

Terror war continues against Mideast peace

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Nov. 13, a powerful car bomb blew up a Saudi National Guard training center in Riyadh, killing at least six Americans and injuring hundreds of people. The building housed the offices of a large contingent of retired American military and intelligence personnel working as advisers and instructors to the Saudi security agency. It was the first such large-scale terrorist attack in the history of Saudi Arabia, and it has triggered concern among senior officials throughout the region that the same irregular warfare upsurge that recently claimed the life of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, is now being directed at other American allies in the Mideast who play a critical role in the ongoing Mideast peace effort. Following the bombing, the interior minister of Bahrain and a high-ranking Kuwaiti official both expressed fear that their countries, which have both recently signed agreements expanding U.S. military basing rights, could face similar terrorism.

Responsibility for the Riyadh attack was claimed by several previously little-known groups, including Tigers of the Gulf and Soldiers of the Law. Days before the bombing, according to the *New York Times*, U.S. Ambassador Raymond Mabus received an anonymous threatening fax at the embassy, demanding that the United States pull out of Saudi Arabia "by July."

Of the several groups claiming credit for the Riyadh bombing, only one—Tigers of the Gulf—has been previously active. According to Antoine Sfeir, editor of the magazine *Cahiers d'Orient*, the group distributed anti-American flyers in November 1993 in Jiddah and Ynabu, both areas where there is a strong American military presence. Sfeir identified the group as a radical Sunni sect, an offshoot of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, a Saudi opposition group that has been headquartered in London. There is, however, no other evidence that the committee has any links to the terrorist incident. In recent days, Saudi authorities have arrested 27 opposition activists.

The Anglo-American rift

It is impossible to competently frame an investigation into the upsurge in irregular warfare in the Mideast, without first taking into account the ongoing "war and a half" between Washington and London over a wide range of strategic

matters. High on the list of Anglo-American disputes is the fate of the Middle East.

The Clinton administration has been in the forefront of efforts to achieve a lasting and stable regional peace accord, whereas the British Crown and its secret intelligence services, including "Bush-league" Conservative Revolution assets inside the United States, have been dead-set against any advance in the peace process that disrupts their 150-year-old balance-of-power games in the oil-rich region. The region is thus a frontline battle zone in a surrogate war between Washington and London that, in recent weeks, has turned increasingly bloody.

The targeting of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states fits directly into this profile, as did the murder of Yitzhak Rabin.

Following the assassination of Rabin on Nov. 4, President Clinton led a large American delegation to the funeral. It was the first time since the death of France's President Charles de Gaulle that an American President had personally attended the funeral of a foreign head of State or government. Clinton's contingent came to Israel in six 747 jets, and included two former Presidents (George Bush and Jimmy Carter), several former secretaries of state, and 40 current members of Congress from both parties.

Syria and the peace process

During private talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Jordan's King Hussein, and other Arab leaders in Jerusalem for the funeral, President Clinton pressed for broad-based support for the peace process, including efforts to restart the stalled peace negotiations between Israel and Syria. Clinton solicited, and received, a pledge of support in this effort from the Saudis, who provide enormous amounts of aid to Syria, to pressure Syria's President Hafez al-Assad to finalize the deal with Israel that would result in the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, and would add Syria to the growing list of Arab States that have ended their conflict with Israel. Saudi Arabia, according to one well-placed U.S. source, has already begun cutting back on aid to Assad in an effort to drive him back to the peace table.

On Nov. 17, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, traveling in Osaka, Japan, told reporters that he had received personal assurances that Syrian President Assad is intent on moving forward with the peace with Israel. The same day, at a government-sponsored rally in Damascus celebrating Assad's 25th year in power, banners were prominently displayed reading: "We Want Peace," and "Hero in War, Hero in Peace."

Early this year, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry made a tour of the Persian Gulf states, solidifying expanded U.S. military basing rights in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and elsewhere. Source close to the administration report that, while the expanded U.S. military presence has

raised fears that there will be a backlash of terrorism, the increased U.S. presence is considered crucial to the securing of regional peace. At least one Arab-American linked the bolstered U.S. security presence to the deepening rift with London, which is notorious for its sponsorship of Islamist and Jewish fundamentalist insurgencies.

The 'afghansi' factor. . .

Another facet of the American peace drive in the Mideast is the effort to dismantle the vast British-linked "afghansi" irregular warfare apparatus that was fostered during the 1979-89 war to drive the Soviet Red Army out of Afghanistan. Although the United States, beginning during the Carter administration, and vastly expanding during the Reagan-Bush years, played a pivotal role in building up an Islamist "Jihad" force to battle the Soviets, the effort was always a "Made in London" affair. As *EIR* documented in the first installment of a recent three-part *Special Report* on "The New International Terrorism" (see *EIR* Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Nov. 17), Afghanistan was, for over a century, at the heart of Britain's imperial "Great Game" to control the crossroads between Asia and Europe, and to block Russian-American-continental European collaboration to build up an infrastructural land-bridge, spreading prosperity and political stability across the Eurasian heartland.

Since the departure of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, tens of thousands of afghansi mujahideen veterans, trained by American, British, and Israeli special forces advisers, and corrupted by their ties to a British-sponsored global arms-for-drugs underworld that largely bankrolled the decade-long surrogate war, have returned to their native lands and launched new irregular warfare operations.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) in Algeria, which has been engaged in a terror war on French territory since July, is just one well-known example of this "afghansi" terror.

The 1993 terrorist attacks on the headquarters of the CIA in Langley, Virginia and the World Trade Center bombing in New York City were both carried out by afghansi networks. And the same afghansi cell, headed by a Pakistani from the Baluchistan region bordering Afghanistan, Abdul Basit Mahmud Abdul Karim (alias Ramzi Yousef), also plotted to assassinate Pope John Paul II during his February 1995 visit to Manila, the Philippines, and was probably behind the March 1995 machine gun assault against a U.S. consulate van in Karachi, Pakistan that resulted in the deaths of three U.S. diplomats, including a CIA communications officer operating under a State Department cover.

Early this year, the United States quietly launched an effort to draw both Turkey and Pakistan into a crackdown against this British-steered afghansi insurgent force, according to one Washington, D.C. source. The arrest of Ramzi Yousef in Pakistan, and his extradition to the United States early this year, is described as a breakthrough in this effort. Yousef is awaiting trial now in the World Trade

Center bombing case. Four others alleged to be his underlings have already been convicted and sentenced.

. . . and the Temple Mount

The other major crackdown under way inside Israel, in the United States, and elsewhere, is directed against the Jewish underground, another British-sponsored irregular warfare capability drawing upon a collection of young, psychotic Jews, many originally from Brooklyn, New York, who were inspired by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

On a far more profound level, the entire Jewish underground is a product of a 150-year British Crown project, known as the "Temple Mount," which aimed at creating assassin cults among Jews bent on rebuilding the Temple of Solomon on the current site of the Dome of the Rock mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam. The Temple Mount project, as *EIR* detailed last week, is run by the Quatuor Coronati "research lodge" of the British Crown's Grand Mother Lodge of England.

So far, Israeli authorities have concentrated their crackdown on the Rabin assassins upon the several Jewish underground cells that directly deployed the prime minister's confessed killer, Yigal Amir. Eight other co-conspirators have so far been arrested by the Israeli police and charged with various levels of complicity in the murder. Police Minister Shahal told reporters a week after the assassination that the plotters had two goals: the murder of Rabin and other cabinet ministers seen as crucial to the peace process; and a terror war against Palestinians in areas of the West Bank where Israeli troops pulled out, in compliance with the PLO-Israel Oslo II agreement.

Newly appointed Prime Minister Shimon Peres has commissioned a government probe of the Rabin assassination, emphasizing the role of a small group of Orthodox rabbis who are suspected of issuing a religious decree calling for the murder of Rabin. A month before the Rabin murder, the chief rabbi of the American Lubavitcher sect, Avraham Hecht, gave an interview to writer Robert Friedman, which was published in October in *New York* magazine, in which he called for Rabin's elimination, because of his role in turning over land in Judea, Samaria, and Galilee which was "given to the Jews by Almighty God."

Not coincidentally, Rabbi Hecht is a favorite of American Conservative Revolution freaks in the GOP. He played an instrumental role in the electoral campaigns of New York Gov. George Pataki (R) and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.).

Just before the Rabin assassination, Republicans in the U.S. Congress launched a series of actions aimed at showing their opposition to the peace process—including the vote to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and the effort to cut off all U.S. aid to the Palestinian National Authority by conducting a classified probe and public smear campaign around the theme of "where Yasser Arafat gets his money."