

Terrorist flaunts 'covenant' with the British

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Less than 48 hours after the United States launched missile strikes against a pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum, Sudan and "Afghansi" terrorist camps near Khost, Afghanistan, the London-based spokesman for Osama Bin Laden, the man accused of masterminding the Aug. 7 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, issued a fiery attack against the United States, and, in the same breath, defended what he called "a covenant of peace with the British government."

Bin Laden is widely described, in inflated, semi-fictional media accounts, as a one-man terrorist international, running a worldwide murderous insurgency, from a high-tech "bat cave" dug into the side of a mountain in Afghanistan. The fact is, as *EIR* has reported for the past two years, that Bin Laden also maintains a residence in London, and still enjoys sanctuary courtesy of the government of Great Britain and the British Crown. Furthermore, while the super-rich ex-Saudi no doubt provides financing to the worldwide Afghansi terror apparatus, he is by no means the head of the several-thousand-person-strong terrorist-for-hire network. To the extent that the Afghans were involved in the two embassy bombings, they were the cat's paws for British and Israeli intelligence networks, out to drive the United States out of the African continent.

Therefore, no investigation that stops short of the hierarchy of Anglo-Israeli intelligence networks, ultimately responsible for the two embassy massacres, will put a dent in the global anti-American irregular warfare insurgency.

'Covenant of peace'

During an Aug. 22 interview in London with the Arabic daily *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, Omar Bakri, leader of the Al-Muhajiroon group and the self-described public spokesman for

Bin Laden, was asked about "why the Islamist groups never attack British interests." He responded promptly, "I work here in accordance with the covenant of peace which I made with the British government when I got asylum. . . . We respect the terms of this bond as God orders us to do."

Bakri's blunt admission of collusion between the British government and the Afghani terror apparatus was seconded in the same *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* article by Abu Hamza Al-Misri (real name, Mustafa Kamil), the leader of the Egyptian Al-Jihad organization's "Supporters of *Sharia*" front group, who is wanted for murder in Egypt, but enjoys political asylum in London. Al-Misri issued a direct threat of terrorist action against U.S. targets, in retaliation for the Sudan and Afghanistan strikes. Asked about his status in Great Britain, he explained, "They have interrogated me several times, but they have no law that bans statements concerning things that happen outside Britain."

It is now a widely recognized fact among governments throughout the Islamic world, that Lyndon LaRouche was right, in October 1995, when he warned, in an *EIR* Special Report: "A new wave of international terrorism is stalking the world. It is led by a horde of mujahideen mercenaries: human flotsam, like the 1920s 'rootless' veterans of World War I, cast upon the world in the wake of the 1980s Afghan war. This is the worst terrorism yet; it is much worse than that of the 1970s. It is coordinated from the capital of a former U.S. ally, London; worse yet, it was created with the complicity of former U.S. Vice President (and, later, President) George Bush."

Following Bakri's interview, pressure once again mounted on the government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, to take action against the terrorists safe-havened in the United Kingdom.

On Aug. 23, the London *Sunday Times* published a story, entitled "Revealed: Arab Terror Chief's London Network," which detailed the London ties of Osama Bin Laden. "The terrorist mastermind blamed by America for the bombing of its embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam is using Britain as a base to finance a global network of Islamic fundamentalist groups," the *Sunday Times* reported. Citing testimony by Sidi Tayyib, a former Bin Laden "bagman" now in jail in Saudi Arabia, the article reported that funds regularly flow from Bin Laden bank accounts in Afghanistan and Pakistan into London, "for distributing . . . to anti-American groups and fundamentalist movements in Europe, the Middle East and north Africa. . . . Other sources say the FBI is investigating separately how Bin Laden finances supporters in America by routing money through Britain."

The *Sunday Times* also reported that an aide to Omar Bakri, Makbool Javid, has been recently appointed to a post on the Race Relations Forum by Blair's Home Secretary, Jack Straw!

It should come as no surprise that Straw has dragged his feet for nearly a year, in moving against the international terrorists enjoying safe haven and financial subsidies in Britain. On Nov. 20, 1997, following the massacre in Luxor, Egypt, Straw had told the *Daily Telegraph* that he was rushing through new legislation to ban terrorists from operating on British soil. Nothing has happened since that promise.

Nine months earlier, Blair and Straw's Labour Party had succeeded in blocking precisely the same anti-terror legislation, when it was presented in the House of Commons by Conservative Party Member of Parliament Nigel Waterson. Labour Member of Parliament George Galloway, who led the successful effort to defeat the anti-terror bill, at one point in the House of Commons debate, declared, "We are all in favor of controlling terrorism in Britain. Surely not a single Honorable Member has any truck with terrorism here, but we are talking about terrorism in other countries and what is defined as terrorism by foreign dictatorships where there is no democratic process."

Pressure on Tony Blair

This time, following the U.S. embassy bombings, Prime Minister Blair is clearly coming under intense pressure to shut down the terrorist safe havens. He admitted as much during a press conference in Omagh, Northern Ireland, the site of a recent terror bombing that killed 28 people. On Aug. 25, Blair announced draconian new domestic "anti-terror" measures, giving the police carte blanche to arrest anyone accused by a police official of colluding with Irish extremists. At the same press conference, Blair announced that he will soon ask Parliament to pass a law making it illegal "to conspire in Britain to commit terrorist offenses in another country."

Blair made it clear, however, that this initiative was being imposed on him from abroad. This legislation, he admitted, "has been strongly pressed upon us by many states who are

concerned at what they believe to be U.K.-based nationals of their countries using the U.K. to plan terrorist acts abroad."

Secret negotiations revealed

In another dramatic event, following the Aug. 20 U.S. bombing of the pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum, *EIR* has learned from well-placed diplomatic sources in Bonn, Germany, that the Clinton administration has offered an apology for the bombing of the Al Shifa factory, as well as compensation, to the Sudanese government. The offer, made through a third party, was made on condition that it be done secretly. The Sudanese government has maintained its position, that the United States must apologize publicly for the action. Otherwise, it intends to pursue all legal channels to obtain compensation for the bombing, and exoneration from the chemical weapons charges.

This report lends new credence to information, reported last week in *EIR*, that President Clinton was misinformed about the evidence linking the Khartoum factory to the Bin Laden networks before he approved the U.S. attack.

Following the Aug. 20 attack on Khartoum, a number of well-placed U.S. intelligence sources admitted to *EIR* that they were baffled by the action. However, they cautioned, given the intense political attacks on President Clinton, they would not publicly criticize the President's actions.

Not so for some of the United States' leading allies in the Middle East. The Arab League on Aug. 24 unanimously condemned the bombing against Sudan; Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan also condemned the bombing. Jordan's Information Minister, Nasser Judeh, put it succinctly: "There should be some sort of dialogue between different nations, regardless of differences of opinion. Sudan and the United States don't have to see eye to eye on everything, but we just feel that dialogue should prevail."

Criminal probe progressing?

On Aug. 27, at a press conference at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C., FBI Director Louis Freeh, National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Mary Jo White announced the extradition to the United States of two men accused of participating in the Nairobi bombing. The men are Mohammed Rashid Daoud Al Owali and Mohammed Saddiq Odeh. Odeh was arrested in Pakistan on the day of the Nairobi and Dar es Salaam bombings, en route from Kenya to Afghanistan. He was flown back to Kenya, where American and Kenyan officials questioned him and followed up on leads that he provided, leading to the second arrest, of Al Owali.

At the FBI headquarters press conference, the Clinton administration officials placed great emphasis on the criminal investigations on the ground in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. No mention was made of the missile strikes against Sudan and Afghanistan.