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## French Take Gloves Off

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# Soviet-sponsored international terrorism goes on trial in Paris

by Thierry Lalevée

With the opening on Feb. 23 in Paris of the long-awaited trial of George Ibrahim Abdallah, the founder of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Fractions (FARL), more than ten years of Soviet organized irregular warfare in the Middle East and Europe stands to be exposed.

Abdallah, arrested in France in October 1984, was already condemned last October in Lyons to several years in jail for the use of forged documents, carrying weapons, and association with terrorists. In Paris, he is on trial for personal responsibility in the murders in 1982 of U.S. military attaché Charles Ray and Israeli diplomat Ya'acov Barsimantov, as well as an assassination attempt the same year against Robert Home, the American consul in Strasbourg.

In the 10 days leading up to the trial, the French government decided to deploy in key areas of Paris and throughout some cities in France a large-scale police and paramilitary deployment. Such a deployment was made necessary following the terror wave last September, organized by friends of Abdallah under the name of the "Arab Solidarity Committee with Arab Political Prisoners," which killed 12 during a bombing spree in supermarkets and other public places.

One week before the Feb. 23 trial, the ASALA, as well as the "Special Operations" department of George Habash's PFLP, launched separate warnings of new terror reprisals if Abdallah were not released. The ASALA also urged the release of one of its members, as well as of Iranian terrorist Anis Naccash, who tried to kill Shahpur Bakhtiar, the former prime minister of Iran, in 1980.

What changed the climate of the trial from a defensive mood to an offensive one, was the arrest on Feb. 21 of four of the leaders of the French terrorist group "Direct Action." Jean Marc Rouillan, Nathalie Menigon, Joelle Aubron, and George Ciprianni were caught on a small farm in the center of France. Direct Action has been responsible for more than 80 bombings in the last five years, as well as several assassination attempts and actual murders; the last was in November 1986 when they gunned down George Besse, the director of the nationalized automobile manufacturing firm, Renault.

Police reports indicate that the terrorists were planning the kidnapping of a high level French figure in exchange for one of theirs, the jailed Regis Schleicher. Though so far, there is no indication that the arrest of the four founding

members of Direct Action will affect Abdallah's trial, this may come at a later point. French intelligence and law enforcement agencies have known for years that Abdallah's FARL functioned as the international liaison between European terrorists and Middle Eastern terrorist organizations and states.

### Abdallah: a Soviet agent

Creating a climate for major revelations to come out of the Abdallah trial has been the publication by several media of part of his police file. The move has been interpreted as a precaution that if, in case of political and diplomatic pressures, the French government refrains from exposing all of Abdallah's connections, part of them would be made public anyway. Besides publishing precise data over a five-year period which retrace most of Abdallah's movements around Europe and his circumstantial involvement in the murders mentioned above, a few particular facts stand out.

First, contrary to the general belief that the Abdallah terror cell has been known to European intelligence only since the early 1980s, the police reports document that Abdallah's name surfaced as early as 1975. Abdallah joined Habash's PFLP in 1969. By the mid-1970s, he was with the network of international terrorist "Carlos." The arrest of Carlos's associate in Beirut, Michel Mokarbel, brought up Abdallah's name for the first time.

Mokarbel was then extradited by Lebanese security to Paris, where French counterintelligence used him to bait a trap against Carlos. In June 1975, Carlos succeeded in escaping, killing two French inspectors and executing Mokarbel. In the following weeks, several of Carlos's safehouses were raided. There, French police found documentation on an upcoming assassination attempt against U.S. Ambassador Francis Maloy in Beirut. Maloy was ultimately killed in June 1976, a few weeks after Syrian troops took over the city. In this documentation, both the name of Abdallah, and one of his associates, Selim al Khoury (considered the mastermind behind the terror bombings in Paris in September 1986) were found.

The same police report also precisely documents the activities of Abdallah between 1975 and 1979, when the FARL was officially created. Of special importance are details

showing that the FARL was created under the sponsorship of Soviet intelligence as a false "splinter" group which was to look independent and "family-oriented" (in reference to the numbers of brothers and cousins of Abdallah), but whose tasks were twofold: to use such a cover to build new European terrorist networks, and to act as an unofficial liaison between the so-called "Euro-Terrorists" and Middle Eastern terrorism. The creation of the FARL had no other purpose, than to spread further confusion as to the actual game-masters behind terrorism.

A central figure in that process has been one Ibrahim Ahmed Lakhif, a central committee member of the Lebanese Communist Party, which acts as a local liaison between the PFLP of Habash and the Soviet Embassy. In 1977, he also served as a liaison to then-Colonel Ghazi Kanaan, now a general, director of Syrian intelligence for the whole country. It was Lakhif who picked up the Abdallah group in early 1977 to give them an eight-month-long series of ideological seminars on Marxism. After this ideological training, they were sent to the "Special Department" of the PFLP for further training.

The French media have put out precise details on how all of the members of the Abdallah groups were sent to Algeria, Syria, China, and the East bloc countries, especially Bulgaria. Bulgaria was for several years the headquarters of the FARL.

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## Soviets upgrade 'Operation Green'

by an Investigative Team

Well-informed Scandinavian sources have reported that Soviet intelligence has decided to upgrade Soviet manipulation of "ecology movements" in the West.

This would represent a third phase in Soviet wooing of the ecology/"Green" movements. Already in the late 1960s, the Soviets played a role in launching such neo-malthusian movements as the Club of Rome International and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), together with such individuals as Lord Solly Zuckerman, former scientific adviser to the late Lord Louis Mountbatten of Britain. The Soviets realized that "ecologism," with the international drug trade, would be most useful in helping the West commit suicide.

In summer 1985/spring 1986, this took on a new dimension, particularly after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Personal direction over what might be called "Operation Green," was taken by Ivan Frolov, editor of the Soviet magazine *Kommunist* and a member of the Club of Rome, who met with a West German Green Party delegation in Moscow in December 1985, and visited West Germany in May 1986. Also, a confidential meeting of seven European Communist parties, held in Austria in May 1986, resolved to integrate the activities of the Communist parties and the "Green" parties.

*EIR* has identified four foci of Soviet concentration, in encouraging and manipulating Western ecological movements, in addition to Soviet publications' praise for the West German Green Party. They are:

- The Varna, Bulgaria-based "Eco-Forum for Peace," established in August 1986. The Eco-Forum Governing Board held a private meeting in Moscow during the Feb. 14-16 extravaganza conference called by Soviet leader Gorbachov, with 900 individuals from the West attending. Westerners in the Varna Group, or Club of Varna, include American-born Arthur Westing, of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); Vincent LaBeyrie of France; and representatives of the Center for Human Ecology at Edinburgh University in Scotland. According to participants at this meeting, Eco-Forum president Ivan Frolov was unabashed in stating that he thought that "environmentalism" was important for the West, but not necessary for the Soviet Union.

- The "New Détente" project of the Transnational Insti-