's actions were directed primarily by Israel's secret service, the Mossad, which has heavily infiltrated his radical organization by sponsoring fresh recruits from the West Bank occupied territories. In addition, intelligence experts are still arguing whether or not Abu Nidal really did leave Baghdad and some of Abu Nidal's agents may still be there under Iraqi protection.

Then there is the Soviet connection to Abu Nidal. As much as the killing of Palestinian moderates may have pleased the Syrians, the Iraqis, or the Israelis at various points, it is also known that the KGB faction led by Yuri Andropov found in Abu Nidal a useful ally against those Palestinians who may be ready to make a deal with the Americans behind the Soviets' back. Andropov's rise to power may be accompanied by a similar increase of activities by Abu Nidal.

The Nazi connection

This said, a major clue to understanding how Abu Nidal is able to operate throughout the Middle East unpunished has been so far overlooked: the Nazi International. This was summarily pointed out in a recent series of articles published by the French daily *Quotidien de Paris* in an investigation on the Rue des Rosiers massacre of Aug. 9. The *Quotidien de Paris* correspondent in Belgium, Hughes Krasner, reported a weeks-long investigation which had shown a direct connection in terms of logistical support between the French "left-wing" terrorist group "Action Directe" and the French and Belgian extreme right wing, which had enabled Action Directe to choose Brussels as a second headquarters outside France. Two primary names were mentioned:

- Jean François Thiriart, formerly of the Paris-based "La Nation Européenne" and later of the "Jeune Europe" group in Belgium, a "Pan-European" nationalist operation in the spirit of Coudenhove-Kalergi and Otto von Hapsburg's Pan European Union which was modeled on the famous

“blue shirts” of the 1930s;

● and François Genoud, the Lausanne-based former banker who was the recipient of Mohammed Khidder’s National Liberation Front (FLN) war chest, and is to this day a personal friend of former Algerian President and Muslim Brotherhood leader Ahmed Ben Bella.

While Krasner highlighted primarily the logistical connection between Abu Nidal, Action Directe, and right-wing groups, and the direct connection between François Genoud and Action Directe via his protégé Bruno Breguet who was arrested in February (see *EIR*, Apr. 20, 1982), we can in fact go a little bit further than he did in presenting the environment in which Abu Nidal is operating.

Thiriart and Genoud: old Nazis

There is a qualitative difference between Genoud and Thiriart. Thiriart is a renowned fascist whose main source of pride has been his organizing as early as the mid-1960s of the “International Brigade to Liberate Palestine” in which “Pan European nationalists” were sent to be trained militarily in the Middle East. There in Syria or in Iraq in the mid-1960s they could find specific camps, not of the PLO as such but of special units, working under the training command of such former Nazis as Johann Schuller, now in Rome, or Karl van de Put, presently in Belgium. Roger Coudroy, one such “nationalist,” was killed by the Israelis in 1968 in an attempt to infiltrate their territory.

But Thiriart could not have created such an operation without the help of his good friend François Genoud whom he came to know better during Genoud’s short exile in Belgium after World War II. A Swiss, Genoud was during World War II an asset of German military intelligence, the Abwehr. This relationship with the Abwehr was carried out through Genoud’s nightclub in Lausanne the “Oasis,” a relay between Germany and the drug center of Tangiers.

Genoud’s special operation was the Arab world, and this is why you could find him in Cairo in 1953 and 1954 with Otto Skorzeny, Hjalmar Schacht, SS Captain Reichenberg, former General of the Afrika Korps Ramcke, General von Feer, and numerous others. At their meetings was often a guest of first importance, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, al Hussein. Also present were the core group of the later FLN, Ben Bella and others. They were *not* the guest of former Egyptian President Nasser, but special agents sent notably by Allen Dulles to infiltrate the Arab movement in an attempt to reactivate the operations of the old-time British agent, the Mufti.

Genoud’s and his friends’ connections with Dulles, then of the CIA, dated back to mid-1943, when the first contacts and deals were made with the Office of Strategic Services. And as history recalls, though we cannot detail here, they played a significant role in the setup of the political and military crisis which led to the Suez crisis. But from that point on, Genoud created his credibility throughout the region, and was later entrusted with the most important secrets

by the Algerian FLN, though it was also known that Genoud was involved in financing the anti-FLN and anti-de Gaulle OAS. A friend of Mohammed Khidder deposited the FLN war chest in Genoud’s bank, the Arab Commercial Bank. Yet Genoud did not hesitate, according to Spanish writer Gonsales Mata, to play a more than significant role in Khidder’s assassination.

The Nazi International as connecting point

At this point the Nazi International, of which François Genoud is the *eminence grise*, is the connecting center between Middle East-based terrorism and European-based terrorism. As *EIR* documented last February, Genoud has maintained contact with certain factions inside the PFLP represented by Bruno Breguet, who was arrested in 1970 in Israel for such activities, and was also arrested in Paris in February 1982 while working on behalf of Action Directe as well as the Corsican separatist movement FNLC. Breguet, a protégé of Genoud for years according to numerous magazines in France, was freed from jail in Israel after an international campaign organized and financed by Genoud.

Added to that is the strange relationship uniting Genoud to Ben Bella. In a June 19 interview with the *Tribune de Lausanne*, Ben Bella went on record describing Genoud as his best friend. Indeed, Genoud still finances Ben Bella as well as another Algerian insurgent, Ait Ahmed, the mastermind behind Algeria’s Kabyle revolts in 1980. But Ben Bella presently is primarily a leader of the infamous Muslim Brotherhood together with Said Ramadan in Geneva and Salem Azzam in London, and rumor has it that Ben Bella is planning a celebration next year of the 50th anniversary of Hitler’s rise to power in 1933.

In the fall of 1981, Ben Bella attended an international conference of Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Houston, Texas, at the Rothko Chapel, a known cult center run by Madame Dominique de Menil and the Schlumberger family interests. At the closed-door conference, Ben Bella and two dozen other participants discussed a strategy for fomenting “Islamic Revolution” throughout the Middle East. Ben Bella, who has been designated to serve as a “bridge” between Khomeini and the Saudis, denounced the notion of “secular nationalism” as “un-Islamic.”

It is in this very interesting nexus connecting Genoud to Action Directe and to the Muslim Brotherhood that investigations have to be organized to find out where Abu Nidal’s logistical capabilities are in Europe, and for whom he is really deployed. The issue involved is that of a lasting peace in the Middle East. Neither Abu Nidal, nor the Nazi International represented by Genoud, has anything to do with the Palestinian movement which has been striving for a national homeland as part of a policy of cooperation between an independent Palestinian state and Israel. They represent nothing less than a cancer trying to use the Palestinian movement to perpetuate war. It is thus time that these real connections be exposed.