

Facts Behind Terror by Jeffrey Steinberg

Terrorists target 1980 campaign

The terrorist apparatus internationally is gearing up with an eye to convention time.

On March 15, members of the FALN Puerto Rican liberation movement invaded the offices of the Carter for President campaign in Chicago and the Bush for President campaign in New York, tying up the people inside and spray painting on the walls the slogan "Statehood means death" signed FALN and FARP.

On March 16, Puerto Rican nationalists met at the Washington Square Methodist Church for a session on liberation and the 1980 presidential campaign.

According to the upcoming issue of *Investigative Leads*, the twice-monthly counterintelligence report, there has been a shift in the belief structures of terrorist groupings which coheres with the shift of the center of international terrorism to Iran, and with the ongoing attacks on the republican institutions of the American political and economic system. "The 'workers struggle' idea is being augmented by fighting for 'tribal rights' or 'cultural liberation'."

The Puerto Rican liberation movement has been one of the chief beneficiaries of the soft stand on terrorism taken by, in particular, Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti. Of note is President Carter's September 1979 pardon of four Puerto Rican terrorists: Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Irvin Flores and Rafael Cancel Miranda, all imprisoned for life.

These releases led quickly to the proliferation of clandestine

Puerto Rican terrorist groups; including the Armed Forces of Popular Resistance (FARP) and the FALN.

Beginning January 1980, these four terrorists have been on an international tour, renewing affiliations and overall coordination with the Muslim Brotherhood and national liberation movements in the United States and Latin America. Between Feb. 5 and 21 they traveled through the U.S. holding public and private meetings. The organizer of the tour was Chicago lawyer Michael Deutch, a prison organizing specialist involved in terrorist recruitment and legal defense.

Investigative Leads provides some background facts on the Puerto Rican terrorist movement:

Fact: Puerto Rican terrorism is connected to the Centro Intercultural de Documentacion (CIDOC) of Jesuit priest Ivan Illich. Illich in the 1950s worked in Puerto Rico to profile the population for creating radical organizations based on national liberation. In 1974, he helped prepare for the first Puerto Rican Solidarity Day event that brought together such known terrorists as MIRA founder Marciso Rabell Martinez and representatives of Resistencia with the Young Lords, the Revolutionary Union, the Communist League, and others. Funding came in part from the World Council of Churches' Program to Combat Racism.

Fact: Organizations like the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, the Center for Constitutional Rights (William Kunstler), the National Lawyers Guild and the American Friends Service Committee are the coordinating bodies recruiting, deploying and safehousing terrorists. For example, in November 1976, the New York police busted the apartment of FALN leader Carlos Alberto Torres. Torres and Oscar Lopez Rivera, both sought by the FBI in connection with numerous bombings in New York and Chicago, were part of the Episcopal Church Hispanic Commission (EHC). The Commission operated out of the National Council of Churches' center in New York.

Fact: Puerto Rican terrorist leaders Vicente Alba and David Perez were deployed in part out of the Lincoln Detox Center in connection with that center's deployment of the Black Liberation Army. The BLA in the early 1970s was responsible for numerous shootings of police officers.

Fact: There is a direct connection between the Puerto Rican deployments and the terrorist command center in Iran. The National Council of Churches is the principal mediator, coordinating the travel of members of domestic terrorist organizations to and from Iran. The Puerto Rican movement's association with Muslim Brotherhood networks in the United States includes the June 1977 riot in Humboldt Park in Chicago which was a joint operation of the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement and the Muslim Brotherhood's Iranian Student Association.