

Israelis and Arabs alike to dampen any new U.S. initiative. This became clear when Mitterrand, the man who ganged up with Papandreou and Qaddafi against Chad and many other African nations and who had a mere week earlier declared in Damascus that he exonerated Syria from involvement in international terrorism (see p. 45), announced on Dec. 6 that Paris would be ready to sell nuclear technology to Israel. It was a purely cynical and demagogical gesture aimed at driving a wedge between the Israelis and the United States in a delicate period.

Moscow-backed terror upsurge

The State Department's increasingly open factional war against Weinberger and the Arab moderates is even more criminal when one considers Moscow's present activities in the region. Moscow's most direct answer to Weinberger's moves has been an unprecedented wave of terrorism both against American targets and Jordanians, Palestinians, and Egyptians. On Dec. 4, a Jordanian diplomat was killed in Bucharest, Romania, a country which has been playing the role of Trojan horse for the KGB in the West for decades. Earlier, on Dec. 2, an attempt had been made against another Jordanian diplomat, this time in Athens, capital of a country whose prime minister, Papandreou, wants to transform Greece into a Soviet "popular democracy." Assassination attempts against Arafat have been countless in recent weeks and only the close cooperation of Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia has prevented them from succeeding. However, Egypt became the target of new Islamic fundamentalist riots, while it is reported that Iranian and Syrian terrorists cells have been activated in Saudi Arabia. The hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner on Dec. 4 was a direct expression of the threat looming over Gulf countries.

As was revealed by President Mubarak and former Libyan Prime Minister Bakoush (see interview, page 34), what is at stake are potential assassinations of heads of states in operations jointly sponsored by the Soviet Union and those Western forces around Henry Kissinger and McGeorge Bundy who put Qaddafi into power in 1969. There is little doubt that Moscow will otherwise use its favorite weapon to sabotage any peace initiative it cannot control—a new Middle East war. There are more and more intelligence reports of a major Soviet military buildup in Syria, and intelligence analysts are predicting that such a buildup has the sole aim of paving the way for a new war between Israel and Syria, a war wanted by both the Syrian leaders and the Ariel Sharon faction inside Israel. This will be one of Weinberger's key topics of discussion with the Israelis, as the secretary is well aware that time is running out.

On his ability to defuse this crisis, despite the mischief of the State Department, will not merely depend peace in the Middle East over the next four years, but the issue of whether or not the Kissinger faction can be driven out of power in Washington.

Interview: Abdul Hamid Bakoush

'World must finally act against Qaddafi'

This telephone interview with Mr. Abdul Hamid Bakoush, former prime minister of Libya now living in Cairo, was conducted by Thierry Lalevée for EIR on Dec. 5.

EIR: Can you first tell us what has happened to you in recent weeks?

Bakoush: As a matter of fact, nothing happened to me, although something very dangerous could have happened. Thanks to the Egyptian security officials, the plot hatched by Qaddafi against me was foiled. I was informed at a very early stage that mercenaries were planning to kill me. Hence, guards were put around my house. I was then asked to play a certain role to make it appear as if these mercenaries had succeeded in killing me. Egyptian officials took photos of me to convince the plotters that I had been killed, and that succeeded. I was very happy about it because, first, there were no Libyans involved, which shows that no Libyan wants to work for Qaddafi anymore; second, Qaddafi himself was convinced of the success of the operation and confessed his role publicly in a radio broadcast.

My life is not very important, but this proved to the entire world that Qaddafi is nothing but an international terrorist who hires the mafia around the world to perpetrate crimes. Under his leadership, Libya has become an institutionalized form of crime, nothing else.

I would like to call on the Arab countries, on the countries of the Third world, on the countries of the civilized world to finally act against Qaddafi; not in a spirit of revenge because of the plot against me, but because of the many plots that Qaddafi is hatching against many heads of states, prime ministers, and leaders of countries. I want to call on the whole world to finally take a positive attitude toward actions against Qaddafi!

I believe that Europe and the United States have a special responsibility for Qaddafi's crimes. He is only able to hire the mafia because of his money which comes from the sale of his oil. Libyan oil should be boycotted. It represents only 3% of OPEC production. It would have no economic effect. Six months ago, the price of oil was \$32 dollars a barrel, now it is at \$26. A boycott of Libyan oil may bring the prices up to \$27 or \$28. But Qaddafi has no other resources; if he loses his money, he loses power. Libya under Qaddafi has lost its qualification as a state. It should be excluded from the United

Nations. Countries of the world should close their embassies in Tripoli. They should also close what Qaddafi calls his "popular bureaus," his "embassies," which are criminal centers.

EIR: Several weeks ago, you told the press that the reason Qaddafi wants to kill you is that you know how forces in the West put him in power. Can you elaborate?

Bakoush: Yes, certain forces, especially in the United States, helped him to power. I cannot mention certain names yet, but the President of the time was certainly responsible. They helped him psychologically and politically.

Even today, despite the official policy of President Reagan of boycotting Libyan oil, Libyan oil is actually being sold to the United States. It is being shipped to the Bahamas where Libyan oil is being mixed with another kind of crude then shipped and sold to the United States. They then say that because it has been mixed, it is not Libyan oil anymore.

EIR: Was not Henry Kissinger, then U.S. National security adviser, involved?

Bakoush: Yes, but I cannot tell details. Now, as at the time, some American policy makers are still supporting Qaddafi in open defiance of the policy of President Reagan. Look, newspapers throughout the world are full of denunciations of Qaddafi and his crimes, but his oil is still being sold.

EIR: When you speak about the United States and Qaddafi, don't you think you are referring at least to several factions?

Bakoush: Sure, there are several factions. President Reagan has a good policy, but his policies are not being implemented by his advisers around him.

EIR: You have talked about the Western support for Qaddafi. What about the Soviet Union and the East bloc countries?

Bakoush: Sure, the Eastern countries are working with him, but they have no respect for him. They know they cannot have confidence in him. They only respect him because he has oil which is sold to the West and he has money. If only the West were to boycott Libyan oil for six months, you would see the effects.

EIR: Don't you think that the fact that Qaddafi has been maintained in power since 1969 implies an agreement between the East and the West?

Bakoush: Absolutely. Within the West, within the United States and the administration in particular, there is a hidden wave, a hidden group, which works against governments, which controls everything outside of the established institutions and which works against democracy.

EIR: Are these factions the ones actually running the assassination lists recently revealed?

Bakoush: These are the people running international assas-

Qaddafi: 'We could kidnap Italians'

In an interview with the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* on Dec. 7, Libyan dictator Qaddafi answered a question on the payment of war reparations he has peremptorily demanded from Italy: "We should come to an understanding, otherwise . . . one day one Libya could react, demanding the intervention of the government of the Jamahiria [the "Libyan Socialist Arab Republic"], and demanding the confiscation of some Italian company, or, in extreme cases, could arrive to the point of kidnapping Italian citizens, and this would bring us to the brink of a senseless war." There are 15,000 Italians living in Libya.

Tensions have increased between Italy and Malta, which broke its defense treaty with Italy and signed a new one with Qaddafi and which is daily harassing the Italian troops still on the Mediterranean island. Among other recent provocations, a bomb exploded in the Italian embassy in Malta, and three more in the Vatican embassy, during the day when Italian Premier Bettino Craxi was meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

sinations. They are using assassinations, including the potential assassinations of heads of states, prime ministers, and others to help create an atmosphere of fear, while building up Qaddafi's image as if he were able to commit such assassinations, all by himself.

EIR: Why create such an atmosphere of fear?

Bakoush: Primarily it is for financial reasons, questions of profits. I call these circles the new intellectual Nazis!

EIR: Aren't these Nazis working with the Soviets?

Bakoush: Yes, they meet each other on certain issues around the world, to foster fear and to spread confusion for them to maintain their control. They want to divide the world between themselves, and I fear that they may be able to do it! The Nazis and the communists are the same, they are using fear and terrorism to try to control the populations.

EIR: How do you see the role of Egypt now?

Bakoush: Egypt is very committed to fighting against international terrorism and Qaddafi. They are ready to do everything provided that the West stand by. But the West is not standing by, it is helping Qaddafi, just like what happened in 1977 with Egyptian President Sadat [in the first Egypto-Libyan war.]