EIRFeature

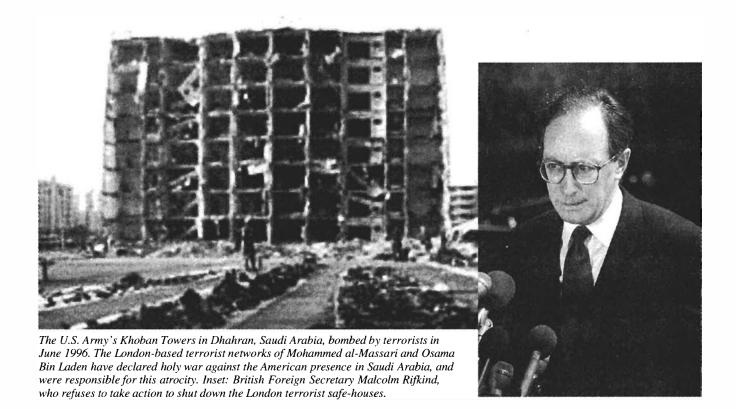# Levy sanctions on Britain for harboring terrorists!

by Jeffrey Steinberg

It's high time that the United States led an international sanctions campaign against Great Britain, for harboring virtually every international terrorist organization operating around the world today. While the United States and other countries talk about "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq, and continue to moot heightened sanctions against Sudan, evidence continues to pile up that London—not Khartoum, Teheran, or Baghdad—is today's world headquarters of terror.

Such action by the United States is not only more than warranted, under any just standard of international law, it is a matter of vital U.S. national security. The leading present target of British-harbored and controlled so-called "Islamic" terrorism is the United States' presence in the Middle East. It is the London-based terrorist networks of Mohammed al-Massari and Osama Bin Laden, that have declared holy war against the American presence in Saudi Arabia, and who were responsible for the bomb attacks against American military personnel in Riyadh and Dhahran during 1995 and 1996.

As recently as March 23, the British newspaper, the *Independent,* and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), placed themselves at the disposal of Osama Bin Laden, to publicize his latest declarations of "jihad" against the American role in the Persian Gulf. The *Independent*'s Robert Fisk was dispatched to interview Bin Laden in Afghanistan, and beam the latter's declaration of war against the United States all over the world via BBC. A month earlier, in February 1997, British Channel 4 TV had aired an interview with Bin Laden, in which he vowed to bring his "jihad" to the 40,000 American civilians living in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The U.S. State Department took the pronouncement

The U.S. Army's Khoban Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, bombed by terrorists in June 1996. The London-based terrorist networks of Mohammed al-Massari and Osama Bin Laden have declared holy war against the American presence in Saudi Arabia, and were responsible for this atrocity. Inset: British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, who refuses to take action to shut down the London terrorist safe-houses.

seriously enough to issue an immediate travel advisory to all Americans in Saudi Arabia, or planning to visit Saudi Arabia in the near future.

In contrast, Bin Laden, who is free to travel back and forth to his villa in London's trendy Wembly suburb, heaped praise on the British and French governments, for distancing themselves from the policy of the United States in the Middle East.

Contrast: Sudan and Great Britain

While the government of Sudan continues to be targetted for alleged harboring of international terrorists, the simple truth is that the Sudanese have passed strict laws, forbidding anyone from plotting terrorism against any overseas target from Sudanese soil. Within days of the law being announced, Osama Bin Laden left the country, to take up his present dual residence in Great Britain and Afghanistan.

In a recent press release, made available by the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., the Khartoum government's policy was clearly spelled out. "The popularly elected Government of Sudan categorically opposes terrorism," the statement began. "That anti-terrorism policy has been repeatedly proclaimed by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Terrorist Carlos the Jackal was extradited to France. Hijackers of Ethiopian aircraft have been extradited to Addis Ababa, despite strained relations between the GOS and the Government of Ethiopia. *President Bashir has also placed Sudan off limits to any person plotting terrorism or warfare against any foreign country, which occasioned the departure of Osama Bin Laden, accused by U.S. and western sources as a bankroller of terrorist activities.*"

Contrast that stated and publicized policy by the Sudanese government, with that of Great Britain. On Feb. 14, the British Parliament failed to vote out of committee a bill that would have, for the first time in history, made it a crime to plot international terrorism from British soil. The bill was introduced by Conservative Member of Parliament Nigel Waterson on Jan. 25, partially in response to British defense and aerospace industry fears, that London's highly publicized harboring of Saudi terrorist al-Massari, would jeopardize lucrative pending arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The government of John Major refused to give its backing to the Waterson bill, and Labour MP George Galloway, a longtime ally of Lord Avebury, one of the leading backers of international terrorism in Britain today, launched a concerted, successful drive to kill the measure.

Galloway's statements before the House of Commons made it perfectly clear, that the reason the bill went down to unceremonious defeat, was that the British Crown, as a top-down policy, fosters and harbors international terrorism.

"How can the Iraqi opposition get rid of Saddam Hussein except by violent means? There is no other way in which

he can be overthrown," Galloway ranted. "Members of the Iraqi National Congress, which occupies a very plush office opposite Harrods, spend every day plotting the violent overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Personally, I pray for their success."

Galloway denounced the British arms manufacturers, for putting their business interests above the goal of tearing down the House of Saud, and driving the United States out of the Persian Gulf. "That was al-Massari's crime. He was threatening and jeopardizing United Kingdom arms contracts with the Saudi Arabian dictatorship."

Galloway also argued—quite correctly—that his views reflect an unbroken British policy commitment, which dates back to the middle of the nineteenth century, when Karl Marx was a resident of London, and spent most of his time at the British Museum; and when Lord Palmerston was the "godfather" of the Young Europe movement of arch-terrorist Giuseppi Mazzini, et al. Indeed, it was this Palmerston-sponsored, terrorist Young Europe and Young America movement that was responsible for the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Later, an anarchist from the same stable of London-headquartered terrorists shot and killed President William McKinley, bringing rabid Anglophile Teddy Roosevelt into the Presidency. By that time, Palmerston's role as grand protector of London's worldwide terrorist legions, had been taken up by Prince Edward Albert, later King Edward VII, known as the Prince of the Isles. (For more on these historical developments, see the bibliography on p. 24.)

Nine governments protest

As the result of the defeat of the Waterson bill in the House of Commons, British policy remains unchanged. It is perfectly legal to stage, bankroll, and order terrorist action against any other nation from British soil. And, indeed, this is precisely what has been occurring, with increasing intensity, over the past several years.

Since 1995, nine foreign governments—Peru, France, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Germany, Turkey, Nigeria, and Libya—have publicly identified London as the command center for international terrorism. Most of those governments have filed formal diplomatic protests with the British Foreign Ministry over London's role as the leading safe-house for world terrorism. In every instance, the British response was the same: Since the terrorist actions were not directed against British interests, there was nothing that the government could—or would—do.

In each instance, the governments in question provided detailed evidence that leading international terrorists, based in London, had directed hideous acts of brutality against their national interests. When, in August 1996, the British government announced that it would allow an estimated 14,000 terrorists from the Arab and Islamic world, to come to London to participate in a several-day-long conference, the Egyptian government of President Hosni Mubarak summoned the British chargé d'affairs and delivered a formal letter of protest to British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind. The official Egyptian daily newspaper Al-Ahram declared, in a signed editorial by its editor-in-chief, that "Britain has become the number-one base in the world for international terrorism." The international heat proved too great, and the British government, at the last moment, cancelled the conference. They made no moves to dismantle the terror apparatus harbored in London, however.

Needed: A viable U.S. policy

There is no question that the Clinton administration is deeply concerned about the strategic consequences of the recent years' explosions of international terrorism. The Middle East peace process was devastated by the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. And, when a series of suicide bombings took place in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, in February and March 1996—just months before the Israeli elections—President Clinton convened an emergency summit of heads of state in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, to launch a coordinated anti-terror effort.

But those good intentions are fatally hampered by the actions of Britain, and by the administration's repeated failure to make the British role in international terrorism a matter of public scandal, and a target of diplomatic action. Following Sharm el-Sheikh, EIR's State Department correspondent Bill Jones asked department spokesman Nick Burns about the by-then well-documented role of Britain in harboring Middle East terrorists who had just blown up the peace process.

Burns replied, with a stunned expression: "I would not single out the United Kingdom in determining how we can foreclose terrorist options for Hamas in the future. I wouldn't single out the United Kingdom. I would single out Iran. . . . I wouldn't single out the United Kingdom for this treatment. . . . I simply don't know if this particular subject has been raised diplomatically by the United States with the United Kingdom. But again, I would argue very strongly that singling out the United Kingdom would be most curious now."

Most curious? Read the documentation that follows. Study the words of the eight governments that have singled out London as the world headquarters of terrorism. Study the list of known terrorist organizations that today maintain high-visibility offices in London, and which enjoy the full protection and financial backing of the British Home Office, the Privy Council, and the Crown. Yes, the Crown.

Carefully read George Galloway's passionate defense of Britain's 100-year policy of harboring the leading international murderers and hooligans. Then, consider the consequences of the United States government not taking the lead, in pressing for harsh sanctions against Great Britain for harboring terrorism.