

Moscow orders 'planetary terrorism'

by Thierry Lalevée

The hijacking of TWA Flight 847 on June 14 in Athens by members of the "Hussein Suicide Commando Group Abu Arab," and the detonation of a military explosive device at Frankfurt International Airport on June 19, constituted an extension of Mideast-style blind terrorism to Europe. This is the modus operandi of Syrian intelligence, which perpetrated similar crimes in France in 1982 and 1984.

This is not terrorism as people are accustomed to thinking of it: These are acts of war by the Soviet Union and its surrogates against the United States and its allies, who have planned what an intelligence source described as an "upcoming wave of planetary terrorism." Involved both in the hijacking and the Frankfurt terrorist bombing have been not mere terrorist groupings, but Moscow's satrapies, the governments of Syria, Libya, and Iran—and Papandreou's Greece. And the stakes are very high. As the French daily newspaper *Liberation* editorialized on June 19, the hijacking brings to mind one word: "Sarajevo." "Wars have been declared for much less."

According to the intelligence sources of several nations, a series of new hijackings and terrorist bombings is to follow the present events. Even if the passengers of the TWA flight were successfully freed, others would be immediately taken hostage.

The bombing in Frankfurt on June 19 is revealing. It made the point that although the international community had rightly blamed Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou for the lack of security at Athens airport—or rather, for outright collaboration—Frankfurt made the point that no airport can be safe in front of determined terrorists. Creating a new focal point of attention, it decreased the pressures on Papandreou and the Beirut terrorists. Behind it, it was said, is emerging a global strategy which will see similar terror-bombings worldwide to ensure that precise identification of the culprits and potential retaliations simply become impossible.

The plot behind the hijacking

It is no coincidence that at the height of the Beirut hijacking crisis, Syrian President Hafez al Assad was summoned to Moscow by Mikhail Gorbachov. Although the public re-

lease described their talks as having focused on the need for Palestinian unity, other reports indicate that the real substance of the unannounced visit was to plan the next stage of the Middle East crisis, just as Assad is rumored to have made a secret trip to Moscow in early June before the present crisis. The next step may include a staged war with Israel.

This was the process set in motion in the early part of this year when, under Soviet sponsorship, the foreign ministers of Libya, Iran, and Syria met in Teheran on Jan. 25 to create an "anti-American, anti-Zionist" front. The rhetoric is not new, of course. However, as was later revealed, the meeting served as a cover for tightening of intelligence ties between the three countries.

Between the end of December and early February, a series of conferences took place in London whose significance has yet to be appreciated by the American administration and its allies. The conferences occurred under the leadership of Hojatessalam Hadi Gaffari, leader of the Iranian Hezbollahi (Party of God), Hojatessalam Sayyid al Hashemi of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Sayyid Hussein al Sadr of the Iraqi Shi'ite Da'wa Party, and Hassan Hashim, chairman of the executive council of Al Amal in Lebanon. They created a new organization called "The Supreme Council of the Islamic World Revolution" (SCIWR), an impressive name to institutionalize what already existed.

One of the concrete results was officially announced on March 24 by Ali Al Hussein, member of the politburo of the Amal organization. Under the sponsorship of the SCIWR, the Lebanese and Iranian Shi'ite organizations in Lebanon were united. As Hussein described it bluntly in March of 1985, "Amal acts as an umbrella organization" with a single Military Coordinating Council for Al Amal, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, Hussein Moussavi's "Islamic Amal" split-off, and other commandos (see box).

Then, on April 1, Muammar Qaddafi announced the creation of the "Arab Revolutionary Command." Given Qaddafi's reputation, this was not taken seriously. Nonetheless, the conference was attended by large groups from Syria, Iran, and Lebanon, as well as Palestinian rejectionists and Iraqi Shi'ites. Stressing again the objectives discussed in Teheran on Jan. 25 for a stronger and more effective "anti-American front," Qaddafi announced that the new organization, together with associated groups, would sponsor "mass-suicide actions," and would also place bombs in "airports, hotels, streets, train stations, everywhere where we can hit the enemy." A day later, the Libyan press agency, JANA, announced that the Command was establishing new links with European-based terrorist groups.

With Moscow's logistical support, the new institutions to wage a war against "Western imperialism" had been created.

The decision, then, to hijack a TWA plane on June 14 was not fortuitous, but coincided with the end of Ramadan for some of the Middle Eastern countries. It also coincided with "Jerusalem Day," a public holiday in Iran, Libya, Syria, and Lebanon.

Plotting the hijacking were a series of conferences held at the beginning of June in Lebanon between Ayatollah Mohammed Mehdi Kharroubi, chairman of the Foundation of the Martyrs of the Revolution, Hossein Lavassani, deputy foreign minister, Lebanese Shi'ite representatives, and Syrian intelligence representatives. Kharroubi's foundation, which cares for wounded Pasdarans (Revolutionary Guards), has medical facilities all over the world. In July 1984 in Spain, these were exposed as a cover for Iranian terrorist operations.

Monitoring the hijacking has been Iranian Minister of the Pasdarans Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, who had visited Damascus and Beirut prior to the operation, arriving in Damascus on June 13. On the same evening, Syrian President Hafez al Assad held a public dinner where he announced that Washington had requested his help for the release of the hostages. Assad declared that "because of our code of honor," he had accepted the role of mediator, but that he had "great admiration for the courage and strength of our comrades of Islamic Jihad who are fighting such a powerful enemy."

By June 15, Rafiq-Dust was in the Bekaa Valley, and soon after, in Beirut, while one of his associates in Lebanon, Pasdaran leader Ali Avaie, was reported by the Lebanese newspapers to have met with three of the hijackers on June 16 in Beirut! On June 18, Avaie and other representatives of the Pasdarans held conferences in Beirut with Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the real controller of the hijack-

ers and their hostages. In the summer of 1984, Fadlallah had created the "Hussein Suicice Commando" group, to which the hijackers belong.

A global counter-terrorism war

Though Washington is the immediate target, few outside the Kremlin would be wise to gloat over America's "new impotence" and seeming return to the days of Carter. An American humiliation will immediately put in danger the very existence of those clever Israelis, for example, who thought it wise to play the Shi'ite card against the Palestinians of Yasser Arafat, going so far as to release some 249 members of Amal last May to beef-up their fighting strength against Palestinian camps.

This leaves little doubt, too, as to the future of the European countries. The Frankfurt bombing should have come as a shock to those German foreign ministry officials who negotiated non-aggression pacts with Mideast terrorists.

It is a global terrorist war which is being waged. It should be answered globally, with diplomatic, political, economic, and military means. Military retaliations hitting at the economic infrastructure of the terrorists, such as Iran's oil terminal at Kharg Island should be considered. In the realm of diplomatic initiatives, Washington should immediately play the card of the moderate Palestinians around Yasser Arafat. No answer, as at present, except seeking "mediators" who are America's worst enemies, would be the worst policy.

Behind the hijacking: Lebanon's Shi'ites

The Iranian revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini did not radicalize the Lebanese Shi'ite movement, Al Amal. Al Amal trained and groomed those Iranians which were to organize the overthrow of the Shah, from Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, foreign minister later executed, to Mostapha Chamrane, founder of the Revolutionary Guards (Pasarans) and defense minister until his death on the Iraqi front.

Al Amal (The Hope) was created in 1974 as the "Movement of the Disinherited" by Iran's Imam Musa Sadr, who had been sent to Lebanon in 1960 on orders of the Shah and his secret police, the SAVAK, to join the Lebanese Higher Shi'ite Council. He became national chairman in 1969. In 1975, the "movement" was transformed into the Amal militias, receiving financial support from Libya's Qaddafi. The SAVAK withdrew his support. In 1978, he disappeared in Libya and is believed to have been killed. Qaddafi disliked the way he was using his money.

After an interim leadership, Nabih Berri, a Sierra-Leone-born Shi'ite with an American green card, was made President of the Executive Council and Politburo, which also include: Col. Akef Haydar, Politburo chief, Hassan Hashem, council chief, Ali Al Hussein (foreign relations), Daoud Daoud (former Southern Lebanon commander), Ali Hamdani (press spokesman), and Hajj Mohammed (social affairs).

At a March 1982 congress, a resolution calling on Lebanese Shi'ites to recognize Khomeini as their supreme chief was rejected. Hussein Moussawi, the resolution's sponsor, split from the organization in the summer and established the "Islamic Amal" headquartered in Baalbeck. Its garrison was bombarded by French jets in retaliation for the Oct. 23, 1983 kamikaze operations in Beirut.

Also in Baalbeck are the military garrisons of the Iranian Hezbollahi (Party of God) led by Lebanese Shi'ites Subhi Tufeily and Sheikh Arefi, and the garrisons of the Pasdarans, who fought against Israel in June 1982, led then by Ali Reza Mo'ayeri—today the Iranian chargé d'affaires in Paris. Their present leaders are Commander Ali Avaie and Sheikh Soyyed Ahmed Fekhari, also the liaison to Damascus. A regular liaison between Baalbeck and Teheran is Mortada Chamrane, Mostafa Chamrane's brother.