

Malta conference deploys terrorists

by Stuart Pettingell

On March 15-18 the "First International Conference of Peace Liberation and Alternative Movements" was convened on the Mediterranean island of Malta, bringing together over 260 leaders of peace movements, separatist organizations, and liberation struggles from around the world. The conference's purpose was to merge "peace movement" groups operating in the advanced-sector nations with the more violent liberation and separatist groups, forming a globally deployable force, in preparation for a planned spring/summer terrorist outbreak.

EIR drew attention to this gathering in our April 17 issue, reporting that the conference had taken place under the shadow of the U.S. cruise-missile base at Comiso on the south side of Sicily, one of the most important installations on NATO's southern tier. Despite disclaimers by the assembled peaceniks that no concrete actions were decided upon at the conference, we concluded that the inner core of the conference organizers had mapped out plans for renewed and expanded terrorist assaults on U.S. military facilities in particular.

These forecasts were borne out on Easter Sunday, April 22, with internationally coordinated sabotage actions at four different points in the chain of production of the U.S. Pershing missiles scheduled to be deployed in Western Europe: the Williams Co. plant in Walled Lake, Michigan, where Pershing engines are produced; the Martin-Marietta Corp. factory in Orlando, Florida, where final assembly of the missiles occurs; a military base in Seneca Falls, New York, the point from which Pershing missiles are shipped to Western Europe; the U.S. Air Force Base in Mutlangen, West Germany, one of the main points where the missiles are shipped into Western Europe.

The Malta conference was run from the top down by Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi. Qaddafi chose Malta as the site for the conference, provided some 90% of the financing for the event, and used his European networks to select conference delegates. The only literature available at the conference was Qaddafi's *Green Book*.

A Libyan beachhead

Fifty percent of Malta's foreign trade is controlled by Libya, and it has recently been reported to be receiving North

Korean military equipment and advisers. It is a leader of the Congress of Mediterranean Socialist and Progressive Organizations, which was formed by Qaddafi's personal attorney, the late Lelio Basso, a leader in the Sicilian Socialist Party and head of the Bertrand Russell Peace Tribunal until his death. Ahmed Shehata, the head of the People's Bureaus for Qaddafi's Arab Socialist Union Party, has been a leader of the Congress, which is committed to removing all NATO nuclear capabilities from the Mediterranean.

The conference was officially hosted by the John XXIII Peace Laboratory of Malta and its founder, Franciscan friar Dionysus Mintoff, brother of Dom Mintoff, the leftist prime minister of Malta. Qaddafi selected the Austrian Society for North-South Questions to conduct the international organizing for the conference. The Society is headed by former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, a long-time supporter of Qaddafi. It was Kreisky who, while still chancellor, hosted the first meeting between West German Green Party leaders and Qaddafi in 1982.

The organizing steering committee included Alfred Mechttersheimer, whose Research Institute for Peace Policy in Starnberg, West Germany, is reported to receive the financial backing of Colonel Qaddafi, the director of the Austrian Society for North-South Questions, and Dionysius Mintoff, director of the Malta Peace Laboratory. Others on the committee included Capt. (ret.) Falco Accame of the Italian Socialist Party and Juan Gutierrez of the Basque information agency called The Big Eye.

At a lower level, the conference was a mobilization of the international peace movement, with affiliated separatist and terrorist organizations, for a renewed hot spring and summer offensive. Among the "peace" organizers present were: Thyra Quensel, Peggy Pernas, and Ulli Fischer of the West German Green Party; Otto Raubal of the Austrian Green Party; U.S. peace activists Philip Berrigan, Daniel Ellsberg, and Dave McReynolds; Ben Thompson, the son of British peace guru E. P. Thompson, representing European Nuclear Disarmament (END); and Women of the Greenham Common in England.

Representatives of separatist movements included: Juan Gutierrez of The Big Eye (Basque), the American Indian Movement, the Moro Liberation Movement (Philippines), the Potanni Liberation Movement (Thailand), and the Polisario (Morocco). Overtly terrorist organizations such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Faribundo Marti of El Salvador were also present, and official government representatives attended from Syria, Libya, Guinea, Sierra Leon, and the Cameroon Islands.

The official side of the conference centered around two discussion papers: the first by Pugwash conference participant Johan Galtung of the Swedish Peace Research Institute, titled: "Will the peace movement become a liberation movement?"; the second, by Mehdi Emberesh, titled: "Will the liberation movement become a peace movement?"