The controllers of terrorism speak out

Kilmarx: domestic terrorism "inevitable"

The following are excerpts from an interview with Robert Kilmarx, presently a member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University. He previously spent 12 years at the Pentagon as a special advisor to the Air Force in intelligence matters. He is also the head of BKW Associates, a management consulting firm. He and his associate at CSIS, Yonah Alexander, have just released a book entitled Political Terrorism and Business—Threat and Response.

EIR: Why do you say that large-scale domestic terrorism in the U.S. is inevitable?

Kilmarx: It would come from events that are inevitable. There are two things. The first is severe economic adversity where the distributive justice—if you know what I mean—will be affecting people in an unequal way. This will hit students and minorities in particular who won't be able to enjoy the benefits gotten from the aid programs that, while necessary, are incredibly expensive.

The second factor is a crisis that will require preparation for a military response, if not an actual response. We are totally unprepared for this both actually and psychologically. The public tends to think of force in simplistic terms. But we're not prepared. Look at our civil defense. I mean we have nothing. We don't even have a system for registering people in the armed services. If we have to put a force in the field it will require a tremendous diversion of resources. And we're not psychologically prepared. If we have to send a force in quickly—say to the Middle East—our boys will be fighting poor people who are being whipped up by groups that have no compunction about violence they'll find a sympathetic base. This will create domestic problems. Iran provides an example of this in international dimensions. There have been all kinds of increases over the last years—in technology, for example, which is how these things are usually measured. But there has still been tremendous erosion, far beyond what I forecast, into barbarism, which is becoming increasingly accepted. Cambodia, Iran, the religious fanaticism sweeping across the Mideast, are examples of this.

We face a military option in the Mideast in the next 5-10 years—this is definite. There was a briefing for

people here at the end of October, I think, where Schlesinger and Bernard Lewis discussed this. Schlesinger said that Saudi Arabia is going down the tubes in five years because of corruption, dissatisfaction with the intelligentsia, the movement of money by dissatisfied princes out of the country and the spread of Khomeiniism. Bernard Lewis laid out the same scenario. This will confront us with an Arab OPEC with no vested interest in maintaining the present system. Then there is no limit to the demands they can make.

EIR: What kind of preemptive action could be taken? Kilmarx: The preemptive response that we need is a viable, flexible, quick-reaction military response capability to be set up. Like the 82nd Airborne should be retrained and put in Diego Garcia. There are other places also. We need a naval presence in the Diego Garcia area. We need a base in the Sinai for this. We need a 200,000 or even 100,000 man strike force.

EIR: What else was said at the briefing?

Kilmarx: This is off the record ... it was a private meeting, though public to us here. On Iran [Schlesinger] said that you can't write off the Khomeini movement too quickly. But the concern after Khomeini is that the Communists are reorganizing. They're building bridges to the Kurds, the Baluchis and others. The leftist groups pose a real challenge. They've already established soldiers' councils in the remnants of the Shah's armed forces. They'll be in power one or two coups removed. So we'll go from a barbarous religious dark ages fanatic, to a Marxist Qaddaffi. The Bakhtiar thing won't work.

EIR: What else did Schlesinger say?

Kilmarx: He focused on Saudi Arabia which is in a downhill process. Remember Khomeini is sending agents to Arab emirates. It's not just an Iran movement—it's a regional movement. ... It there wasn't the problem of terrorism I would look for another problem. We need to be more effective in planning for disasters, economic collapse etc. Otherwise we are vulnerable to internal disease, and penetration. We have to get society ready with overall emergency planning.

Graham: we are going to have to become a police state ...

Our next interview is with General Daniel Graham, the former head of Air Force Intelligence and currently director of the American Security Council.

EIR: Will the Khomeini movement spread?

Graham: When Iran fell it signalled that other Arab regimes would fall victim to Khomeini's movementand the PLO. This development just brings the day that

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much closer. I think you will see such countries as Oman, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi fall, and then Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia doesn't have it made. Many people think of Saudi Arabia as a bastion of stability but that just isn't the case. It isn't stable. There just hasn't been a concerted effort of the PLO to knock off the royal family yet—but that is coming.

EIR: What does this portend for future terrorism in the U.S.? Will Mideast terrorism come to the U.S.?

Graham: Absolutely. There will be PLO terrorism in the U.S. In fact, it's already here—for instance, the attempt by four Iranians to kidnap the Governor of Minnesota. That's not just an isolated act. In fact it began when the Iranian students beat up the pro-Shah forces in Washington D.C. It doesn't matter what the pro-Shah people stood for or even if the Shah paid them to be there—it was peaceful. This really was a harbinger of what was coming.

EIR: Will that type of activity get the support of various left groups in the U.S.?

Graham: Some of them will become a part of this. But what I'm more worried about in that regard is that we are going to have to become a police state to maintain order in this country. There is such a large amount of subversive activity in this country and it is protected by the First Amendment. Yet the police and the FBI are totally hamstrung. This is going to have to change. We're probably going to have to become something resembling a police state.

Yarborough: take off the kid gloves

The final interview is with Lt. General William Yarborough, former head of the U.S. Army Special Forces and the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps, and the Pentagon liaison to Attorney General Ramsey Clark throughout the late 1960s period of domestic riots.

EIR: What do you think we can do to prevent domestic outbreaks of terrorism as a spinoff of the Iran situation? Yarborough: ... What we need is the proper legislation. But people will have to be tested psychologically first to see if they're ready for such legislation ... we need the kind of legislation where we can have search and seizure, roadblocks set up, mail surveillence and so on. We need a kind of stand by legislation to deal with this kind of thing.

EIR: Is there anything like that [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] on the books or being planned now?

Yarborough: Nothing! Are you kidding?—If any Congressman dared try, the civil rights groups would destroy him. We need something very dramatic to force this kind of legislation. Something involving a major prominant political figure—like the kidnapping of the President's wife or a Supreme Court Justice, or the killing of a major figure. This will prepare the population for the kind of thing that we need. And we'd still have to psychologically test the population first.

EIR: What about PLO-style terrorism in the U.S.? Yarborough: Yes, that's the danger. They are going to bring the Mideast battle and use the U.S. as the battleground. This is easier in the U.S. than other places. This is because it's a democratic society and because we're using kid gloves. We're using kid gloves with the Iranian students. In fact the psychological buildup for the Shah's downfall started here in the U.S.—not in the Middle East. And the psychological climate is right for it here. The mass of the American people won't do anything—they can't—but it will be the right kind of psychological buildup that will lead to what we need.