

The U.S. is no longer immune to international terrorism

by Jeffrey Steinberg, Counterintelligence Editor

When a Turkish military attaché in Ottawa was gunned down in a parking lot near the consulate in August, law enforcement and intelligence agents throughout the United States quietly braced themselves for the worst. Plans for the assassination, down to the general identification of the target and even the probable location of the attack, had been known within intelligence circles for at least a month before the hit as the result of penetration of Armenian terrorist support circles in at least three cities in the United States and Canada. Despite that foreknowledge, the terrorist hit team, associated with the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (AS-ALA), carried out the killing and escaped without a trace.

The incident in Ottawa has once again raised the question: is the United States still immune to the kind of broad terrorist activation that has destabilized the European continent? To answer that question, it is necessary to review the toll that was taken during the four-year period of the Carter presidency, under the Trilateral Commission apparatus.

According to officials of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, during the Carter administration, the country was in effect flooded with Libyan and Iranian "students" who rapidly constituted the nucleus of a terrorist underground structure that has now blossomed in such unlikely locations as Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; Houston, Texas; Plainfield, Indiana; Washington, D.C.; and Los Angeles, California.

It was this protected apparatus that carried out the July 1980 assassination in Washington of Ali Tabatabai, an active opponent of the Khomeini regime. That hit was carried out by an American national, David Belfield, who was recruited into the service of the Iranian secret service, Savama, by a Washington based "rug merchant" whose store functioned as a front and a money-laundering base for Khomeini-sponsored terrorist operations. The owner of that store, Bahram Nahidian, still walks the streets of Washington, untouched by the immense evidence compiled against him for orchestrating the hit and the subsequent flight of the assassin to Iran.

In November 1981, less than six weeks after Muslim Brotherhood killers assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, a Brotherhood clique was convened in Houston under the sponsorship of Mme. Dominique de Menil and the Rothko Chapel. Among the premier participants at that conference were the former President of Algeria, Ahmed Ben Bella, and

Saudi Prince Mohammad al Faisal. Both Ben Bella and Prince Faisal (a graduate of Pennsylvania's prestigious Swarthmore College) have been recently identified by *EIR* as leading sponsors of the current bloody wave of European terrorism financed in large part by a resurfaced neo-Nazi apparatus centered out of Lausanne and Geneva, Switzerland. In early August, Ben Bella was reportedly the chairman of a semi-secret conclave in Paris sponsored by the Muslim Brotherhood that planned out a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Hitler's rise to power.

According to intelligence specialists in the United States and Western Europe, the de Menil-Schlumberger family which runs the Chapel is presently at the center of the higher levels of support for radical Arab terrorist operations, among other terrorist efforts. These sources have identified the Schlumberger Corporation of Houston, the world's largest oil-diagnostic equipment sales and leasing company, as a vehicle for the recruitment and placement of a worldwide apparatus of radical Palestinians, providing logistical and technical support for hard-core terrorist deployments.

The Schlumberger family, which was among the guests of honor at a state banquet last year in honor of French President and Socialist International Vice-President François Mitterrand, has a history of association with high-level terrorism that spans the most dramatic incidents of political violence of recent decades. It was Jean de Menil, the husband of Dominique Schlumberger de Menil, who was among the cited board members of the Permindex Corporation, the Montreal-based "industrial exhibits" firm that was implicated by both a New Orleans grand jury and by Charles de Gaulle's SDECE intelligence service in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the over 30 unsuccessful attempts on the life of de Gaulle. There is good reason to believe that the Schlumberger Corporation today serves as a principal cover for the deployment and protection of a range of terrorist groupings. Are these groups in place awaiting the proper moment to enter an "active phase?"

The core of the U.S. apparatus

During the summer, FBI Joint Terror Task Force Director Kenneth Walton of the bureau's New York City office issued a widely publicized press statement acknowledging a fact that *EIR* and its counterintelligence bulletin *Investigative*

Leads had been broadcasting for 18 months. Walton admitted that the terrorist infrastructure behind the December 1981 Nyack, New York Brink's truck robbery attempt, involving the Black Liberation Army, the Weatherunderground (now known principally as the May 19th Communist Organization), and the FALN, had been largely reconstituted into an active nationwide core of more than 200 individuals spread out in nearly 20 cities from coast to coast.

That terrorist infrastructure has not been idle over the past half decade of apparent inaction. As the result of the pardons of over 20 hard-core jailed or fugitive terrorists during the reign of President Carter and his Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, the climate was created for the resurfacing of a network that never really went out of business. Law-enforcement agencies throughout the United States are now recognizing that a broad-based pattern of violent criminal actions, including a string of bank robberies and possible kidnappings, has been the work of veterans of the early 1970s terrorist apparatus. That apparatus, like its not-so-distant European cousins, has diversified its activities into such lucrative ventures as drug trafficking.

More recently, this U.S.-based radical "veterans" terrorist apparatus has forged alliances with foreign terrorist and support groups. Among the most frequent convergence points is the Caribbean island of Granada, the recent recipient of heavy financing from the Qaddafi government.

Another major source of funds for the domestic terrorist apparatus is Prince Mohammad al Faisal. One year ago, the Prince followed his appearance at Rothko Chapel with a visit to Philadelphia, where he was joined by representatives of Chase Manhattan Bank, the bank of the Trilateral Commission's North American branch. Faisal and friends mapped out an "urban-development" program that has seen a reported half billion dollars socked into "urban renewal" projects in cities like Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia. In Chicago, the redevelopment centered around the founding of East-West University, a radical pseudo-Muslim center that has sought to recruit American blacks into Khomeiniac sects. At a spring 1982 meeting in Chicago of one such group, headed by Libyan-financed "Black Muslim" Louis Farakkan, a call was issued from the podium of the lakefront Hilton Hotel for the 2,000 plus attendees to launch a "jihad" against America's urban centers.

Many law-enforcement professionals are aware of at least part of this picture. In the following interview, Juval Aviv, a leading anti-terrorist intelligence specialist, concurs that the same apparatus that was used in the last decade's continent-wide European terrorist upsurge, is now being activated in the United States. The sense is that the United States is a time bomb. Neither the underlying issues nor the professional infrastructure behind the terrorist apparatus has been placed under the spotlight of public exposure, much less dismantled. Until such actions are taken—beginning with the known "citizens above suspicion" who give protection to terrorist capabilities—that bomb will remain on a short fuse.

Interview: Juval Aviv

Counterterror expert cites the dangers

The Western intelligence community has long recognized the special expertise of Israeli Defense Force anti-terrorist units. Friend and foe agencies alike have acknowledged that from both a counterintelligence and an operational standpoint, Israeli Intelligence has amassed an impressive expertise and knowledge regarding terrorist activities on a worldwide scale. In 1967-74, Juval Aviv was a unit commander in the Israeli Defense Force, stationed in Western Europe for much of that time. Now an American citizen living and working in the New York City area, Aviv has founded a private security consulting firm, Interfor, Inc. which services a range of U.S. corporations. While formally retired from government service, Aviv remains a consultant to a number of Western intelligence services. Mr. Aviv agreed to "come out of the cold" to grant the following exclusive interview with EIR Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg on Sept. 15.

Steinberg: I understand that you have a number of years of experience working of behalf of the Israeli government around the world as a counter-terrorist intelligence agent. Can you tell me about your background and what it represents for your present capabilities?

Aviv: I have to start in 1968-69, which was the period when terrorism began to be an effective weapon in Europe. Israel at that time was the only country which had begun to research the right methods to counter terrorism. This was because we were the major targets at the time: El Al Airlines, our shipping companies, and, I would say, any Israeli or Jewish company around the world was a target. Israeli intelligence put some of the best minds in anti-terrorist tactics into the field, drawn primarily from veteran command groups, as was I, experienced to function as lean, hard, resourceful attack units using our tiny numbers to infiltrate and overwhelm heavily manned enemy installations. Through the late 1960s and early 1970s, we came up with some very effective ideas.

The theme of our anti-terrorist measures was that we would not give up to any threats. We would not negotiate to any terrorist groups, we were fighting back. This was the key. Psychologically, you could see the effect of this policy all along. I can give you an example.

There has never been an attack on a Russian embassy anywhere in the world. The reason is not that those embassies are invulnerable or that they could not be taken by terrorists.