

Moscow in terrorist rampage against the SDI

The latest wave of terror and assassination sweeping Western Europe, which, among others, claimed the lives of French Gen. René Audran and German industrialist Ernst Zimmermann, is different from all previous ones because of its unique, precision targeting, and because its authors and controllers, the Russian secret services, wish to be known as the perpetrators of this latest round of atrocities.

General Audran was gunned down outside his home near Paris on Jan. 25. Zimmermann, the chief executive of the Munich-based MTU weapons parts firm, was shot and killed in his house on Feb. 1, less than a week later.

The target of the new assassination wave, nominally conducted by such outfits as Direct Action of France and the Red Army Faction (RAF) in the Federal Republic of Germany, is that group of European institutions and officials who are in the forefront of the emerging cooperation between Europe and the United States for the development of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. Numerous prestigious European publications, including the Parisian *Le Figaro* and the Swiss *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, have been quick to point out that 1) the "communiqués" released to the public by the terrorist organizations employ language and arguments virtually identical to those employed by the official Soviet government news outlets and 2) virtually all targets which have been hit by terror attacks since the end of December could not have been identified except by professional intelligence services of a major power: The terrorist groups which nominally "claim responsibility" for these actions do not have the capacity of identifying and accessing targets such as European research laboratories working on advanced problems of laser-beam propagation, etc., or publicly unknown officials

and managers who are involved in U.S.-European cooperation on the Strategic Defense Initiative.

The current terror wave is best understood as a measure of strategic blackmail accompanying the Geneva negotiations and specifically as an attempt to terrorize Western Europe into submission in the ongoing East-West contest. Numerous Soviet official and private commentaries demonstrate that the Russians consider their long sought strategic supremacy at stake in the Geneva talks. They failed to halt the deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles in spite of enormous financial and political investments into the West German and European peace movements; yet today they have much more at stake.

The handicap suffered by NATO counter-terror agencies at this time is that the enemy they face is not the street-level terrorist gang with its usual deranged "anti-imperialist" fanatics, whose ranks have, at any rate, been thoroughly penetrated by law enforcement officers, nor the controllers in leadership posts of these organizations, but rather highly professional killer teams, apparently working in strict, watertight separation from your run-of-the-mill wild-eyed fanatics and who never approach the general environment of their intended victims until the final moment of the "kill."

Their *modus operandi* suggests that they are highly trained, highly disciplined and move on very high grade intelligence which they probably receive minutes before they go into action. Only the Russian KGB and the GRU's spetsnaz units fit this profile.

In short, what the European law-enforcement and anti-terror authorities are confronting is a challenge from the Russian government itself. Their problem is compounded by

the fact that powerful, oligarchical circles in the West European establishment continue to contaminate and disorient the general environment in which such authorities gather the intelligence they need to do their work properly. Unless the anti-terror instruments of the West European governments adopt an adversary posture toward these Moscow-aligned oligarchical circles, they are not going to be effective in their anti-terrorist campaign.

Laser-beam weapons research the target

According to Pierre Darcourt in *Le Figaro* of Feb. 6, the hits against Audran and Zimmermann were not symbolic, but aimed at destroying joint scientific projects. Zimmermann, said Darcourt, was the key man of Franco-German cooperation in advanced areas of technology, which is seen as "direct threat to the East bloc countries. The Soviet Union fears that a united Europe [around such cooperation] will make its strategic negotiations with the United States more complicated . . . and give West Germany the status of a full power."

Aside from the generally known joint military projects for new airplanes, missiles, or armored cars, reports Darcourt, Zimmermann was also overseeing the Franco-German project at the Saint Louis Institute in France which is at the vanguard of laser-beam research. In the institute "one can see already the most powerful pulse laser of Europe. Scientists also consider that they could have orbital mirrors to focus and reflect a laser beam in space, provided these mirrors are either of copper or gold." Under study also at this institute is a proposal for a "laser-based anti-aircraft defense system. With deuterium fluoride laser, a 5 to 10mw power would have been reached. Such a powerful laser would have been developed with an emission time . . . of four minutes. Four seconds would be in fact enough to destroy a ballistic missile."

Darcourt hence concludes that "the killings in Paris and Munich . . . mean that the terrorists wanted to hit in a strong and spectacular way . . . giving a double warning to Paris and Bonn."

In a front-page article, the leading Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reported on Feb. 6 that the language of the "Euro-terrorist" communiqué issued by the terrorist group Direct Action after the murder of René Audran leaves no doubt about Soviet involvement. France was charged by the Russians—and in the communiqué—of having shifted "the goal of its armed forces from the defense of its own territory to a forward-defense against the socialist states."

Who really runs the RAF?

In the months before the killings, the military infrastructure of NATO became a privileged target of the terrorist outer core: NATO pipelines in Belgium and Spain were bombed, NATO pipelines in eastern France were targeted, the U.S. fleet in Portugal was subjected to repeated grenade launcher and mortar fire, the French military procurements office in Bonn was bombed as was the French consulate in sensitive West Berlin, and SHAPE Headquarters library was bombed.

Before Christmas, information on planned terrorist deployments forced U.S. and NATO general officers to adopt exceptional security procedures which were fully justified by subsequent events. Plans since found in the possession of West German terrorists prove that NATO, including the French military, is the real if not exclusive target of terrorist planners.

On Jan. 15, the Red Army Faction, Direct Action, and the Combatant Communist Cells of Belgium announced their transnational integration. The long communiqué in reality was an *a posteriori* declaration of something that had already happened. For years, large parts of the so-called legal apparatus of the RAF had set up shop in Paris and Brussels, using the tri-border area as a privileged lieu of refuge. In the spring and early summer of 1984, young West German "tourists" of the RAF periphery were noticed renting and sometimes buying real estate in rural border areas of Alsace. RAF couriers were followed coming in and out of Paris, where a nexus of contact points, logistics, and safehouses was established. Although Audran's assassination seems to have forced a change in official thinking in Paris, the tolerance exhibited by the socialist government until now toward Italian, Armenian and other terrorist structures made Paris into an important though secondary regroupment area of international terrorism.

The real headquarters of the RAF is, however, to be found in the East. Following the police mobilization which led to the dismantling of most of the "old" RAF, the few remaining leaders gathered in East Berlin. Large parts of what is called the "Carlos" organization were safehoused in East Berlin at that time and the city served as a sieve for a multiplicity of Iranian, Syrian, and Abu Nidal-gang deployments into the West. Meanwhile the Bulgarian DS safehoused and led Turkish, Syrian, Armenian, and Iranian commando deployments out of Sofia (as was made abundantly clear in the revelations on the attempted assassination of the Pope).

According to Western intelligence specialists, the Bulgarian DS and East Germany's Staatsicherheitsdienst are specifically assigned this terrorist deployment task by the KGB. The Bulgarians benefit from the international operations of the Kintex and of Somat, their international transportation corporation, headquartered in Bern, Switzerland. In turn these capabilities interface the operations of the former Swiss SS officer, François Genoud, in Lausanne. A miasma of terrorist support activities is also run out of Switzerland, including the activities of the lawyer Bernard Rambert, one of the historical lawyers for Euro-terrorism and close associate of Jaques Vergès in Paris.

Lastly, the so-called Euro-terrorists are also logistically supported by the vast net of Syrian secret service and Iranian logistics in Western Europe. While both the Syrians and Iranians often act "on their own" and for themselves, the nature of their ties to the Soviet Union makes their cooperation with Warsaw Pact terrorism inevitable. Within the Soviet Politburo, Geidar Ali-Reza Aliyev is personally responsible for the Islamic component of world terrorism.