

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### **Bonn and Iran share explosive secrets**

*'Irangate' investigations on Shi'ite networks in Western Europe, begin to target Foreign Minister Genscher.*

**R**ather early in the ongoing Beirut hostage affair, Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher established direct contact to the Pasdaran in Teheran.

The Pasdaran (revolutionary guards), operating through the Iranian embassy in Damascus, finance, train, and supervise Shi'ite terrorist groups in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. Bonn's ambassador in Teheran contacted the Pasdaran's "World Secretariat for the Islamic Liberation Movements," headed by Ayatollah Khoshrow Shai, as well as the Iranian embassy in Damascus, which spends an annual "special budget" of \$100 million to support terrorist operations in Lebanon.

But the foreign ministry in Bonn also made direct contact with the Iranian regime. Iranian parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani was the first to lift the veil of secrecy, when he informed the media in Teheran on Jan. 27 that the Bonn government had asked him directly for mediation in the hostage affair. Rafsanjani said that although the Iranians had "nothing to do with the hostage-taking," they would help "Germany, one of our good friends in the world."

The background to Rafsanjani's friendly words on Germany was that Genscher had sent a ranking official to Teheran—Reinhard Schlagintweit, the head of the Mideast and Gulf Region section at the ministry.

Schlagintweit was involved in secret diplomacy with Libya, working out compromises in various hostage

affairs. The net result of such diplomacy, which had its complement in similar deals with Iran and Syria, was that numerous Islamic terror and intelligence networks, notably the Iranian Savama, gained freedom of action in Germany, provided they refrained from terrorist acts on West German territory.

From Germany, attacks could be prepared against other countries in Western Europe, however. This arrangement between the Bonn foreign ministry and the Teheran regime has been in place since 1979-80, and a new arrangement of this kind may well have been pre-negotiated between Schlagintweit and Rafsanjani during the four days the German diplomat stayed in Teheran.

Did the two discuss the ongoing restructuring of the broad terrorist logistics apparatus, which the Iranian intelligence agency Savama keeps functioning in Germany? One of the centers of Shi'ite activities in Germany is the state of Saarland, directly bordering France, where the Hamadei brothers had settled down. After the arrest of two Hamadei brothers in Frankfurt (Jan. 13 and 26) and the discovery of a secret arsenal of liquid explosive near the Saarland town of Beckingen, German police are investigating possible terrorist connections into France.

There are indications that the top Lebanese terrorist, George Ibrahim Abdallah, who is now in a French jail, may have lived with Mohamad Ali Hamadei at a boardinghouse in the

Saarland during 1984. About 3,000 Lebanese exiles live in this region, providing an Islamic environment large enough to hide several extremist groups. It is said that envoys from Teheran or one of the many Lebanese mother-organizations keep in regular contact with these exile groups in the Saarland, supplying them with funds, guidelines, and equipment.

According to anti-Khomeini Iranian exiles, the frequent visits of "special envoy" Sadegh Tabatabai from Teheran to Germany had to do with Savama's network-building. The fact that Minister Genscher in Bonn was informed, may explain why he helped Tabatabai escape trial on dope-smuggling charges in Germany in 1983.

The Genscher ministry did not take action, either, in the case of Mohamad Ali Hamadei, one of two main suspects in the June 1985 TWA airliner hijacking affair, who was under a U.S. arrest warrant already in July that year. Hamadei continued to travel to West Germany and visited "friends" in the Saarland in spite of that warrant. So-called "U.S.-German cooperation against terrorism" stopped, when Hamadei entered West Germany territory. Had Genscher acted appropriately, Hamadei would have been extradited to the United States in 1985.

Instead, he seems to have taken part in the June 19, 1985, bomb attack on the reception hall of Frankfurt Airport, which killed three civilians. Police are also looking into the case of a terrorist bomb attack against a U.S. radar base in the Saarland, on Sept. 6, 1985, which caused considerable material damage. Both attacks left no evidence of the explosive that was used. This may point to the liquid explosive found with Mohamad Ali Hamadei at his arrest on Jan. 13, and in the secret arsenal near Beckingen found by police on Jan. 26.