
Interview: Jean Rochet

'The Soviet Union is the primary instigator of international terror'

EIR foreign policy reporter Philip Golub recently conducted the following interview with Jean Rochet in Paris. Mr. Rochet was director of the internal French counter-espionage agency *Direction de la Sécurité du Territoire (DST)* from 1969 to late 1972 and is considered one of France's top specialists on questions of Soviet espionage and terrorism. Mr. Rochet is the author of a highly controversial book published last year on the history of his years as head of the DST.

"I am not alone in accusing the Soviet Union of being the primary instigator of international terrorism. . . . If we deny this fact we are fatally condemning ourselves to be victims of a terrorist war which is being permanently instigated by the communist countries and their satellites in the Third World," says Rochet, who refers back to his experience as head of French internal counter-espionage to underline the strength of his statements. In Rochet's view the intelligence services of the Warsaw Pact have proceeded methodically in building up secondary and tertiary screens and "cut-outs" (agents who are at least one step removed from their controllers, so as to hide their origin) to carry out covert operations.

EIR: You have often stated that terrorism is neither a sociological phenomenon nor the expression of so-called liberation struggles. After the recent terror bombings in Paris, would you characterize terrorism as a form of war?

Rochet: Let me refer you to a speech I made in June to a conference held in the French Senate. Terrorism must be seen in the context of the dominant strategic situation prevailing between the Warsaw Pact and the Atlantic alliance. The East-West nuclear equilibrium is not peace. In reality, "détente" hides another form of war. *International terrorism is one of the forms of this other war.*

In the speech I noted that it may be provocative to say so, but it is not wrong to say that France is in a state of war and does not fully realize it. Terrorism is thus the means used by foreign powers to strike our defenses in an oblique way. The official report of the French Senate investigation of terrorism directly implicates the Soviet Union in international terrorism. Among other documents, it refers to the official report

of the Italian Service of Counter-Espionage (SISMI) to the Italian parliament which details "the destabilization efforts of the secret services of the Warsaw Pact in the Western world and in Europe."

Based on a study of the logistical support and the flow of arms and money to terrorist organizations *The counter-espionage and intelligence services of the West have concluded that there are unquestionable links between the secret services of the communist countries and the terrorist groups.* In my speech I pointed out that this subversive action takes on different forms:

1) Operations directly conducted by agents formed by the secret services of the East, the case of Carlos for example;

2) Logistical support to terrorist networks, even groups which ostensibly are not Marxist, including safe housing for right-wing extremists and terrorists;

3) Penetration of terror cells apparently opposed to the U.S.S.R., as the case of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II proved. It is unquestionable that the assassination effort was prepared by the Bulgarian DS under KGB control, using right-extremist Turkish elements.

EIR: What in your opinion must the Western alliance do in face of this threat?

Rochet: We must first of all understand that we are being hit by *veritable acts of war*, executed, inspired, or supported by agents of foreign powers. Terrorism also constitutes an extremely grave form of blackmail against our states. If we fail to recognize this, we will never develop the appropriate will and means to fight it, as shown by what the Socialist governments did over the past years.

EIR: Speaking of France, there has been a highly charged and polemical debate over terrorism. The government has changed since March. Could you give me your sense of the evolution of policy on the question of terrorism?

Rochet: First of all, there is no distinction between so-called national and international terrorism. Direct Action, for example, has worldwide links. The Socialists here have tried to

establish this false sociological distinction. Look, the Socialists in 1981 attempted to "recuperate" all kinds of terrorists, offered them a "helping hand." Hundreds of hard-core terrorists were amnestied! And all of this was based on the assumption or the pretext that the terrorists were fighting against an authoritarian state, i.e., previous regimes. Soon after the amnesty, the National Security Court (Cour de Sureté de l'Etat) was dissolved. And what happened?

In 1981 there were 570 terrorist incidents in France or against French targets. In 1982 there were 1,260 such incidents. From 1981 to 1985 there have been 3,000 terrorist acts with over 800 victims. We did a senatorial investigation of all of this. The Socialist governments refused to extradite terrorists and France became a center for international terrorism, a refuge.

EIR: What measures do you suggest be taken against the terrorists themselves and their controllers?

Rochet: Acts of war can only be met by acts of war. At the very least we must clearly, *unambiguously*, denounce the countries involved in terrorism, isolate them, cut down their embassy personnel, make them feel the pressure.

EIR: The *Rainbow Warrior* incident weakened French intelligence, specifically the Action Service [covert operations]. Does France have the means to respond to acts of war by acts of war?

Rochet: It takes time to reforge a fighting instrument when it has been weakened. You have to understand that for the first time since the Nazi occupation of France, French police were *ordered* to investigate and chase other French officials, French intelligence agents. It is [former Interior Minister Pierre] Joxe who did this. Joxe ordered the police to hunt down French officers. Joxe is a card-carrying member of the CGT [Communist-affiliated trade union]. Can you imagine? A card-carrying member of the CGT as interior minister. Joxe even demanded, which had never been done before, to know the sources of the DST.

EIR: Did he succeed?

Rochet: (Laughs.) Let me tell you something else. When the Socialists came to power in 1981, they appointed Marion as head of the then SDECE [French foreign intelligence, now called DGSE]. Marion recently has revealed that at one point he submitted a number of names to the President of terrorists he suggested be eliminated. Mitterrand, says Marion, refused! It is Mitterrand's own hand-picked director who is saying this. Perhaps Mitterrand was fearful for personal reasons.

EIR: Are there other, historical reasons why France did not face up to the terrorist threat?

Rochet: You must see that there is and has always been a pro-Soviet clan and an Arabist clan in the Quai D'Orsay.

Europe prepares to face terror assault

by Thierry Lalevée

In contrast to those diplomats who are loudly wishing for a post-Reykjavik agreement with the Soviet Union, the Western specialized agencies and defense and interior ministers have no such illusions, and are gearing to face something quite different. The unanimous assessment among intelligence agencies is that Moscow's anger at its failure will be concretized in coming weeks by a series of assaults: first, an Israeli-Syrian war, "almost inevitable" in the words of Gen. Yossi Peled of Israel's Northern Command on Oct. 15; second, an activation of local and secessionist conflicts throughout the developing sector; and third, a terror onslaught in Europe and against American targets, through the joint deployment of European and Islamic terrorists.

International cooperation has been strengthened to face this assault. On Oct. 16, French Security Minister Robert Pandraud began a three-day visit to Washington, meeting with Vice-President George Bush, CIA director William Casey, and the directors of the FBI and of the National Security Council. In a press conference on Oct. 18, Pandraud announced that he had received "valuable intelligence leads . . . which have now to be concretized into proofs," and that wide-ranging cooperation was established. "We have established a new coordination on how to release our hostages [in Lebanon], without giving in to blackmail. However, we are not going to give our enemies any gifts by giving out details." Meanwhile, French Defense Minister André Giraud was in Saudi Arabia, ostensibly to discuss closer naval cooperation, but also to review the terror threats in the region, while Bernard Gérard, director of the DST (French intelligence) went to Morocco, Algeria, and Israel.

On Oct. 20, the interior ministers of the European Community convened once again in London to discuss terrorism. At the insistence of the French, the fight against drug smuggling became a top issue. Keeping as much secrecy as possible, it was announced on Oct. 21 that full coordination was established on both issues.

In the preceding days, both Paris and London had scored big victories against narco-terrorism. In Britain, an Ibero-American ring which laundered up to £200 million in drug dollars into British banks to be recycled in the United States,