

# The Russian hand in Iran's terror

by Our Special Correspondent

The bloody massacres by suicide terrorists in Rome and Vienna on Dec. 27 were not unexpected. Western intelligence services had been warned that up to 400 Iranian-trained terrorists had been deployed into Europe and were planning hijackings and bombings.

The connection between Libya's terrorist training bases and those of Iran is very close. Over past months, Iranian "diplomats" visiting Libya have helped Qaddafi set up a new revolutionary guard, modeled on Iran's *Pasdarans* (Revolutionary Guards).

There are at least two known hijacker-training centers in Iran, according to information in the possession of U.S. intelligence services: one near Qom, Khomeini's home city, and the other outside of Teheran near the Mehrabad airport. The CIA has detailed reports on the training/brainwashing conducted there, including the passionate commitment of the graduates to die in bliss after killing as many of the "enemies of Iran and Islam" as they can manage.

In the months leading up to the Dec. 27 airport attacks, there occurred a direct intervention by top Soviet officials into the Iranian terrorist apparatus. The drama began 10, after terrorists in Lebanon kidnapped 4 Soviet officials, killing one of them. Of utmost importance to the Soviets was securing the release of their officials before the summit meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachov on Nov. 19.

The Soviet officials were evidently kidnapped by "Muslims in Tripoli," Lebanon. On Oct. 10, at the request of Vil K. Bouldyref, the Soviet ambassador to Iran, a meeting was held with the Islamic Republic's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati. At that meeting, Bouldyref made it known that Iran's cooperation in releasing the Soviet hostages would improve Iran's position in trade with the Soviet Union, especially in the area of arms shipments and nuclear technology. (Iran has been seeking nuclear technology from Pakistan, India, China, England, Libya, and Spain.)

Velayati then convened a meeting which included the Ayatollah's son, Ahmed Khomeini; also present were Hashemi Rafsanjani, and Ayatollah Khameni. It was decided to refer the matter to the Office of the Supreme Council for the Expansion of the Islamic Revolution, which is headed by Ayatollah Montazeri. Montazeri appointed Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, a member of the Guardian Council and a deputy in parliament, to head a delegation to conduct the confidential negotiations for the release of the kidnapped Soviets.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, Mohmoud Neorani, Iranian chargé d'affaires in Lebanon, met with a high-ranking Soviet diplomat, conveying Montazeri's message of cooperation concerning the Soviet hostages.

## The kidnapers

On the same day, Sheikh Saeed Sha'aban, whose Sunni militia is based in Tripoli, Lebanon, worked out a deal between his forces, PLO forces, and other small radical groups, including the "Islamic Liberation Front," which all operate in the Towhid movement in Syrian-occupied territory. The Towhid Islamic Movement, headed by Sheikh Saeed Sha'aban, is the only group opposing Syrian takeover of southern Lebanon. As a result of the deal, Sha'aban's group won the support of several pro-Iranian and pro-PLO radical groups, of which the Islamic Liberation Front is one. It is an anti-Syrian and pro-Western Palestinian grouping.

On Oct. 14, Ayatollah Jannati left for Damascus, heading a delegation to carry out the negotiations. Jannati was accompanied by Mahmoud Hashemi, head of the Eighth Political Department of the foreign ministry and an alleged agent of Soviet influence, and several members of the parliament. Also accompanying Jannati was Saifollah Vahid Dastgerdi, head of the Red Crescent Society in Iran, which is a pro-Syrian, pro-Abu Mousa faction of Palestinians, very hostile to the PLO's leader, Yassir Arafat. Dastgerdi has been very active in the Islamic Jihad terrorist movement and was a key organizer of the Hezbollah (Party of God) movement in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, a house-to-house search was conducted by the Amal Shi'ite militia, Syrian forces, and other pro-Syrian groups to free the Soviet hostages. Reportedly, the search led them to the area of Tripoli that is the Towhid Islamic Movement stronghold.

The Iranian delegation, arriving in Damascus, urged Abdul Halim Khadam, Syrian foreign minister, to stop the final assault on Sha'aban and other radical anti-Syrian groups in Tripoli.

Also on Oct. 14, Iranian delegation head Jannati met with Syrian President Hafez Assad, assuring him they would work out a deal to release the hostages. Meanwhile, the Iranian chargé d'affaires in Lebanon, in a meeting with the Italian ambassador to Lebanon, denounced the taking of Soviet hostages as "an American act to involve the Soviet Union in Lebanon's internal affairs."

On Oct. 15, a meeting between the head of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, a Soviet diplomat, and the Iranian delegation took place. Jannati promised the release of the hostages and stated that he was about to finalize the deal with Sha'aban.

On their way to the town of Jebshit in Southern Lebanon, Jannati and the Iranian delegation were attacked by two unknown gunmen, who fired several Uzi rounds at their armored cars. No one was injured.

Meanwhile, on Oct. 15, the Iranian parliament agreed to send 62 tons of goods and "stuff" to "Muslims in Tripoli." While the deputies were voting, a Boeing 747 with 62 tons of "stuff" had already been loaded and was waiting at the Damascus airport.

### The deal

Prior to the negotiations, Sheikh Mohammed Jaleddin, the Mufti of South Lebanon, was chosen as an observer. Jaleddin had been accompanying the Iranian delegation in Lebanon, according to informed sources.

In the negotiations, Iran agreed to provide clothing and blankets, foodstuffs, and other necessary materials for the "Muslims of Tripoli" to last through the winter, and Iran also agreed to provide two medical delegations for medical care units, one in Tripoli, and one in the Palestinian camp nearby.

Iran also promised through the Soviets to keep Syrian forces and other Syrian-supported groups from attacking the Tripoli Muslims, and to provide amnesty to several hundred PLO fighters with Towhid.

### The proof

On Oct. 18, Sheikh Sha'aban indicated that the deal had been finalized, in a lecture at the Monsouri Mosque in Trip-

oli. He stated, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country which was responsive to the problems in Lebanon as well as to those concerning the Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims." He also added that the physicians of Tripoli had fled the fighting in the city, but an Iranian medical delegation which arrived there saw to the medical care of the city's people. Sha'aban also said that Iran's recent contributions had paved the way for the Islamic resistance in Lebanon.

On Nov. 10, the Islamic Republic's News Agency reported that the Soviet ambassador in Iran had made a statement to Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati, saying he appreciated Iran's effort to release the hostages. But Velayati, in a press conference on Nov. 6, denied a report by the French news agency that Iran had any input for the release of the three Soviet hostages.

The Soviet/Iranian deal was the first known cooperation between the Soviets and terrorist mastermind Montazeri. It all occurred in the critical weeks prior to the Reagan/Gorbachov summit meeting in mid-November. Consequently, three weeks after the summit, Montazeri was appointed Khomeini's successor by the Council of Guardians, whose most influential member, Jannati, just happened to be appointed by Montazeri to work out the release of the Soviet hostages.

This all happened before the summit. What has happened since is known.

# A COMBAT MANUAL for the WAR ON DRUGS

*"We must have a formal declaration of war, against narco-terrorism as an entity, and fight it as necessary by the methods of war. It's a war we could fairly easily win, or at least establish major victories in the Caribbean area.*

—Lyndon H. LaRouche

**EIR's Special Report, "Soviet Unconventional Warfare: The Case of Guatemala,"** shows who is trying to turn Guatemala into the newest wholly-owned plantation of the international drug mafia—and how to stop them. The dope pushers have a six-month timetable for smashing the resistance of the Guatemalan military. Yet the U.S. State Department has maintained the Carter administration's boycott of aid for the Guatemalan anti-drug effort, on grounds of "human rights violations."

Also available are a slide show and a 25-minute videotape, including on-the-scene action shots, and interviews with military officials in the United States and Guatemala.

- Special Report, *Soviet Unconventional Warfare: The Case of Guatemala*. Order #85016. **\$150.**
- Complete package on Guatemala's war on drugs: Special Report, slide show, and videotape. **\$500.**
- Two Special Reports for antidrug fighters, at a discount price: *Soviet Unconventional Warfare: The Case of Guatemala* and *Narco-terrorism in Ibero-America*. The latter report, issued in 1984, exposes the drug-pushers of Colombia and Peru, with a ground-breaking analysis of the role of gnostic cults in narco-terrorism. **Two for \$250.**

Order from your Regional **EIR** representative or from: EIR News Service, P.O. Box 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390.