
Investigative Leads

Terrorism hits U.S. interests in Europe

by Paolo Serri

A terrorist spectre is now threatening the entirety of Europe, and, in particular, American embassies, military headquarters, and personnel. The gravity of the threat dramatically exposes as fraud the much-discussed revival of détente with the East. Since President Mubarak of Egypt denounced a Qaddafi assassination plot against several world leaders, there has been a reactivation of Islamic terrorism, deployed in the fashion of "proxy" warfare by the Soviet KGB.

On Saturday, Nov. 24, Swiss police stopped a Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist, Hani Hussein, at the Zurich airport. In his possession were two kilos of plastic explosive. Other explosives were found in a safe at the Zurich train station, placed there by an escaped accomplice of Hussein. Both explosive packages were intended for Rome, and, according to Italian investigators, were the last in a series of "deliveries" from Beirut and elsewhere to build a car or truck bomb for a suicide action against the U.S. embassy in Rome.

Simultaneously, the Rome political police arrested seven Lebanese, all in their twenties, in two apartments in the Italian capital and nearby Adispoli. Propaganda literature for the Iranian-run terrorist group, Islamic Jihad, responsible for the Beirut massacres of American marines and French soldiers, was found in the two apartments. While the arrests in Zurich and Rome might have foiled a kamikaze attack this time, inside reports from Rome indicate that the seven "students" were not a commando unit, but a logistical support network for the actual terrorists, who have not been identified. Nor has their explosives depot been located.

U.S. authorities have responded by sending the aircraft carrier Eisenhower into the Mediterranean for possible "preemptive" or "retaliatory" strikes against terrorist centers in the Middle East, primarily Lebanon.

That Rome was one of the primary targets for terrorism was clear after Mubarak's revelations on the Libyans' international terrorist plot. Italian Premier Bettino Craxi declared after visiting Mubarak Nov. 21: "We have to learn more about the whole international terrorist plan for various countries, attempted assassinations of heads of state and religious leaders, projected assassination attempts in Rome."

Just before the planned Rome suicide operation, the American embassy in Lisbon, Portugal was hit by four mortar shells. Only damage to the building was reported. An ad hoc

"25th of April" organization took credit.

French intelligence sources are expecting Iranian attacks in France, particularly in Paris. A signal came Nov. 29, when two bomb explosions in Avignon ripped through a government building where British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and French Premier Laurent Fabius were to meet Nov. 30. Both Thatcher and President Mitterrand were on the Qaddafi hit-list bared by Mubarak.

The same concern was expressed by anti-terrorist specialists in West Germany, who expect a terrorist attacks from the Baader-Meinhof gang in coordination with Islamic groups. A pattern of weapons thefts in West Germany in recent weeks is also ominous. A gun shop was robbed in the Maxdorf village near Mannheim, only some 15 kilometers from Helmut Kohl's private house. German police determined that the Baader-Meinhof gang was involved. In late November a Bundeswehr (army) depot was robbed of several assault rifles and submachine guns. According to a police source questioned by *EIR*: "The question is not whether there will be a terrorist attack in Germany, but only when and in which form. Will it take the form of individual killings or a Beirut-style truck-bomb attack against U.S. and NATO headquarters here?"

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's name can also be found on the Qaddafi hit list.

When Yasser Arafat succeeded in convening the Palestinian National Council in Amman, Jordan Nov. 22, despite Syrian threats against all who were to attend, the meeting suffered through three near-attacks by Syrian/Soviet-deployed terrorists, while Arafat's pro-Syrian Palestinian opponents George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh were in Moscow. A car bomb exploded near the building housing the PNC meeting, killing a passerby; a kamikaze airplane full of explosives headed for Amman was intercepted by the Saudi airforce; and a Mercedes full of explosives was stopped at the Syrian-Jordanian border.

In November, according to confidential sources inside Iran, the Khomeini regime created an upgraded international organization to coordinate terrorism, based in Teheran and Switzerland. This new "Arab-Islamic International," is coordinated by the number two Iranian mullah, Ayatollah Montazeri, and the "Algerian Khomeini," Ahmed Ben Bella. Also involved are: Mohammed Bagher Modaresi, President of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Council; Mohammed Bagher Hakin, an Iraqi renegade living in Teheran; Sadegh Cameli, another Iraqi of the Al Dawa group; Sadegh Mussawi of Kuwait; Mohammed Ahmed Al-Heidari, of the Revolutionary Mujaheddin Organization of Iraq; Sheikh Abbas Mohri of the Kuwait Islamic Liberation Movement; Seyed Al Hussein, ex-officer of the Lebanese army now of Islamic Jihad; Ahmed Nekhvale, of the Organization for the Liberation of the Arabian Peninsula, which pulled off the terrorist attack on the Mecca; Mehdi Zarivand of the Iraqi Democratic Kurdish Party.