

The Communist Party had been violently attacked by the mass media for the same “heretical” proposal. But people standing at a fresh grave are not supposed to be attacked.

If only there were no other fresh tombs—but there are, not in the Caucasus, but in St. Petersburg. Dmitri Filippov, a sponsor of Seleznyov’s election campaign, received his own three bullets in the head in October. Who cared? The last victim of political terror before Starovoitova was Seleznyov’s assistant Mikhail Osherov. Who among the immense lot of journalists worldwide, who associated Makashov’s speech with the assault on Starovoitova, ever mentioned this case, in which the victim was Jewish? Or, is a Jew who is the aide to a CPRF member, automatically exempt from anti-Semitism?

Scandal calendar

The three scandals, which so mysteriously followed each other, exactly matching the desires and intentions of Berezovsky and Chubais, took place within three weeks. This period of three weeks preceded the visit of the Chinese President Jiang Zemin to Moscow.

The three scandals, shooting off like a MIRVed stink bomb, targetted not the Communist Party, not the State Duma, and not the security services. The way in which they developed, how and by whom they were highlighted within Russia, and by which foreign press most viciously interpreted, leaves

no doubt that the real target was the leadership of the government, which was about to be discussing the future of the country—and the whole world—with the leader of China.

The results of the Moscow-Beijing talks may be more or less encouraging, but it is clear that if Primakov’s enemies succeeded in replacing him with Al Gore’s crony Chernomyrdin, the strategic alliance for a new world economic system, proposed by China, would not be formed.

Throughout the IMF-dictated reforms in Russia, the ruling comprador *privatiseurs* would wail that their political opponents enjoyed the status of an opposition, with plenty of opportunities to criticize and expose. Now they are ousted themselves, by the crisis that threatens to destroy the country. Every convulsive move they make reveals that they don’t care about the recovery of the country and its economy. They would prefer to undermine the government and create chaos. Look at their masters and advisers abroad: Does it not seem they want the same?

The Russian liberals have got a funeral problem. They would like to be remembered through the ages. Still, even if they climb on top of each other, the size of these figures in the people’s memory will not exceed the size of domestic insects stealing food from the kitchen. In the long run, it will profit them nothing, even if they all immediately kill each other on behalf of unknown “anti-Semitic” soldiers. *Pesenka speta*, as we say in Russian. The song is sung.

Britain manipulates Kurdish insurgency against Turkey, plays the Ocalan card

by Joseph Brewda

Beginning on Nov. 13, the government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, with the support of elements in the Italian and German governments, took dramatic action to protect the London-headquartered Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which has been waging a terrorist insurgency in Turkey since 1984. The occasion was the arrest of the PKK’s founder and leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who was picked up in Rome’s international airport upon his arrival from Moscow. Within hours of his detention, the Italian government of Prime Minister Massimo D’Alema announced that it would not extradite Ocalan to Turkey, which has an outstanding warrant for his arrest, because, since Turkey has the death penalty, the Italian Constitution forbade it. On Nov. 20, the Italian government released him from prison, placing him under house-arrest, and stated that it might grant him political asylum.

Because of the threat to its sovereignty posed by the PKK,

Turkey almost invaded Syria in October for providing safe-haven to Ocalan and his group. After Syria agreed to Turkish demands on Oct. 20, and began closing down PKK camps, Ocalan fled Damascus for Moscow, and after being refused asylum there, to Italy.

In addition to refusing Ocalan’s extradition, and threatening to offer him asylum, Italy, together with Germany, Greece, the European Union, and several other European countries, denounced the Turkish government for “repression,” and called upon western Europe as a whole to intervene into Turkey’s domestic affairs to solve its “Kurdish problem.” Typical are the statements of Italian Prime Minister D’Alema, who told the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* on Nov. 23: “It is not only PKK terrorism which is tearing apart the Turkish state, but also the systematic violation of human rights by the Turkish security forces.” He added, “Europe fights terrorism,

but also brutal repression, torture, the assassination of opponents, illegal imprisonment, and all other forms used to stifle freedom.”

Turkey’s harsh response was predictable. “No country that shelters or protects him or allows his activities or sets him free can call itself a place of justice,” Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said. Yilmaz added that if Italy were to provide Ocalan asylum, it would become “an accomplice to all the murders committed by the PKK.”

As a result of the manipulated diplomatic conflict, Turkey’s often-troubled relations with Italy and its other NATO allies have plunged to a new low.

But, the issue here is not Turkey’s efforts to contain Kurdish insurgency, which have been woefully ineffective, but rather, continuing British and French efforts to use PKK and Kurdish insurgency to attempt to bust up Turkey and Iraq, and foment wars throughout the Middle East along the lines of British intelligence official Bernard Lewis’s notorious “Arc of Crisis” plan. As a consequence of such imperialist games, the impoverished Kurds have been the first to suffer.

The PKK’s terrorist profile

Turkey’s demand for Ocalan’s extradition from Italy would have been viewed as routine—if terrorist groups such as the PKK were not the playthings of governments and diplomacy. Since 1984, the PKK’s terrorist insurgency in south-eastern Turkey has killed 30,000 people, mostly Kurds. Among its victims have been rival Kurdish leaders, school teachers, and civil servants charged with being “supporters of the state.”

Ocalan formed the group in 1974 as an offshoot of the Marxist-Leninist Federation of Revolutionary Youth, which espouses violent revolution in the Turkish countryside to “liberate Kurdistan.” Reflecting its dedication to senseless violence, the PKK was a founding member of the London-based Revolutionary Communist Party’s Revolutionary Youth Movement. Other founding members include Shining Path of Peru, which has killed more than 25,000 people since the early 1970s, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of Sri Lanka, which has killed 130,000 people since 1973.

As a result of the PKK’s wanton carnage, even the New York-based Human Rights Watch, which has openly sup-



ported the PKK and other terrorist groups throughout the world under the cover of alleged human rights concerns, has been forced to admit that the PKK has been responsible for at least 768 executions during 1992-95.

Moreover, western Europe itself has been a major victim of the PKK. According to official reports by the U.S. State Department and by several European police agencies, the PKK finances itself through the narcotics trade, and could be responsible for shipping as much as half of the heroin consumed in western Europe. PKK gangs, meanwhile, prey on the large ethnic Kurdish Turkish emigrant population in Germany in particular, targetting them for extortion in the form of “revolutionary taxation.” At the same time, the PKK has formed “revolutionary alliances” with some of the remains of western European terrorist sects, such as Germany’s AIZ, the “Anti-Imperialist Cells,” which it has trained in guerilla tactics in Lebanon.

British guidance

As the diplomatic crisis deepened, Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini and German Foreign Minister Joscha Fischer announced that the two states were working on a new “European initiative” to solve the “Kurdish problem,” which they described as being based “on the renunciation of violence, the recognition of the rights of the Kurdish people, and the right of Turkey to security.” Dini has previously called for revising Turkey’s borders and creating a Kurdish state, while Fischer’s Green Party has pushed Kurdish and other terrorist insurgencies for years.

But just who was behind this initiative became clear on

Nov. 26, when Britain's Lord Rea arrived in Italy to offer his good services in "mediating" the European-Turkish crisis that Britain itself has steered. Lord Rea told the Italian press that he was acting on behalf of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. He also told them that Ocalan was not a terrorist but "the leader of a popular movement."

Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of the late French President and the PKK's main advocate in Europe, has also become involved. On Oct. 12, even before Ocalan fled Damascus, Mitterrand addressed a pro-PKK gathering in Leuven, Belgium, saying that the "time and conditions" for creating a "Kurdish state" were at hand. According to Mitterrand, the Clinton administration's decision in September to expand operations to topple Saddam Hussein and to find a "federal solution" to Iraq, was a "harbinger of a Kurdish state." She said, "We have to prod the Europeans on this issue."

This is not the first time that the British oligarchy, the British Foreign Office, and their lackeys have supported the creation of a Kurdish state. In February 1998, during the middle of earlier British and Israeli efforts to sucker Clinton into bombing Iraq, Cook told the London *Daily Telegraph* that Britain would "frankly welcome" the "break-up of Iraq" leading to the creation of a Kurdish state. In the ensuing uproar in Turkey, Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit charged that "Britain has been the leading country causing chaos in the Middle East since World War I."

Also at that time, Britain's Lord Avebury, the PKK's main strategist, held hearings in the House of Lords at which Deputy Speaker Baroness Caroline Cox and former Foreign Secretary Lord David Owen called for carving a "Kurdish protectorate" out of Iraq and Turkey.

This is an old story. Britain and France first promoted Kurdish separatism back in the 1890s, as part of their effort to use ethnic and religious movements to break up the Ottoman Turkish empire. Since World War I, Britain and France have run Kurdish separatism, and related movements, as part of their efforts to break up modern Turkey, as well as Iran and Iraq.

Reflecting this century-long imperialist policy, Britain has made London the PKK's international political and propaganda headquarters, despite Turkish protests. It has also allowed the PKK to establish its own satellite television station there, MED-TV, through which Ocalan has regularly beamed marching orders to PKK cadre back in Turkey.

How it was set up

As the smoke cleared around the circumstances of Ocalan's arrest, details emerged indicating that it had been stage-managed by the Italian Refounded Communist Party (RCP) and its behind-the-scenes patrons, apparently without the knowledge of the Italian Prime Minister, in an effort to get Ocalan asylum. The main operative in this caper, Ramon Mantovani, the professional radical who directs the party's foreign policy within the Italian Parliament, has worked

closely with Kurdish and other terrorist sects since the 1960s.

According to a Sept. 17 broadcast of the PKK station MED-TV, Mantovani arrived in Damascus in September to set up the precondition for the operation. His purpose, the PKK reports, was to "develop strategic cooperation" between the Italian RCP and PKK, leading to the creation of a new "revolutionary Socialist International" dedicated to "fighting the globalization of capitalism." Ocalan agreed with Mantovani's proposal, and suggested that "Rome could be designated as the capital of the new international."

Following the terrorist gathering, Mantovani and 14 other Italian parliamentary deputies sponsored a meeting of the PKK's Kurdish Parliament-in-Exile in the chambers of the Italian Senate on Sept. 29, despite the harsh protests of Turkey and the United States.

The two groups remained in contact after Ocalan was forced to flee Damascus for Moscow. And on Nov. 11, Mantovani flew to Moscow to arrange for Ocalan to travel to Italy in order to get asylum. "We were just helping the Kurds find a way to start peace talks," Mantovani told Associated Press on Nov. 25. "Our action will force Italy and Europe to finally—and I hope definitively—face the Kurdish issue."

This is not the first time that British Lords, Madame Mitterrand, and the RCP have teamed up to support terrorist insurgencies. In 1997, for example, Mantovani organized a RCP delegation to Chiapas, Mexico, where his party boss, Fausto Bertinotti, met "Subcommander Marcos," the Mitterrand-patronized leader of the narco-terrorist Zapatista insurgency. Also that year, Mitterrand and Lord Rae called on the (narco-controlled) Colombian government of President Samper Pizano, to stand up to the military, and stop the military's "genocidal" war against the narco-terrorist Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, the FARC.

Indonesia battles chaos, subversion

by Michael O. Billington

Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, with more than 200 million citizens, succeeded in holding a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) on Nov. 10-13, which passed legislation establishing a schedule for parliamentary and Presidential elections next year, and rules providing for the creation of a multi-party system. While these measures confirmed that President B.J. Habibie is carrying through the democratic transformation of Indonesia, away from the tightly structured political system under the 32-year rule of President Suharto, the country has