

## Middle East Report by Thierry Lalevée

### Europe set as new battlefield

*Several meetings have brought about a merger of the Middle East terrorists with Europe's own underground.*

While most in Europe and in the United States were celebrating Christmas and the New Year, Iranian, Syrian, and Libyan terrorist networks were using that period to gather in meetings and plan the transformation of 1985 into the "Year of Terror," as the Irish Liberation Army (IRA) proclaimed a few days before the end of 1984.

One such gathering took place in London and was chaired by Hojatesalam hadi Gaafari, the Teheran leader of the mob otherwise known as Party of God (Hezbollahi), and Soyayed Mahmoud Hashemi, leader of the so-called "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" (Sairi).

Attended by scores of "Islamic liberation fighters" from the Gulf and Western Europe, such a gathering could have been formally concerned with creating a new structure for some kind of "Shia International," reported Patrick Seale in the British weekly *Observer*. However, the personality of the chairmen makes such an assessment dubious.

Gaafari is officially *persona non grata* in West Germany and many other places since he organized a massive assault against anti-Khomeini Iranian students at Mainz University in West Germany in the spring of 1982.

Hashemi, only recently appointed leader of the Sairi, has been primarily known as the leading figure in the Al Daawa al Islamiyya clandestine Shi'ite organization in Iran and Lebanon. This is the organization which hijacked a Kuwaiti plane to Teheran and execut-

ed four hostages in December.

In the days following the London meeting, a violent propaganda campaign against Saudi Arabia was set into motion. Leaflets printed by the Ontario-based "Crescent International" were mass distributed in Britain, while in the French daily *Le Monde*, there appeared a quarter-page advertisement denouncing "political repression" in the Saudi Kingdom, signed by some 69 individuals. Amazingly, the advertisement was not signed by any organization, but there was little doubt that some activists recently arrived in Paris and working out of the Iranian embassy under Reza Moayeri had put the money together.

Propaganda, however, was not the aim of the gathering in London, nor of a meeting at the mosque in Hamburg on Dec. 9, nor of many other terrorist meetings which have taken place since November. They in fact have been used to intensify a process of selection and recruitment of new volunteers.

A recent document from Iran published in the London *Times* of Jan. 16 reveals that "military units" have been formed in Iran, consisting of up to 1,000 kamikazes. Their aim in operations is to be nothing less than "overthrowing the governments of France, England, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates."

As the document outlines, this will be achieved by linking up the kamikazes to the organizations of "local opposition" to these governments, meaning Europe's underground ter-

rorist groups like Action Directe of France and the Red Army Fraction of West Germany, or Italy's Red Brigades.

The document concludes with a report that the final training of the kamikazes will not be complete before the summer; however, there should be "no lull in activities."

There is little chance of that. Also arriving in Europe was a group of at least 15 Syrians who left Damascus several weeks ago by way of Cyprus and Athens. Although such Syrians are deployed to target Palestinian followers of Yasser Arafat, according to the PLO, their tasks may be broader. Ever since reports of their arrival came in, special security measures have been taken to protect Jordanian embassies and diplomatic personnel.

Similarly, 12 of these Syrians were spotted traveling between France and West Germany—clearly with other targets in mind. Well-equipped, thanks to Cuban intelligence networks in Europe, the Syrians are reported to have joined with the local German and French groups, a week before the announced merger between France's Action Directe and the West German RAF.

If the Syrians have not announced their desire to help "overthrow" European governments like the Iranians, they are at least joining hands in anti-NATO attacks. And according to a communiqué published on Jan. 17, they are expected to be joined by both the Armenian ASALA and the al Jihad al Islami group. The ASALA announced it was giving its "total and unconditional" support to the Jihad's "struggle in the name of the oppressed people of the Middle East, of which the liberation of Western Armenia from Turkish fascism is an integral part."