
MALTA

Terrorists hold a strategy session

by Dean Andromidas

A transformation of the peace movement into a more effective support apparatus for the terrorist and "liberation" movements through the world was the focus of an international conference on the Mediterranean island-state of Malta the weekend of March 16.

The First International Peace and Liberation Movement Conference brought together peaceniks, "greenies" from the radical-environmentalist movement, liberationists, and pure terrorists to map out a strategy for a hot spring and a long, hot summer.

The conferees shared, beyond a common purpose, a common purse—the coffers of petty Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi. Libya paid the air fares for all the liberation movements. Although other funds came from Austria and Malta, Libya picked up the tab for any cost overruns suffered by the Maltese government. Libya is said to account for half the foreign trade of Malta, a former British crown colony still under heavy British influence. Libya has extensive investments on the island.

The conference organizing committee included the Austrian Society for North-South Questions (described by a well-informed source in Vienna as "a Libyan public relations agency") and Alfred Mechttersheimer, head of the Institute for Peace Politics. Representatives of both groups have met with Qaddafi and are believed to have received Libyan petrodollar financing.

Other terrorist mercenaries on the Libyan payroll attending included the Moro Liberation Movement (Philippines), the Patani Liberation Movement (Thailand), Polisario (Morocco), and George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Over 260 delegates from 61 countries and liberation movements were at the two-day event.

Malta lies due south of Sicily on the way to Tripoli, Libya. The Malta conference therefore occurred under the shadow of the cruise-missile base at Comiso on the south side of Sicily, one of the most important installations on NATO's southern tier. Despite participants' claims that nothing concrete was decided and that the conference was merely intended to foster discussion, 115 delegates boarded a hydrofoil speedboat supplied by an Italian private TV station and headed for Comiso. Authorities at the port of Catania in Sicily, fearful of probable violence, refused to allow certain

"peace activists" to land, including the daughter of Patrice Lumumba and delegates from Syria, Libya, Sierra Leone, the Thai Patani Liberation Movement.

The conference followed many months of intense discussions among Libyan-backed peace-movement leaders in Europe seeking to shift the focus of the peace movement from mass "non-violent" demonstrations into proto-terrorist direct action against the NATO logistical apparatus, in operations resembling the style of the Soviet *spetsnaz* sabotage units and in direct support of the international terrorist movements.

Participants included Thyra Quensel, a former Green Party Executive Board member who serves as a link between Qaddafi and the German Green Party; Franciscan Father Dionysius Mintoff, head of the Malta Peace Laboratory, and brother of the leftist Prime Minister Dom Mintoff who hosted the conference; and the Italian Socialist Party's peacenik "military expert" Falco Accame, a retired Italian naval captain. From Britain came the Ecology Party, the Greenham Common group, and Philip Marfeet of *Mid East Review*. Marfeet argued in a recent article that the Comiso base threatens the Middle East and northern African countries—a justification for Libya's threats to carry out military strikes on Comiso!

From Austria, whose ex-prime minister, Bruno Kreisky, is friendly with Colonel Qaddafi, came Meteus Reichl of the Center for Active Non-Violence. Reichl tried to bring representatives of the American Indian Movement who have been touring Europe as guests of the Green Party. The Indians, who were kept from attending by visa problems (they refuse to carry U.S. passports), had hoped to gain support from the "liberation movements" for the idea of creating an Independent Indian Nation at the United Nations. As *EIR* has documented, this is an anthropologist-concocted movement to defend a synthetic industry-hating "indigenous" culture by terrorism.

Featured speakers at the conference included Nicaraguan Education Minister Ernesto Cardenal; Kissinger-protégé-turned-peacenik Daniel Ellsberg from the United States, and the leftist president of Malta, Agatha Barbara, who spoke on the example of Malta's "peaceful" liberation and is now playing host to North Korean military advisers. Philip Berigan, another U.S. peacenik, set the Club of Rome-inspired fascist tone for the conference by speaking on how the "northern" peace movements must stem the export of modern technology from the imperialist North to the South, because this creates not only so-called structural violence of urban growth and rural dislocation, but the violence caused by liberation wars. This view is, of course, shared by the International Monetary Fund, which has a policy of liberating the South—the former colonial countries—from all technology and exportable wealth.

Other apparent "nonbinding" discussion included the formation of "peace brigades" on the model of those sent to Nicaragua, where it is known that European terrorists receive special training.