

Trade Center bombing: 'strategy of tension'?

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Strong circumstantial evidence suggests that the recent wave of terrorist actions inside the United States is part of a new "strategy of tension" directed against the Clinton administration and the American public, by intelligence circles best described as Anglo-Israeli. While U.S. assets are unquestionably involved in this effort, the geopolitical motives and essential players in this destabilization are associated primarily with British and Israeli intelligence agencies.

As this issue of *EIR* goes to press, federal authorities are claiming that the arrest of a Jordanian-born Muslim in the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City represents a major break in the case. The sketchy details provided so far about a Jersey City, New Jersey man, Mohammed Salameh, who is accused of having rented a panel truck that was reportedly used to place over half a ton of explosives in an underground garage of the World Trade Center complex, have triggered a media barrage about "Islamic fundamentalism" as the gravest terrorist threat against the United States.

The Feb. 26 bomb blast killed five people and injured over 1,000, and caused what may eventually be billions of dollars in damage and lost business for corporations and government agencies operating in the Lower Manhattan financial district.

The World Trade Center attack is one of several unusual terrorist attacks that have taken place inside the United States or against key American targets since the inauguration of President William Clinton in late January:

- On Jan. 25, a man identified as Mir Aimal Kansi killed two people and injured several others in an attack on a line of cars waiting to turn into the main gate of the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Kansi escaped to Pakistan and subsequently disappeared. The two murder victims were both CIA officers, one of whom

was involved in clandestine operations in Ibero-America and Asia.

- On Feb. 23, a helicopter carrying three U.S. Army officers involved in directing the relief airlift into Bosnia, mysteriously crashed near Wiesbaden, Germany, killing all three. No cause for the accident has been publicly indicated.

- On Feb. 28, agents of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) raided a compound housing the Branch Davidian church near Waco, Texas. In the shootout that ensued, four federal agents were killed along with an unknown number of members of the church. As of this writing, federal authorities are still negotiating an end to the standoff.

(See the fuller chronology of international terrorist acts on page 50.)

Propaganda and coverup

Prior to the March 4 arrest of Mohammed Salameh on charges of "aiding and abetting" in the World Trade Center bombing, American and European terrorism specialists had cautioned *EIR* investigators against presuming that the bomb attack had been carried out by any one of the myriad of terrorist groups whose names have surfaced in the media. These experts, including one experienced bomb technician, emphasized that the sophistication of the attack suggested the involvement of government intelligence agencies, and that 50 or more people may have been involved in the planning and execution of the attack.

The idea that a small group of Islamic fanatics could have engineered such a massive terror assault, is, to these experts, patently absurd. This is not to presume that Salameh and Islamic activists were not in some way involved, but rather that these groups, without the backup of highly trained professionals, could not carry out such acts. For decades, British

intelligence agencies have been promoting, infiltrating, and steering some Islamic fundamentalist groups, including that with which Salameh has been linked.

The intelligence experts with whom we spoke furthermore join with Lyndon LaRouche, a longstanding expert on irregular warfare and international terrorism, in suggesting that the recent anti-American terror acts may be part of a "strategy of tension" aimed against the new Clinton administration.

The concept of a strategy of tension was developed in Italy in the second half of the 1970s, when several European states, notably Italy and Germany, were targeted for political destabilization. One key element in those destabilizations was the use of terrorist assets to eliminate prominent business and political figures. In the famous case of the 1978 kidnap-murder of former Italian Premier Aldo Moro, Israeli intelligence was identified as providing key logistical and technical support to the Red Brigade terrorists. While terrorist labels were placed on the actions in Germany and Italy at that time, intelligence agencies from both NATO and the Warsaw Pact were subsequently found to have played controlling roles.

LaRouche and these other experts draw a parallel between the present terrorism against the United States, and those earlier incidents.

Arab terrorism?

In the days following both the World Trade Center and Waco incidents, the U.S. media have been saturated with scare stories coming from a very specific network of Israeli intelligence-linked individuals, preparing the American public to jump at the first opportunity to pin the bomb attack on Arab or Palestinian terrorists. For two days before the arrest of Salameh, for example, the *Wall Street Journal* and other newspapers had been highlighting the terror operations of Islamic Jihad and Hamas, both Islamic fundamentalist groups. Once the Salameh arrest was announced, the airwaves were flooded with such Israeli assets as Cable News Network correspondents Wolf Blitzer and Steve Emerson, and Ariel Sharon publicist Uri Dan, all pronouncing the case closed and demanding war against Islam.

For several months, Israeli intelligence and Zionist lobby assets in the United States have been pushing to have Hamas, the Islamicist group active in the Israeli Occupied Territories, listed by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist group. Israeli government spokesmen and media have claimed that Hamas is actually headquartered in the United States, and that U.S.-based Palestinians provide the financing and the command structure for Hamas.

A parallel situation developed with the Waco siege. While media accounts from the outset assailed the BATF for conducting a frontal military assault against the church compound, only a few news stories revealed the pivotal role of the Cult Awareness Network in whipping up the federal agents for the attack. CAN was implicated last September in a nationwide kidnapping ring, which is still a target of federal investigation. CAN "deprogrammer" Rick Ross, a convicted

felon, was an adviser to the federal agents just prior to the raid. Following the shootout, a national TV news broadcast interviewed CAN kidnapper Galen Kelly, one of the central figures in a nationwide kidnap-for-hire ring and a founding member of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, an Israeli intelligence front suspected of infiltrating American military and intelligence agencies.

In short, the "Arab terrorism" line inundating the American media smells of coverup.

In a related matter, police and federal agents in San Francisco are investigating the possible role of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in spying on Arab-Americans and funnelling illegally obtained information to Israeli authorities for use against Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. In late January, two Chicago men were arrested by Israeli police when they attempted to visit relatives in the West Bank. The two men were charged with being members of Hamas. According to the San Francisco District Attorney's office, one of them, Mohammed Jarad, was a target of ADL spying prior to his illegal detention by Israeli authorities.

The prospect that the ADL's nationwide spy operation would be exposed along with its penetration of U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies, has panicked many in the Anglo-Israeli environment. The World Trade Center propaganda offensive, which named Islamic groups long targeted by the ADL and its allies, as the culprits days before the Salameh arrest, raises serious questions about the recent terror acts.

Who benefits?

In contrast to the leap to label the World Trade Center bombing as an act of Islamic terrorism, the news media and federal investigators have been quick to downplay the reports that the attack may have been the work of Serbians or supporters of the Serbian offensive in the Balkans. According to one Associated Press wire that was issued on the morning of Salameh's arrest, police in New York City were seriously pursuing the Serbian lead, because a caller claiming to be from the "Serbian Liberation Front" had provided accurate details about the bombing that were not public. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic issued an "Open Letter to the American People" which warned President Clinton to back off from any further military involvement in the Balkan conflict, citing the New York bombing as an example of the consequences of escalated American intervention. The "ill-advised American humanitarian cooperation" to help the Bosnians "could overnight transform a local conflict into a Balkan war, perhaps a world war," he said.

Since the Clinton administration's announcement of the aid airlift into eastern Bosnia, British officials have also come out harshly critical of the new President. Following the World Trade Center bombing, numerous British commentators have gloated over the terrorist attack on the United States, saying they hoped it would make Clinton reconsider his policy in the Balkans.