

Editorial

Terrorism: no time to lose

As we go to press, Islamic Jihad, generic for Shi'ite terrorist sects, has claimed responsibility for the apparent bombing of the DC-8 carrying 248 American servicemen and women of the Sinai peacekeeping force home for the holidays. All are dead. We, like you, are deeply saddened and angered, but not surprised. We are only surprised that the State Department has not yet formally requested the aid of Syria to "investigate" the atrocity.

First, some facts; then, to the deeper questions.

The terrorists are known. They operate from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, or Iran, or Libya. Bekaa is occupied by Syrian troops. Syrian intelligence otherwise coordinates international terrorism, including that claimed by Iran, Libya, etc. In this, Syrian intelligence is controlled by the KGB through East German services in Berlin—the old Nazi-Syrian arrangement coopted by the Soviets after the war.

We have repeatedly prescribed the necessary course of action, taking into account both aspects of such terrorism: the Soviet strategic intentions reflected, and the surrogates actually deployed. As we said after the September 1983 mass murder of GIs in Lebanon, when the United States turned tail and ran on State Department advice; as we said after the July 14, 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner and brutal murder of a Navy Seal, when the U.S. President, on State Department advice, went on national television to *thank Syria* for helping free the remaining passengers: These are Soviet acts of war against the United States.

For the Soviets, terrorism is a *pre-war deployment*, and the proper response is a declaration of national defense emergency by the President, placing the Strategic Defense Initiative on a crash footing, and moving rapidly to production of MX missiles in droves. The President may then use powers not needing delimitation here to overcome any treasonable obstructionism from Congress.

The terrorists themselves are to be dealt with as a snake's nest in one's field. It is to be made additionally clear to the government in Damascus that that city, for

example, is a suitable U.S. Air Force target in time of war.

So, the present DC-8 tragedy is the fruit of previous failure to act, of the State Department's blinding of our President to these realities.

However, there is every indication that the present atrocity is also a prelude to a massive introduction of terrorism to U.S. soil.

In this regard, we have some questions to ask: of the FBI, the State Department, and of Israel. Our evaluation is based on three recent developments, as well as the strategic commitment of the Soviet Union.

First, the FBI has refused to take action against members of terrorist groups run by the Israeli Mossad, who have assassinated two men on U.S. soil over the past several months and bombed one headquarters. Mordechai Levi, who threatened to kill both men and praised their murder afterward, walks the streets. But FBI Director Webster has proclaimed the bureau unable to find the killers (National Press Club, Dec. 10), yet warned that anyone perceived as "anti-Israel" is at risk.

Second, a large increase in terrorist threats, particularly around Washington, D.C., has occurred.

Third, Israel, say sources, has directedly threatened the U.S. government in a way that implies an outbreak of anti-U.S. terrorism. If the Pollard spy case is pursued, say these reports, Israel has threatened to retaliate by halting cooperation and "blindsiding" U.S. intelligence on radical Palestinian terrorism in retaliation.

Ariel Sharon, for one, has his "understandings" with Damascus and Moscow. The Mossad has considerable control over many Palestinian groups. Is there any connection between the DC-8 atrocity and Israeli threats?

Action must be taken: First, fire William Webster and clean out the FBI, which employs as well as protects terrorists, for example, Levi. Cut off this link, and much terrorist capability can be mopped up. Second, move against Mossad penetration in the United States. Israel may threaten all it wants.

In our evaluation, there is no time to lose.