

## Middle East Report by Thierry Lalevée

### Moscow and Abu Nidal's 'resurrection'

*Libya has declared war on London, Bonn, and Washington, while for the first time, the Soviets attack Arafat.*

On Feb. 19, the Libyan news agency JANA announced, "From now on, Libya will give full support to the progressive forces struggling in Europe, such as the Irish Republican Army and the Red Army Faction and those fighting against the United States government," arguing that London, Bonn, and Washington were "harboring enemies of the Libyan revolution."

On Feb. 21, international terrorist Abu Nidal, whose death had been rumored last October (see *EIR*, Nov. 27, 1984), made an astonishing comeback, granting his first public interview for a long time. He announced that Palestine Liberation Organization head Yasser Arafat, Jordan's King Hussein, and South Yemen President Ali Nasser Mohammed were "all condemned to death, as will be anyone, Palestinian or Arab, who wants to negotiate with the Zionists."

The timing of these two announcements is no coincidence and means that on direct Soviet orders, Europe and the Middle East are to be set afire through bombings and assassinations of political figures. The JANA release was more than explicit, as it announced, "In the fight against the enemies of the Libyan revolution," the battlefield will "become railway stations, hotels, airports, and the streets."

The United States is not to be spared, stressed JANA. This was underlined by Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi's speech via satellite hook-up to a Chicago Black Muslim audience on Feb. 24, calling on Louis Farrakhan's followers and black U.S. Army troops to revolt.

Given the longstanding friendship between German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Qaddafi, such a declaration of war against Bonn may seem surprising. Playing by the diplomatic rules, the Libyan ambassador to Bonn, Mehdi Imberesh, was reported to have apologized to Genscher for the threat on Feb. 22. But the apology was quickly invalidated on Feb. 25, when the "General Union of Libyan Students" in West Germany began distributing the JANA release as a leaflet.

Though Genscher may have received assurances from his good friend that he won't be a target, Bonn very much is. It is West Germany's commitment to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative that Moscow wants to destroy.

Abu Nidal's resurrection serves a similar purpose for the Middle East and Mediterranean regions. Panicked by the American initiative in Europe, and soon, a U.S. initiative in the Middle East, Moscow and Damascus are ready to deploy all means to keep from losing control in that region of the world.

Whether it is the same Abu Nidal speaking now as before is of little importance. As soon as rumors of his death had spread, his followers made the point that the "struggle would go on."

More important was that his public reappearance coincided with the first Soviet attacks ever against PLO chairman Yasser Arafat. Moscow finally dropped the mask of mediator between the PLO and its radical op-

nouncing Arafat's agreements with Jordan's King Hussein on negotiations with Israel as "undermining the Palestinian revolution."

Praising Abu Nidal, the Syrian news agency SANA immediately announced that his "Fatah revolutionary committee," better known as the terrorist "Black June" organization, had decided to merge its activities with the so-called Nationalist Alliance made of the Abu Musa, Habash and Hawatmeh bunch. As the Paris paper *Liberation* commented on Feb. 22, since Syria's "Palestinian card against Arafat" has failed, Damascus and Moscow "now display their terrorist card."

A central target, outside of Yasser Arafat, is Jordan's King Hussein. While plotting his assassination very publicly, the Syrian leaders leave no doubt that they are also ready for a direct war against Jordan.

Proof was provided in a SANA release of Feb. 24 accusing Jordanian "armed guards" of having killed two Syrian border guards, so gross a provocation that SANA later killed the story.

Between Tripoli and Damascus, Papandreou's Athens has become essential to Soviet plans, as the reactivation of the "November 17" terrorist group suggests, providing a bridge between Middle Eastern and European terror. According to the London newsletter *Memo*, no fewer than 10 Soviet-connected Arab and Islamic terror groups are freely operating in Greece, from Black September to Black June to the Islamic Action Group, "Khomeini's Martyrs," *ad nauseam*. As *Memo* reports, only direct and independent actions by the United States allowed some of these groups to be dismantled recently, no thanks to Papandreou, who has become one of the most important security threats in the entire region.