

Then, the clincher: "'In fact,' Bassetti says, 'we still feel today a certain bureaucratization of the Commission. But, fortunately, the speech of [Soviet leader] Gorbachov at the Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, which relaunches the great planetary issues, security, the use of high technology, the environment, hunger in the world, issues that are Trilateral issues, could allow us to revitalize our ideas.' *It is precisely in Madrid that the idea will be launched of organizing a meeting over coming months in an area 'external' to the Trilateral Commission: probably the Soviet Union* [emphasis added]."

According to one knowledgeable source, the decision for the Trilateral Commission to meet in Moscow, either later this year or in 1987, had already been taken at its 1985 meeting in Tokyo. The decision, this source says, will merely be finalized in Madrid. The key back-channels for the "Moscow Connection" have been provided by the North American members of the Commission. "Meetings have been going on secretly with high-level people in the U.S.S.R.," said the source.

In its summer, 1985 edition, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's *International Affairs* journal lavishly praised the Trilateral Commission, for its opposition to President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative.

To judge by the West German members of the Trilateral Commission, the "move to the East" is quite believable:

- Trilateral member Theo Sommer, editor-in-chief of the influential *Die Zeit* weekly, issued an analysis in early March, calling for West Germany to shift its economic orientation to helping the Soviet Union achieve the plans announced at the Soviet Party Congress, envisioning a large rise in gross national product over the next 15 years. The March 14 *Die Zeit* followed up Sommer's piece, with a front-page commentary that asserted, "For its attempt to modernize its economy, Moscow has no more reliable partner in the West than Bonn."

- Otto Wolff von Amerongen, head of the German trade and industry federation, during the first days of March, advocated a general expansion of East-West trade deals.

- Kurt Biedenkopf, the new head of the North Rhine-Westphalia Christian Democratic party, has his own private institute in Bonn, the Institute for Science and Social Studies, which is planning to sponsor visits by strategists from the Soviet IMEMO think-tank for joint seminars in Bonn later this year.

- Volker Rühle, one of the leaders of the CDU parliamentary defense fraction in Bonn and a co-thinker of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is planning to visit East Germany for almost a week in May of this year, immediately prior to the May 17-19 Trilateral summit in Madrid.

- Karl Kaiser, head of the German Institute for Foreign Relations in Bonn, is the co-director of the "East-West" task force that will present its findings in Madrid.

French Socialists plot against Tunisia

by L. Colombe et Ahmed Ben Khader

The March 14 issue of *EIR* published an article on Tunisia which contained a few errors and that we mistakenly attributed to two of our regular authors. We publish here the original article as it appeared in the March 10 issue of the French weekly *Nouvelle Solidarité*. Upon its publication, the article provoked immediate political debate in Tunisia. The article was reprinted in five weeklies and dailies, including on March 20 in the daily Tunisian government newspaper, *La Presse*. On March 21, the French dailies *Quotidien de Paris* and *Le Monde* gave prominence to the report of *Nouvelle Solidarité* and reported that the French foreign ministry, still led by Socialist Minister Roland Dumas, had denied as "absurd" the charges of the articles. However, *Le Monde* predicted that M. Eric Rouleau, ambassador in Tunisia, may soon find his job too difficult to pursue any further.

Executive Intelligence Review has been informed by well-placed Western intelligence sources that leading members of the French Socialist Party are plotting the overthrow of Tunisian Prime Minister M'zali, to replace him by a well-known Tunisian political personality closer to the African and North African political line of the French Socialists. According to the same sources, French Ambassador to Tunisia Eric Rouleau would be coordinating the internal and external aspect of the operation. In the last few weeks, half a dozen or perhaps more French special intelligence agents have been dispatched to Tunisia for this operation.

Rouleau is not an ordinary ambassador. Appointed in the early summer of 1985 to the dismay of the Tunisian authorities, Rouleau is better known as a specialist in Palestinian and Libyan affairs than as a friend of Tunisia. His openly displayed pro-Libyan sympathies made his appointment the more provocative, as it happened in the midst of a Libya-Tunisia crisis which led to the expulsion by Libya of thousands of Tunisian workers by the end of August and September of last year. Prior to his appointment, Rouleau had played an important role—while still a journalist for *Le Monde*—in the secret negotiations between the French and Libyan governments on the Chad crisis, and had mediated the summit between François Mitterrand and Muammar Qaddafi in November 1985 on the island of Crete.

Born under the name of Elie Raffoul some 60 years ago, in the 1940s Rouleau became a member of the newly re-created Egyptian Communist Party. He socialized with Henri Curiel, another Egyptian communist who, in the 1960s, created from Paris the famous "Curiel Network." In 1952, Rouleau became a personal friend of Roland Dumas who was then visiting Cairo. According to information from several sources, Raffoul/Rouleau was expelled from Egypt in 1956. In 1960, he joined the *Le Monde* newspaper. He then played a role not only as a journalist but as a power broker in the period which immediately preceded and followed the coup against the Shah of Iran, by displaying himself as a strong supporter of the Bazargan/Bani-Sadr faction of the new Islamic regime. Rouleau was one of the advisers for legal and political contacts for this group, from the time of Khomeini's residence at Neauphté le Château, close to Paris.

Closely associated with political layers around the famous Curiel Network in Europe and in the Middle East, Rouleau has been used for many secret missions on behalf of a specific intelligence network of the Socialist International, with significant power and influence in the present French and Greek socialist governments. Not by chance, both regimes maintain close ties with the regime of Col. Muammar Qaddafi. Rouleau's personality is ambiguous. The July 22 issue of the French weekly *Valeurs Actuelles* reported that the American government has given orders, preventing Rouleau from accessing certain American governmental archives. This kind of decision is generally made only against agents of unfriendly foreign powers or suspected of being that.

The aim of the plot is to derail the succession plan to Tunisian President Bourguiba. Clearly chosen by the Tunisian President as his legal and constitutional successor, Prime Minister Mohammed M'zali represents stability and continuity in Tunisia at a time when the Maghreb region is faced with numerous crises provoked by the subversive activities of Libya and of Islamic fundamentalists. Trapped, like most other developing countries by an economic crisis aggravated by most other developing countries by an economic crisis aggravated by International Monetary Fund policy, Tunisia remains an authentic democracy, and one of the true allies of Western civilization in the southern Mediterranean region. Until now, the political strength of President Bourguiba has prevented the explosion of any major crisis. This was underlined by the rapid and determined reaction of the Tunisian government after the assault of a Libyan commando unit against the city of Gafsa in 1980; during the 1984 bread riots; and more recently after the favorable U.S. reaction to Israel's raid on the PLO center in Tunisia in October 1985.

By attempting to destabilize the constitutional process of the succession, the French Socialist government is not only promoting institutional instability, but is playing with the fire of subversion, chaos, and insurrection. The French Socialists are relying on some of their Tunisian friends, such as former

Interior Minister Driss Guiga, presently based in Paris, and the clique to which he is associated within Tunisia. Guiga was purged in 1984, as he reportedly encouraged the bread riots to overthrow Prime Minister M'zali. Trained in the 1950s by the Socialist elements within the BND (West German intelligence), Guiga is now at the center of the activities of the opposition abroad. At the same time, the French Socialists have tolerated the growing development of the MTI (Mouvement de Tendance Islamique), which is being used to pressure the Tunisian government. The MTI is financed by both Libya and Iran and is associated with the Algerian Democratic Movement of Ahmed Ben Bella, who is also financed by the Iranians, as well as the Swiss Nazi banker, François Genoud of Lausanne.

Two weeks before the French elections (March 16), this group of French Socialists was intensifying its efforts to destabilize Tunisia, one of France's historical allies. Though the victory of the opposition will play a useful role in neutralizing this subversive plot, the network will remain active from within the Elysée Palace and the Rue de Solferino. Is Qaddafi really so important for the French Socialists that they are risking the destabilization of the whole of Northern Africa? Unfortunately, the answer seems to be yes!

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