

## Investigative Leads by Thierry Lalevée

### Betrayed by their Swiss accounts

*Police were led to the Paris apartment that confirms the Nazi-communist connection, by a Swiss bank account.*

Investigations made since last summer by the French counter-intelligence agency, DST, have brought home the point that Switzerland and Swiss banks in particular are essential to international terrorism. This was uncovered as joint investigations in France and in Italy looked into the activities of the little-known "Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction" terrorist group. Since 1981, the LARF has claimed responsibility for an assassination attempt against the U.S. chargé d'affaires in Paris in November 1981; the killing in Paris of the American deputy military attaché, Charles Ray, in January 1982; the murder of Israeli diplomat Yacov Barsimantov in April of the same year; and in 1984, an assassination attempt against the American consul in Strasbourg, as well as countless other bombings which claimed the lives of many French policemen.

Recently, the LARF came again into the limelight as in early March they kidnaped for a few days the French cultural attaché in the city of Tripoli in northern Lebanon. Investigations and subsequent negotiations with the group revealed that most hailed from the small northern city of Qobeyat, a primarily Maronite Christian town. Members of the LARF, it was revealed, were all Maronite Marxists who had variously joined earlier the "Organization of Communist Armed Struggle," a splinter group of the Lebanese Communist Party, and belonged to the intelligence branch of the Syrian National-Socialist Party, the advocate of Greater Syria, before being

integrated into Syrian intelligence's operations through George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Until this was known, the LARF was merely considered as the "foreign action branch" of the French terror group Direct Action, an assessment that came from recorded contacts between members of the two groups in the shadowy squatters of the 18th arrondissement in Paris, out of which a Turkish-appearing hit-man of the LARF allegedly came in the early 1980s.

The intelligence breakthrough came last October when one Georges Abdallah Ibrahim was arrested in Lyon by the DST, an arrest followed in December by the arrest in Rome of Josephine Abdo Sarkis. Both were leading members of the LARF, with Ibrahim considered as one of the key agents of the PFLP-action group controlling the LARF. Months of investigations revealed that Ibrahim, first charged only with possessing false passports, may have been the one sent to Europe to plan the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres during his December visit to Paris, and was an essential element in the assassinations claimed by the LARF.

Josephine Abdo Sarkis herself is being charged with Barsimantov's murder. On April 5, the DST entered an apartment at 18 Rue Lacroix in Paris and discovered an arsenal that included several rocket launchers and machine guns. Most interesting, it also included a 7.65 Czechoslovak-made pistol alleged to be the same weapon

used in the LARF assassination.

To get to this apartment, the DST had to armtwist a few Swiss bankers. It had been discovered that Ibrahim, arriving from Geneva when picked up in Lyon, had a large bank account in Switzerland which was visibly financing the activities of the LARF in Europe. The account was also used to rent a Paris apartment. As it was discovered, the apartment was not merely for the use of the small LARF, but served as safehouse for the German Red Army Faction, the Italian Red Brigades and the Belgium Communist Combatant Cells.

The official conclusion drawn, reported the press, is that while Paris was an operational base, Switzerland was the center for "financing and political planning." Safehouses were quietly used in Brussels, Rome, and Madrid.

The Swiss connection was further underlined in the Paris daily *Le Figaro* of April 1 and April 8, where it was stressed that the LARF was part of a Swiss-based international terror network which, using "such mercenaries as Carlos," is based on "anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism." Such a network exists, continued *Le Figaro*, around known Swiss personalities "formerly close to the Nazi regime and former north African personalities," an unmistakable reference to Nazi Banker François Genoud of Lausanne, Switzerland, and his employee, former Algerian strongman Ben Bella. Needless to add, continued *Le Figaro* on April 8, these networks are "manipulated by East bloc intelligence."

It is about the closest anyone besides *EIR* has come to identifying the key to the current terrorist upsurge in Europe: the cooperation between the Soviet KGB and the old Nazi networks of the Western European oligarchy.