

Terrorism in the aftermath of the summit

by Thierry Lalevée

Immediately following the Nov. 19-20 summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov, the West German daily *Bild Zeitung* blared forth the banner headline, "Peace is Possible." The stench of Neville Chamberlain and appeasement was everywhere. And, sure enough, the fruits of appeasement were not long in coming.

On Nov. 24, Middle Eastern terrorists sponsored by the Soviet Union and East Germany placed a bomb at an American shopping center in the suburbs of Frankfurt. The explosion seriously wounded 23 persons.

Then, only a few hours later, terrorists clearly deployed by Soviet proxies Libya and Syria perpetrated one of the bloodiest terrorist incidents of its type ever, as 60 innocent passengers died in the shoot-out that ended the hijacking of Egyptian airliner MS648, diverted to Malta en route from Athens to Cairo.

On cue, the Western news media friendly to the State Department's "New Yalta" policy, far from pointing the finger at Tripoli, Damascus, or—God forbid!—Moscow for the carnage, began to heap the blame on America's ally, Egyptian President Mubarak, for "mishandling" the situation by ordering a commando raid. Never mind that the terrorists were engaged in systematic, one-by-one murder of passengers, the last a young girl! Any knowledgeable intelligence officer at this point quickly came to view the Western news media's treatment of the events as an integral part of the events themselves. What was afoot was an attempted further destabilization of a U.S. ally in the Middle East, Egypt—"New Yalta" in action.

Coming less than three days after the end of the summit, the events underscored the reality underlying the "new spirit of negotiation and détente" which had been described as one of the summit's achievements. Though President Reagan is understood to have made no concessions to the Soviet Union

on the crucial issue of the Strategic Defense Initiative, the Soviets seem to have achieved their main objective. Gorbachov's mild posture may have gained the Soviet Union a badly needed few years for its political and military preparedness. Indeed, while the summit proper was almost exclusively devoted to matters directly related to U.S.-Soviet relations, and international "hot spots" were only briefly viewed, it was the conceding of such troubled regions to the Soviet Union by the U.S. State Department that was the backdrop to the whole circus.

According to diplomatic analysts, the Geneva understanding, as it may be called, is that the Middle East, Asia, and Africa are an open hunting ground for Moscow.

It is as a direct result that major international terrorist operations are now under way, and such actions are being run together with Soviet-sponsored destabilizations in the Middle East and Africa—the U.S. news media and State Department complicit, as always.

It is in this context that one must view, for example, Moscow's increased operations against South Africa, and the Nov. 25 report that Cuba's Fidel Castro is to discuss a Cuban declaration of war against South Africa with the Soviet leadership.

The Libya/Syria/Iran nexus

The announcement Nov. 22 that Ayatollah Montazeri was to succeed Ayatollah Khomeini tends to confirm the last month and half of reports indicating that the Ayatollah Khomeini was finally dying. The fight for the control of Iran, top heavy on the inside with Soviet agents and agents-of-influence, is expected to be a prime focus of international tensions in coming months, with dire consequences for the rest of the Gulf and its oil production—and therefore, Europe's energy supply.

Less than 24 hours before the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner, American and European intelligence agencies warned of a major Shi'ite terror wave which would hit the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. According to details published on Nov. 24 in the British weekly *Mail on Sunday*, the Iranian government is known to have issued some 400 passports for such operations, to involve kamikaze Shi'ites belonging to the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" (SAIRI), headquartered in Teheran and led by Hojatessalam Mohammed Bakr Hakim. Further reports indicate that these kamikazes have been provided with sophisticated explosives which cannot be detected by normal security procedures at airports.

As *EIR* reported a few months ago, the SAIRI has been the umbrella organization responsible for many of the bloodiest terrorist actions against Americans, such as a December 1984 hijacking of a Kuwaiti Airbus and the subsequent execution of American passengers. According to documents published in *EIR* last spring, members of the SAIRI have been involved in Kamikaze training under the guidance of North Korean advisers since June 1984.

Two weeks before the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner, Egyptian President Mubarak convened a special conference with Western ambassadors in Cairo, to warn them of an upcoming Libyan terror wave. Such information had come from the interrogations of five Libyan terrorists arrested on Nov. 6 in Alexandria, Egypt, where they had been deployed to assassinate former Libyan Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Bakoush, the second attempt in a year.

Confirming these warnings was the convening of a special two-day session of Libyan officers on Nov. 20-21, led by Muammar Qaddafi. The final statement of the conference announced that the Libyan leadership had discussed "overt and covert missions" against the "dogs of the CIA" to ensure their "physical liquidation."

In the same vein, the "popular masses and popular revolution" of Sudan and Tunisia were heralded.

Such a gathering in Tripoli cannot have planned the hijacking of the Egyptian airliner, an operation requiring weeks of planning. The meeting could, however, have given the final green light.

According to the Egyptian government, the hijacking was planned in Athens, where several Libyan intelligence agents generally based in West Germany, had moved into the Libyan Airline office in Athens. These revelations also point to Syrian cooperation in the operation: The hijackers reportedly belonged to the Damascus-based international terrorist group of Abu Nidal.

In recent months, Syria upgraded its intelligence capabilities in Athens with the appointment of General Madani as ambassador to Greece. Madani was the number-two man in Syrian military intelligence under General el Kholi. Along with Madani in Athens, is Col. Osama al Baraykhar, a

leader of the Syrian-created "Eagles of the Revolution," responsible for a March 1982 bombing of the Rue Marbeuf in Paris.

The hijackers raised no meaningful political demands. The hijacking had no other aim than to set in motion a process of destabilization of Egypt. Control of Egypt is the prize that Moscow has never given up since the expulsion of its advisers in 1972. The operation intended to play on what was thought to be the Egyptian profile in regards to the Achille Lauro hijacking, when, under Western pressures, Cairo had negotiated with the hijackers; the hijacking was to be a long, dragged-out political gamble.

As this failed, the terrorists, who had already shot some 7 passengers, murdered a young Israeli girl, deliberately provoking a massacre.

Indicating the international aspect of the operation and darker "New Yalta" manipulations taking place, Mubarak was immediately branded guilty of the death of the passengers—by the same news media which had blamed Colombia's Betancur for having refused to negotiate with the terrorist M-19, after their Nov. 6 storming of Bogota's Judicial Palace and murder of Supreme Court judges. In that instance, too, terrorists (in the hire of Soviet- and Cuban-backed drug-traffickers) sought to challenge and utterly destabilize a government, and no sooner had the duly elected authorities, led by the President, ordered an armed assault, than the Western news media began howling vile accusations of responsibility for resulting deaths at those authorities rather than the narco-terrorists.

A noticeably different voice was raised in the United States by the *New York Post*, which called for war on Qaddafi. A *Post* editorial of Nov. 27 cited Libya as one of the nations "which shelter and assist terrorist groups. Can action legitimately be taken against them? When Libya assists terrorist actions against other states, it engages in acts of war against them. It must accept the consequences. . . . The United States should have no difficulty in arranging a coalition of Libya's neighbors to invade Libya, overthrow Qaddafi, and reestablish a sane government. For if Qaddafi succeeds in acquiring a nuclear bomb, the whole world will be his hostage."

Egypt's response to the Nov. 24 hijacking was in fact to immediately mass some 100,000 troops on its borders with Libya. Cairo has also kept the 80,000-strong Special Air Defense Command on alert since the hijacking, indicating that, as *Al Akhbar* newspaper proposed on the same day as the New Egypt may be ready "to go at the regional roots of terrorism."

It is most interesting, however, that certain Egyptian opposition leaders have asked for a special investigation of the actual doings of the ambitious Egyptian defense minister, Abu Ghazala, who contributed greatly to Mubarak's destabilization in the Achille Lauro affair.