

European terror wave hits U.S. targets

by Mary Goldstein

President Ronald Reagan's inauguration takes place Jan. 21 amidst the tightest security measures in U.S. history. More than 15,000 police, Secret Service, and military personnel are assigned to the ceremonies, including agents reportedly armed with ground-to-air weapons.

Meanwhile, U.S. embassies and military installations in Western Europe have been put on full alert for the inaugural period, fearing a new wave of terrorism. "There is evidence that several terror groups have joined forces to plan attacks on American targets," an administration official told CBS News Jan. 17. "Western intelligence sources have monitored an unusually high number of suspected terrorists moving into Europe through Spain, Italy, and Greece." Iran, according to reports in the London *Times*, has dispatched special kamikaze hit teams throughout Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

Terrorist attacks against U.S. and NATO targets in Western Europe have escalated steadily over the last month, culminating on Jan. 15 in a joint "declaration of war" by the French-based Action Directe (AD) and West German RAF (Red Army Fraction, formerly the Baader-Meinhof) groups, and the AD-connected Belgian Communist Combatant Cells (CCC). Action Directe has known operational ties with the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Fraction (FARL), part of the PFLP of George Habash.

On Jan. 15, a U.S. military social center in Brussels was blasted by a CCC car bomb. Two guards were injured, and the building extensively damaged. The CCC has struck some five or six times over the last four months in Belgium, blowing up a NATO emergency fuel pipeline in December. This, however, was the first time the CCC used the car-bomb method favored by the Islamic terrorists, also tested on Dec. 18 by the RAF in an attempted bombing of the Oberammergau NATO school.

In a letter claiming credit for the car-bombing, the CCC proclaimed a "new phase" in the "anti-imperialistic campaign. This was the first attack in which Yankee militaries and their accomplices could have been killed or wounded," the letter read. "Now we will expand further on these two tracks. Human life is not absolute. We do not regard it as sacred." The group dedicated the bombing to the West German RAF.

Also on Jan. 15, international news agencies in Paris

received a joint communiqué in French and German signed by the AD and the RAF, announcing a "political-military front in Western Europe" to attack NATO. The groups declared a joint "strategy . . . for a unity of the revolutionaries in Western Europe . . . a new phase for the development of an authentic revolutionary strategy . . . to create a Western European guerrilla [movement against] NATO . . . the most advanced imperialist ruling structure, which must be destroyed. . . ."

The communiqué merely formalizes a terrorist coordination that has been evident for months, most clearly since the Dec. 4 initiation of a "hunger strike" by RAF terrorist prisoners. The hunger strike kicked off almost a dozen terror attacks in West Germany alone. Furthermore, materials found in a raid on an RAF safehouse in Frankfurt, West Germany in July 1984 included detailed drawings of the NATO school, as well as maps of the Belgian pipelines bombed by the CCC only a week before the Oberammergau attempt.

Other indications of terrorist coordination include:

- French police picked up a heavily armed, six-person terror cell in Lille in mid-November; one of the members was a German woman.
- The November arrest of 13 persons in Paris, part of a crackdown on AD, yielded documents proving abundant contacts with Italian and West German groups.
- The Italian terror group Brigata Ferroviaria attacked an armored money truck in Rome Dec. 15. Two guards were seriously wounded, and Cecilia Masaro, a friend of Red Brigades leader Bruno Seghetti, was killed.
- An oil pipeline connecting the U.S. submarine base in Rota, Spain with the U.S. airbase in Torregon was blown up in three places Dec. 18-19.

The Green connection

The ongoing RAF hunger strike has been endorsed by the German Green Party. In fact, the Greens recently called for creation of "mediation committees" to be led by none other than convicted RAF terrorist Brigitte Heinrich, now representing the Greens in the European Parliament. Heinrich was part of a Green delegation which visited the Mideast last month, meeting with the terrorist Palestinian organizations PFLP and PDFLP and with the foreign minister of Syria; they were also scheduled to visit the Bekaa Valley, the most important center of Islamic terrorist and illegal drug operations.

The hunger strike campaign is being used as a recruiting ground for the terrorist networks. A group of RAF sympathizers stopped a train in Berlin Jan. 15 with the emergency brake, using the occasion to distribute their illegal leaflets. Meetings occurred in support of the hunger strike in several West German cities, drawing some 2,000 persons. The Stuttgart meeting was addressed by Greek, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, French, and American speakers, including Judith Holmes from the New York Resistance Law Office who called for "international exchange" and coordination to "combat the counterinsurgency strategy of the imperialist states."