

# Moscow's New Year terrorist explosion

by Thierry Lalevée

Bombings of NATO facilities in France and Belgium on Dec. 5, of shopping centers in Paris on Dec. 7, and of churches in Italy on Dec. 10-11, have concretized the fears of European intelligence officials that this Christmas and New Year's season may become one of the bloodiest in recent years.

West German General-Attorney Kurt Rebmann's press conference of Dec. 11 was indicative of the tense situation. Rebmann, who has frequently downplayed the terrorist threat, could not hide his concern. Rejecting any suggestion of coordination among European terrorist organizations, Rebmann focused his speech on the domestic German situation, warning that before the end of the year, a reactivation of the Red Army Faction (RAF) and the Revolutionary Cells would occur. He predicted that the main targets will be American and West German military installations, which will be hit both by home-grown and "international" terrorists. Yet he persisted in his refusal to admit that the "domestic" RAF is itself an international terrorist organization.

Without such self-consoling subtlety, the daily *Die Welt* had reported on Dec. 9 on the still-secret debriefing of a former member of the RAF, who surrendered to the police earlier in the month. The article stressed the connections between local and international terrorists, and warned of a major anti-NATO explosion. Law enforcement authorities are currently watching for a replay of the Dec. 18, 1984 car-bomb attempt at the Oberamergau U.S. military base, which was prevented at the last minute. In December 1985, a car-bomb driven by two Middle Eastern terrorists carrying false Moroccan passports exploded in front of an American military shopping center near Frankfurt, wounding dozens.

Bombs against NATO-connected installations in France and Belgium on Dec. 5 were claimed by the Communist Combatant Cells. A NATO pipeline was hit in Belgium, while in the Paris suburb of Versailles, a computer center regulating NATO pipelines was badly damaged—the first time that the Belgian CCC had ever perpetrated a terror act on French territory. The following day, a bomb exploded inside the Justice Palace of Liège, just a few minutes before the arrival of Belgium's justice minister. The CCC's Dec. 10 communiqué emphasized that its operations were conducted in cooperation with the Communist International Organization in France—confirming the coordination among "domestic" Euroterrorists.

The terror wave has two intertwined aims: to strike at vital NATO and European military installations, as part of a

Soviet prewar deployment to weaken NATO, and second, to spread panic among the population, to foster political destabilization.

This second aspect was illustrated on Dec. 7 by the two bombs which exploded in Paris shopping centers, wounding dozens. The type of bombs used made clear that the aim was not immediately to kill; the explosives were placed inside a sand-filled parcel, decreasing their power. Similar operations occurred in Italy on Dec. 10-11, with bombs placed in churches.

Besides the CCC and the French Direct Action terror group, others are preparing their next moves. The Armenian terrorist group ASALA has been named as the most probable culprit in the Paris bombings, and warnings are circulating in France and Italy that the the Organization of Socialist Revolutionary Muslims, a front for Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal which has been responsible for countless assassinations of diplomats, will strike in Europe, together with the Armed Revolutionary Lebanese Faction, the European liaison of Georges Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Since the beginning of December, authorities have been on alert for 400 Iraqi Shi'ites traveling with false passports and ready to strike in Europe and the United States.

## The Turkish connection

The ongoing trial in Brussels of Turkish terrorist Muzaffer Kacar is shedding new light on the coordination of the Euroterrorist apparatus. Kacar possessed false passports provided by the Direct Action group, and explosives from a robbery perpetrated in June 1984 by the CCC and Direct Action. The Belgian government is accusing Kacar and his Turkish accomplices with having been the main liaison between the CCC and Direct Action. In his own defense, Kacar insists, "We only operate inside Turkey." Kacar belongs to a network around the Turkish Communist Party-Marxist Leninist, based in a Turkish "cultural center" in Paris. The center is also the European base of the Shining Path and M-19, and all three belong to the shadowy Revolutionary International Movement.

How is it that European law enforcement agencies are having such difficulty dealing with the terrorist threat? How can the CCC or Direct Action still get away with striking at NATO installations, when last year the German BKA (equivalent of the FBI) found in a RAF safehouse a map of all NATO installations?

The fact that M-19 and Shining Path demonstrations are condoned by the French interior minister, Louis Joxe, indicates one dimension of the problem. More broadly, the answer may be found by questioning those who are advocating an American-Soviet agreement on terrorism. "Not even the CIA believes that Moscow is the mastermind of world terrorism," wrote the *Sunday Times* of London on Dec. 8. But if the Soviet role in deploying terrorists against the West continues to be ignored, the terror will continue.