

The neo-Nazi connection of the Iranian secret services

by Philip Golub and Claude Albert

Recent revelations in the French media have confirmed long-standing *EIR* reports on postwar Nazi and neo-Nazi ties to international terrorism, and to the Iranian secret services in particular. Resulting from well-calculated intelligence leaks, these revelations have identified Nazi banker François Genoud of Lausanne, Switzerland as a central figure in the European apparatus of the Iranian secret police, the Savama, and the Iranian Security and Information Ministry (Vevak) headed by Ayatollah Rayshari.

These contacts, which predate the theocratic regime's seizure of power in Teheran, became operational at the latest in 1983. Further, French counterespionage authorities have identified direct links between the so-called French "New Right" and its titular head, Alain de Benoist, and the pro-Iranian terrorist network of Fouad Ali Saleh and Mohammed Mouhajer, recently arrested for their involvement in the bloody bombing campaign in Paris in September 1986. To complete the circle, leading members of the "New Right," which does not conceal its admiration for Mussolini fascism and Soviet "National Communism," have all along maintained contact with the now-notorious Genoud.

Genoud himself is no stranger to the "Islamic" cause, having played a leading role as facilitator and financier for Ben Bella's National Liberation Front during the Algerian war, lending a helping hand to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of George Habbash during the late 1960s and early 1970s, prior to serving as a Libyan and, most recently, an Iranian asset.

The Savama, formed soon after the fall of the Shah of Iran, initially benefited from the expertise and training of the East German *Staatsicherheitsdienst* (Stasi). In the early years of the Khomeini regime, over 2,000 Stasi agents were employed by pro-Soviet elements in the religious hierarchy to train and service the Savama. In addition, hundreds of Bulgarian, North Korean, Vietnamese, and Soviet advisers were variously employed in terrorist training camps (Persepolis, Qom, etc.) or in advisory military positions. At present, according to Western intelligence experts, the European headquarters of both the Savama and Vevak are principally

based in Geneva, Hamburg, and Cologne, with subsidiary residences in Amsterdam, Munich, Frankfurt, and, until the recent crisis between France and Iran, in Paris. Geneva, which used to serve as the regional coordinating center, has recently been downgraded in favor of Hamburg and Cologne, West Germany, where the Iranians enjoy the protection and favors of West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The House of Iran in Cologne and the Islamic Center of Hamburg are major centers of Savama logistics and operations on the continent. French experts stress that over 300 "Hashishin," drugged assassins and kamikazes modeled on the Ismaili assassins of Hassan Ibn el Sabah, have recently entered the Federal Republic of Germany with operational assignments to target French and U.S. interests in particular. Prior to this deployment, over 900 Savama-run assets were safehoused in the Federal Republic.

Wahid Gordji, who was at the center of the crisis in French-Iranian relations and who is still entrenched at the Iranian embassy in Paris, was the head of Savama in France, and as such, entertained close and direct ties with both François Genoud and French neo-Nazis—among others, the owners of the Nazi bookstore Ogmios, on the Rue des Pyramides in Paris. Following initial revelations concerning this connection in *EIR's Middle East Insider*, the French satirical weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, reported on Aug. 5 that two neo-Nazis, Trystan Mordrel and Bernard Leforestier, owners of the Avalon publishing house connected to Ogmios, had maintained contacts with Gordji. Gordji and Mohammed Mouhajer were repeatedly spotted in Ogmios. Furthermore, Mordrel, Leforestier, and Alain de Benoist participated in an all-expenses-paid trip to Iran in March 1987, on Gordji's invitation.

One of the key figures in this constellation, who maintained contact with both Genoud and Gordji, is New Right figure and *Eléments* journalist Emmanuel Ratier, alias "David Barney." *Eléments* is the glossy Right of de Benoist. Ratier, who is known to have frequented virtually every Nazi and neo-Nazi organization spawned in

Europe over the past decade and a half, plays a central role in this national Bolshevik-Islamic connection. According to confidential police reports, he is a member of the secret "Orient of the North" neo-Nazi organization and is known to have twice visited Moscow over the past 12 months. He was active as a journalist in the now defunct *Magazine Hebdo*.

New Right "theoretician" de Benoist was a protégé of Armin Mohler of the Siemens Foundation in Munich, the principal postwar ideologue of the "Conservative Revolution," one of the many streams which led to Nazism generally and the National Bolshevik current in particular. In addition, de Benoist was one of the key sponsors of a glossy neo-Nazi homosexual publication, *Gaie France*, which advocates "magic homosexuality." *Gaie France* and *Eléments* held a discreet conference in Paris in 1986.

This constellation of people was protected by elements of the Interior Ministry of France during the tenure of Pierre Joxe, a member of the communist-led labor federation, CGT.

Finally, one must add to this the multiple and powerful banking connections of Genoud in both Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany, which have served to finance Savama covert operations. It is troubling that neither the Swiss nor the West German authorities, aware of these facts, acted to neutralize these capabilities. But, after all, Switzerland and West Germany remain the largest Western commercial partners of Khomeini's Iran. The longstanding ties of both Czechoslovak and East German intelligence to the Nazi and neo-Nazi organizations in the European Community raise interesting questions as to where these networks ended up.

Fundamentalism and Nazism

Beyond the intelligence connections as such, there exists an organic ideological and political convergence between the Nazis, neo-Nazis, and the Khomeini regime: the longstanding attraction that Nazism and its blood and soil ideology exercised on fundamentalist Islamic networks; hence the alliance between Hitler and the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and the attraction to millenarian Islam that Hitler had, as reported by Cardinal Tisserand in 1940.

In the book *Hitler's Table Talk*, Hitler is quoted, commenting that if the "German tribes had been converted, they would have the spearhead of Islam," remarking on the converging "military-tradition" between Islam and Nazism.

The roots for such a relationship were laid by Thule Society founder, von Sebottendorf, who established in Berlin, prior to World War I, the first Sufi order, the Albanian Bektashi Dervishes. Islamic mysticism, Sufism, was then incorporated into Nazi theory through Rosenberg's *mythos of the 20th century*. Under the leadership of Himmler, and SS Gen. Karl Wolff in particular, the elite training schools of the SS indoctrinated their students in methods developed by the Sufi military orders. Not surprisingly, during his 1950s exile to Cairo, Wolff's daughter converted to Islam to become Fatima Hereen. She is now a leading member of the

Islamic Center in Munich, and organized a religious ceremony for her father's burial in 1984.

Wolff's exile to Cairo was only one of hundreds of such cases. Perhaps the most spectacular is the case of Otto-Ernst Remer, the former general who crushed the July 1944 plot against Hitler. He only came back to West Germany in 1983, after several decades in the Middle East, and the last 15 years in Syria. He then created his group the "Deutsche Bismarck-Gruppe" which advocates a German-Russian alliance against "American imperialism."

Indeed, there is a symbiotic relationship between the beliefs of the Islamic fundamentalists, the hard-core Nazis, and the Russian empire. In their common hatred of Western civilization, the neo-Nazi constellation described here see their salvation as coming from Russia and from the nihilist power for destruction of millenarian Islam. For example, Genoud has never hidden the fact that he received directly from the Soviet Union, many of the Nazi manuscripts which he later published. One of his Swiss associates, journalist Ahmed Huber, whose initials were published in *Le Figaro* of Aug. 6 as belonging to the Iranian terror network in Europe, worked in the 1970s for East Germany's press agency ADN.

For the New Right, there is no contradiction here. Such was the message and content of the spring 1986 issue of *Eléments*, entitled "Russia: Last Empire?"

"Russia will undoubtedly be the detonator of the future," wrote Pierre Vial in that issue, which included a favorable study of National Bolshevism by de Benoist himself. Among others, Che Guevara's fellow guerrillero, Régis Debray, who served as an adviser to the Socialists in France for Third World affairs, was repeatedly praised as a "national communist." Nor was the "Islamic tilt" concealed: "The awakening of Islam is not a menace for us but a source of hope," wrote de Benoist in *Eléments* in 1985. One of his closest collaborators, Guillaume Faye, added: "The Arab-Islamic reemergence is objectively favorable to us because it . . . contributes to destabilizing the uniform Western model of civilization. . . ." The "Khomeini dictatorship is a true cultural revolution," wrote *Eléments* in winter 1985. The father of Trystan Mordrel, mentioned above, a Nazi during the Second World War, wrote in *Eléments* before his death that "Qaddafi is a visionary." "Libyan reality today," he wrote in 1984, "is a sort of integral libertarian doctrine, expressed by integral nationalism enlightened by integral religious faith." Mordrel advocated the total destruction of the state of Israel.

This inevitably led to direct contacts to Genoud's associate, Ahmed Ben Bella, long supported by the French New Right through Guillaume Faye, who is the general secretary of the Association for Defense of Arab Immigrant Workers in Europe. Ben Bella's MDA was banned and neutralized in France in late 1986 by the Chirac government following investigations proving its logistical support to terrorism on French territory. Ben Bella lives in Switzerland in a villa which Genoud provided. For Faye, Ben Bella is a "spiritual leader who threatens Zionism."