

International Intelligence

European Military Expert: Bin Laden Didn't Do It

Top brass of the American military were—and likely still are—convinced that the Sept. 11 atrocities were largely the result of an “inside operation,” and “not primarily the work of the Arabs or Osama bin Laden,” stated a senior European military intelligence figure, during a discussion at a conference on “Transatlantic Intelligence Relations,” that took place near Berlin early in June.

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. had issued this analysis of the terror attack during a radio interview, even as it was occurring on the morning of Sept. 11. Although his views have received significant press coverage abroad, and many influentials in the Middle East and Europe agree, no leading American military or political figure has publicly endorsed LaRouche's view.

The European source made a public statement, during the conference proceedings, that he was astonished, some months ago while attending a summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference, as an observer, to hear representatives of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) and factions of the Bosnian Muslims express their gratitude to al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, and other Islamic fundamentalist groups, for helping them. He added, “Isn't this interesting, because the UCK has been fully backed by the Western secret services.”

In private discussion thereafter, the source elaborated, “Of course, the Americans first, the Germans second, have been deeply involved with the UCK. And to think that the Americans claim to have been surprised by Sept. 11! These Islamic fundamentalists were all creatures of the Western secret services. Who's bin Laden? By himself, he's nothing. Look, I was in Washington, during and after the events of Sept. 11, and I can tell you, although I am not at liberty to give any names, that I was with friends of mine, at high levels of the Pentagon, and the American military services, and *they* were certain, that what had happened on Sept. 11, could never have been done, *without* significant inside help, from *within the U.S. itself*. They all were emphatic, that a group of

Arabs, or bin Laden, could not have pulled off an operation of such intricacy.”

While claiming to be unfamiliar with LaRouche's evaluation of Sept. 11, he maintained that there is some kind of “rogue operation” involved. “I am not saying, definitively, that some U.S. group *did* it, it may have been, rather, that they *tolerated it happening*.”

Macedonian Press Cites LaRouche on Sovereignty

Lyndon LaRouche's views are being reported almost daily in the print and electronic media in Macedonia these days. At the end of May, LaRouche was described by TV anchorman Slobodan Tomic as a “wise teacher,” in a televised program about his life. Other interviews appeared with a LaRouche associate, on TV and in the weekly *Zum*.

Excerpts from LaRouche's May 28 campaign webcast were reported prominently in the two leading Macedonian newspapers, *Vecer* and *Nova Makedonia*, on May 31. Journalist Zoran Dimitrovski reported LaRouche's answer to his own question, concerning the prospects for peace and stability in the Balkans (see *EIR*, June 7). “There could be peace in Kosovo [and] Macedonia . . . if the U.S. allowed it,” the article said, describing LaRouche's view. LaRouche traced the “unfinished war in Macedonia” back to Madeleine Albright and Zbigniew Brzezinski, whose policy is now continued in the Bush Administration by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, a protégé of Albright's father, Josef Korbel.

The lively interest in LaRouche coincides with a fight by Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski and the Macedonian government for national sovereignty, in opposition to demands of both NATO and the International Monetary Fund. The IMF insisted that the minimum wage not be increased, that salaries not be paid to bankrupt firms' employees, and that families ruined by the collapse of a financial pyramid not be compensated. Georgievski rejected these demands, and the IMF delegation left Skopje, saying

they would be back after the September elections to talk to the next government.

NATO has tried to force Macedonia to attend a conference in order to obediently sign a paper that would have made its borders with Albania just symbolic, rather than real. Again, the government refused.

Macedonia favors a conference of the governments of the Balkan countries themselves, to foster close economic and strategic collaboration for the mutual development of the region. The government, and Prime Minister Georgievski in particular, have been calling for an agreement among free, sovereign, and independent nation-states. Quotes from LaRouche on this particular point have been published repeatedly in the Macedonian media.

Russian Army Paper: U.S. Afghan War a Failure

The Russian military daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* on June 11 reported that, more than half a year after large-scale U.S. military operations began in Afghanistan, al-Qaeda and the Taliban have not been defeated. In fact, there may very probably be a new civil war.

Up to January the United States made 25,000 sorties, dropped 18,000 bombs, including 10,000 with high-precision warheads. In Tora Bora, the high-power BLU-82 bombs were used, along with deployment of special forces. But today, the paper reported, experts agree that the operation was by no means as successful as originally thought. One reason is that the Pentagon failed to close the border to Pakistan in time. Another is the miserable failure of attempts to bribe Afghan field commanders and local leaders into cooperation. As a result, the majority of the Taliban/al-Qaeda fighters were able to flee across the border, or were safe-housed by the local population. For political reasons a full U.S. operation to follow them into Pakistan was ruled out.

But a more important cause was the poor preparation by the Pentagon itself, according to the article. As U.S. experts themselves admit, there was no adequate preparation for high-altitude mountain warfare. U.S. forces suffered headaches, weakness, fainting, and were not prepared for the tactics of the

HELMUT SCHMIDT, the former German Chancellor, attacked U.S. plans for an attack on Iraq, at a meeting of the Inter-Action Council of former government leaders in Berlin on June 8. He warned that an attack would blow the anti-terror coalition apart, and dismissed President Bush's "axis of evil" formulation as nonsense.

JÜRGEN MÖLLEMANN, Germany's Free Democratic Party vice chairman, on June 3 refused to give in to pressure to expel Yamal Karsli from the party's caucus in the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia. Karsli, a Syrian-born German, quit the Green Party in May because of its refusal to condemn Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's war against the Palestinians. Karsli allied with the FDP, where he has also come under fire. Möllemann insists that critics of Sharon's government cannot be branded "anti-Semites."

RUSSIAN Chief of the General Staff Anatoli Kvashnin said on May 30 that funding and staffing for the Russian military has become "worse than critical." "The declining level of combat readiness may become irreversible," unless emergency measures are taken, he added.

THE ISRAELI SPY satellite Ofek 5, just launched, enables Israel to start planning attacks on Iran and Iraq, a senior Israeli intelligence source told *EIR*. The new satellite gives Israel an unprecedented capability to gather intelligence on the two countries. Previously Israel has had this kind of capability for Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

FRANCE'S AMBASSADOR to the United States, François Bujon de l'Estaing, cancelled a scheduled June 6 appearance at a Washington event sponsored by the Foreign Policy Coalition for the Senate Republican Conference, and the Republican Jewish Coalition. The Embassy found out that the event was to have been an ambush, targeting France for "anti-Semitism."

mountain fighters. Another serious failure was the lack of understanding of Afghan culture and the mentality of the population. The propaganda war, including mass distribution of leaflets from the air, was a fiasco. Events such as the bombing of an Afghan religious school, and repeated instances in which American forces mistakenly fired upon friendly Afghan forces, generated intense hatred by the population.

Malaysia's Mahathir Meets Pope on Mideast

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, considered a voice for moderate Islam, met Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on June 7, for talks focusing on Christian-Muslim relations and the Middle East. "I made my plea for an end to terrorism in Palestine and Israeli actions against Palestinians," the Malaysian leader told reporters. Malaysia and the Holy See called for international intervention in the Middle East conflict through the involvement of a third party to separate the Palestinians and the Israelis. There is a growing consensus in the world for such third party involvement, a stand that is strongly opposed by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, while Washington is also not too keen on it.

Dr. Mahathir told the press that both sides shared similar views on terrorism and the Middle East crisis.

In an interview after his meeting with the Pope, reported by Reuters on June 8, the Malaysian Prime Minister complained that the world seemed unable to stop Israel's "criminal acts." "Malaysia does not side with Palestine, as such, but we understand why they have to resort to these violent means. It is because nobody is helping them," he said. "On the other hand, Israel seems to be getting away with a lot of criminal acts, and the world seems quite unable to do anything about it, and if we allow this to go on then, of course, there will be no solution to the problem of Palestine and no solution to the problem of terrorism," he said.

Mahathir repeated his belief that any act against civilians should be considered an act of terrorism, regardless of its perpetrators.

"We also have to take into consideration that at this moment there is nothing the Palestinians can do to defend themselves, so they resort to these terrible acts," he said. "But if we can remove the sources of their anger and frustration, I am quite sure they will not resort to terrorist acts; but the Israeli government deliberately orders acts of terrorism and even escalates it in order to, it seems, stop the Palestinians from committing acts of terrorism," he said.

Zimbabwe Charges Plot Against Government

Zimbabwe's state-owned newspaper, the *Herald*, on June 5 accused officers of the Law Society of Zimbabwe of conspiracy with the British High Commission (the embassy) to topple the government of President Robert Mugabe. The article said that "investigations into the alleged plot by the Law Society of Zimbabwe President Stenford Moyo and Secretary Wilbert Mapombere to topple the government point to a heavy involvement of the British High Commission." The newspaper printed a letter allegedly sent by the Law Society to the British High Commission on March 26, and claimed that officials of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change and British diplomats held emergency meetings on June 4. Moyo and Mapombere were arrested and released on bail.

The High Commission denied the charge, offering the lame excuse that the meetings on June 4 could not have taken place, because the High Commission was closed for the Queen's Jubilee.

The U.S. State Department, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (based in New York), and International Bar Association all condemned the arrests.

In a possibly related development, Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa accused Supreme Court Judge Wilson Sandura of "undermining . . . judicial independence in Zimbabwe" by way of his contacts with the International Bar Association. The accusation came in a letter, apparently to Sandura, which was released to the *Herald* and published there on June 6.