

# Sadat, Arafat Purge Terrorist Rings

*Exclusive to the Executive Intelligence Review*

*Since the February assassination of a top Egyptian editor on Cyprus and the March 11 Palestinian terrorist raid into Israeli territory, a slow but steady process has been set into motion to dismantle the terrorist apparatus that for years has plagued the Middle East from Morocco to Iran.*

*Together, the security and intelligence services of France, West Germany, and Italy and those of major Arab nations, Iran, and the Palestine Liberation Organization are working to root out the terrorists. As the following exclusive report will document, their efforts have been met with success.*

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## MIDDLE EAST

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Until recently, the "terrorist international" has existed in relative freedom in the Middle East. Algeria, Iraq, and Libya have tolerated the presence of known terrorists on their soil, for various reasons and to varying degrees. In Lebanon, the government—despite the presence of 30,000 Syrian troops—has been unable to provide effective security to eliminate nests of terrorists and their training bases. Cyprus has provided a convenient gathering point for the network of terrorists, including the infamous Carlos, various Palestinian extremist groups led by the late Wadi Haddad and the renegade Abu Nidal in Baghdad, and their European allies, including especially the Italian Red Brigades and the West German Baader Meinhof gang.

The terrorists, it should be noted, are not in any way the product of a "sociological phenomenon," although they do draw their members from alienated, and fanatic social movements. The hard core of Middle East terrorism is created and sustained by a network that includes Israeli intelligence, the British Secret Intelligence Service, and elements associated with the Second International of Willy Brandt and François Mitterrand. It is their creations that are now, happily, being exterminated across the Middle East.

### *The Libyan Breakthrough*

The start of the cleanup of Arab terrorism virtually coincided with the launching of the March 11 attack on Israel by a murderous band of terrorists, an event which ended in an Israeli massacre of hundreds of Lebanese in the invasion of southern Lebanon. To all honest observers, the raid on Israel—timed at a sensitive point in the Mideast peace negotiations—was clearly the work of Israel's own secret services, manipulating a faction of Fatah and the PLO opposed to conciliation with Israel.

The time had come, obviously, for some serious housecleaning.

The first breakthrough was in Libya. The chief of intelligence in Libya and his brother, a leading army officer, were suddenly ousted by President Muammar Qaddafi. Both men, according to the *Financial Times* of London, were advocates of terrorism and had planned a series of assassination attempts against Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, King Hassan of Morocco, and other conservative Arab leaders. According to African diplomatic sources, several African governments had secured evidence concerning the activities of the two men, especially in regard to their support for the maintenance of several terrorist training bases in southern Libya near the Chad border, in an area where the local tribes are still loyal to former King Idris of Libya and have close contacts with British intelligence. The government of Chad contacted the French and Soviet governments with the evidence of terrorist bases, including links as far away as Argentina, and proof of the complicity of the Libyan intelligence director. Under pressure from France and the USSR, Libya fired the accused and put an end to the nest of terrorists.

The effect was immediate. Relations between Libya and France improved overnight, with a similar effect on relations between Libya and Chad, her southern neighbor, against which Libya had previously backed a secessionist rebel force, Frolinat. A ceasefire was demanded in Chad by Qaddafi, and arrangements were made for a summit meeting among Libya, Chad, Sudan, and Niger to discuss a permanent solution. At this time, in mid-April, President Ould Daddah of Mauritania visited Libya, and in a communiqué the two presidents praised the Chad settlement as a model for African conflicts. This was obviously a reference to the crisis in Western Sahara, where an Algerian-supported band of terrorists called the Polisario was demanding "independence" for Sahara. According to diplomatic sources, Libya quietly agreed to end its lukewarm support for the Polisario and to put pressure on Algeria to do the same.

A casualty of the Libya affair was Werner Lamberz, a highly placed East German official who was killed in a helicopter crash on March 6 while in Libya. The helicopter, which was sabotaged, was supposed to be carrying Qaddafi himself, and it appears that the clique of terrorists had attempted to kill Qaddafi to prevent the purge from taking place.

### *Palestinian Crackdown*

The next phase of the operation, which is far from complete, is a large-scale effort to root out terrorism from the Palestinian movement.

An important event in this context was the death in April of Wadi Haddad, the mastermind of virtually all

the major international acts of Palestinian terrorism since 1970. Haddad, who died in East Germany, may have been eliminated by intelligence officials from the socialist bloc.

According to scare stories that ran immediately after the death of Haddad, a "sophisticated terrorist empire" had passed intact into the hands of George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. But Habash, although an extremist, is not as fanatical as Haddad, and—under Iraqi influence—may moderate the Haddad network. With the death of Haddad, a major chunk of the terrorist apparatus had been eliminated.

The *Sunday Times* of London reported redoubled activities by "Carlos," in Libya and elsewhere. But in early April, Oil Minister Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia hinted that his country understood the real nature of terrorism by stating that Carlos "may be a Jew." Yamani's statement recalled an assertion by King Faisal to Richard Nixon, cited in the former President's memoirs, that Palestinian terrorists were working for "the Zionists."

On April 19, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrested over 120 Palestinian hardliners who, in southern Lebanon, had threatened to unleash warfare against the occupying Israelis. The 120 were linked to Iraq, some being Iraqi volunteers, and had ties to the terrorist Abu Nidal in Baghdad, a Fatah renegade. Rumored to be supporting Abu Nidal and the radicals was Abu Daoud, a leading member of the Fatah command. Some actual military clashes were reported in Lebanon between the pro- and anti-Arafat factions of Fatah, while Ibrahim Koleilat, an extreme leftist Lebanese, issued a political declaration attacking Libya and Arafat.

#### *Sadat Cleans House*

Coinciding with Arafat's crackdown within the PLO, and the climax of the kidnapping of Italy's former Premier Aldo Moro, Sadat launched a major purge of terrorists. On April 24, the Egyptian security police announced the arrest of a major ring of terrorists linked to Italy's Red Brigades and to the Abu Nidal faction of the Palestinian movement. The Egyptians said that the ring was responsible for the assassination of Youssef Sebai in Cyprus and the PLO Ambassador Said Hammami in London two months earlier. The "security of the state" was threatened by the ring, the Egyptians said.

According to the Egyptians, the ring was led by one Sergio Montovani, who was the "contact...to coordinate work" between the Red Brigades and the extremist Palestinians. Montovani, the Egyptians added, maintained a liaison in Zurich, Switzerland, named Giorgio Bellini, and was a crucial coordinator of international terrorism.

The crackdown soon assumed international dimensions. *Il Giornale* reported in Italy that the security forces of Egypt, Italy, and the PLO had begun to systematically coordinate their activities in search of terrorists. West German Justice Minister Hans Joachim Vogel paid an unprecedented visit to Cairo where he and his counterparts pledged "relentless" measures against international terror.

But the most significant aspect of the crackdown emerged in Lebanon. In the PLO, Arafat was engaged in

a showdown with extremists within the PLO, and in a heated meeting of the Fatah Executive Committee won unanimous support for his political stand, crushing a small adventurist faction around Abu Daoud. Public evidence came in Arafat's pledge to work with French and United Nations troops to calm the occupied area of southern Lebanon in anticipation of Israeli withdrawal. In addition, Arafat sent a telegram to Italy condemning the Red Brigades and urging that Moro be released.

In southern Lebanon, renegade PLO elements ignored Arafat's ceasefire orders and attacked French troops, killing two. The French troops suddenly found themselves in the midst of a nest of secret training bases in southern Lebanon for the Red Brigades — and the Brigades had initiated the attack on French peacekeeping forces! The critical break came on May 7, with the arrest at the Beirut International Airport of a Swiss woman who was carrying a bomb in her handbag onto a Middle East Airlines jet. The woman, who worked with the suspicious Palestine Solidarity Committee, said under interrogation that she was working for Israeli intelligence as a "spy"—obviously an *agent provocateur*—in Palestinian camps.

From this network, a new terrorist group emerged, the "Sons of South Lebanon," who attacked specifically French interests. Increasingly, evidence was piling up about Israeli intelligence's involvement in terrorism. *L'Humanité*, the French Communist daily, said that Shmuel Flatto-Sharon, an Israeli Knesset member, was linked directly to the Red Brigades, and numerous Italian sources hinted that Israel was involved in the Moro kidnapping.

#### *Shakeup in Egypt*

In the first week of May, Sadat moved decisively in Egypt. First, he cleaned out of his Cabinet Deputy Prime Minister Kaissouny, the chief advocate in Egypt of co-operation with the austerity demands of the International Monetary Fund. Kaissouny's ouster led to a resurgence in Egypt of talk about broad development plans, including multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects, nuclear energy plans, the Qattara Depression development zone, and other plans. Immediate support was received from West Germany and France, the latter via the important Arab Industries Organization backed by Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, and France.

Sadat extended the crackdown to a broad network of rightists and leftists from the pro-British, monarchist Wafd Party, extinct since 1952, to the so-called Nasserists and others like Mohammed Heykal, making a small number of strategic arrests. Heykal, who has strong intelligence connections, had recently tried to bring Amnesty International, the Fabian watchdog on "human rights" into Egyptian politics, and had won support from the *London Times*, and other British conduits.

Sadat then called a national referendum to give him broad powers to assert his leadership in slowing down the pace of "democratization," which had been exploited by British-supported factioneers like Heykal, the Wafd, and others. With an overwhelming victory, Sadat gained leverage to stabilize the Egyptian political front. According to several sources, the Egyptian military, led

by War Minister Gamassi, had strongly suggested that Sadat put a stop to the organizing of the Wafd and the leftists.

The Wafd, in particular, was the real danger. With military contacts of its own and with outside support from British interests who had maintained links to the Wafd since the days of World War I, the Wafd was beginning to represent a serious threat, led by Faud Seraggeddine, the hated interior minister under the last royal government overthrown by Nasser and Sadat. Notably, Sadat did not blame the Soviet Union for his troubles during the purge, as is his wont, but on several occasions directly attacked the British.

In a May 30 interview with Western correspondents Sadat accused the BBC, *London Times*, and the British *Guardian* of lending support to critics of the regime, such as Heykal, and warned them not to abuse their privileges. The same day, the Cairo daily *Al Akhbar* warned the BBC correspondent not to think that "the guarantees of freedom of the press mean that he can join the opposition" to the government. Sadat compared the operation to that of Lord Haw Haw, who broadcast fascist propaganda to England from Germany during World War II.

Still more significant information came with the arrest of yet another terrorist ring, this one masterminded by Abdel-Megiud Farid, the former chief of Egyptian intelligence who is now, in exile, an aide to Algeria's President Boumediene. Farid is forming, the Egyptians revealed, an "Egyptian Liberation Front" that was planning terrorism and assassination inside Egypt.

An important angle, from the standpoint of intelligence, was provided by the rapidly developing relations between France and Saudi Arabia. The Saudis established close links with the leading circles of the French aerospace industry, headed by Marcel Dassault. The Saudi intermediary for the talks, which coincided with the visit of King Khalid to France, was Adnan Ojeh, a Syrian who now lives in Saudi Arabia. Ojeh who is closely linked to the Gaullist intelligence apparatus, was close to Gen. de Gaulle personally. He now is a friend of the outspoken prodevelopment Gaullist leader Michel Debré. Ojeh is assembling the various disparate French airlines into a major national grid in France, and is channeling billions of Saudi dollars into Dassault and the Arab Industries Organization.

— Robert Dreyfuss

## 'We Have One Foot Through The Door'

*The Philippines' Energy Secretary issues a nuclear development challenge*

*Exclusive to the Executive Intelligence Review*

Nuclear energy technology for developing countries was the challenge carried to the U.S. by Philippine Energy Secretary Geronimo Velasco last month when he met with Energy Secretary James Schlesinger in Washington, and with leaders of the American business community in New York City.

allegations have never been proven, despite Security Exchange Commission investigation.

It has been reported in both the U.S. and in the Philippines that the press slanders aimed at not only sabotaging the Philippine nuclear program but more broadly at the U.S. Export-Import Bank—the major financier of American-built nuclear power plants built overseas, including the Philippine plant.

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### SOUTHEAST ASIA

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The Philippines is in the midst of an ambitious energy program to expand their power generation capacity as well as diversify their energy sources. Central to the program is a nuclear power plant now under construction by Westinghouse Corporation with plans underway for a second. It is this atomic energy program which, like those of Brazil, India, and Pakistan have brought the Philippines into sharp conflict with the Carter Administration's and particularly Schlesinger's anti-nuclear policy.

The Philippine nuclear program obviously loomed large in Secretary Velasco's discussions in Washington. Several months ago the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* published a series of articles alleging illegal payments by Westinghouse Corporation to Philippine businessmen who, in turn were linked to President Marcos, to win over the contract from Westinghouse's competitors. As this news service reported, such

### "A Step In The Right Direction"

*While in the U.S., Philippine Energy Secretary Geronimo Velasco outlined his government's energy development perspective in an interview with NSIPS. Here excerpts:*

*Q: Citing so-called technical dangers and fear of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the environmentalists in the Carter Administration have called for curtailment of nuclear energy development, particularly for the developing sector. This concern has led to the implementation of the Nonproliferation Act. In view of these concerns in Washington, could you please comment on your just-concluded talks there?*

*A: Obviously you are referring to the nuclear energy plant we are building; for the supply of enriched uranium, the enrichment will be done in the United States. I don't think we'll have any problem. We are signatories to the Nonproliferation Treaty and we, of course, abide by the latest regulations in the Nonproliferation bill, which was passed last March.*