

Nations, or otherwise to reform it.

16) Formation of a united front of separatist and terrorist groups: "An international front including the small peoples and nations, the revolutionary movements, political organizations, progressive regimes, and people's revolutions in the world will be set up to fight the world forces of arrogance and state hegemony."

New terror wave

As these marching orders—and other, more secret ones—went out to the assembled kooks and terrorists in Tripoli, the U.S. Sixth Fleet prematurely ended its maneuvers in the Mediterranean at the end of March, and Western governments braced themselves for Qaddafi's threatened revenge against the United States, for its attack on Libyan SAM missile bases in the town of Surt. The Libyan news agency JANA proclaimed, "We will consider any American target and the American and Mediterranean bases hostile targets which we will confront."

Qaddafi's conference of terrorists and separatists made Hitler's Nuremberg rallies look like Sunday afternoon picnics, while the Libyan wire service bellowed, "We will consider any American target and the American and Mediterranean bases hostile targets which we will confront."

More than 35 U.S. and NATO installations in Europe are being targeted by Libyan-sponsored terrorists, *Newsweek* magazine reported. According to testimony by a Libyan defector, Qaddafi has given orders to his operatives in Belgrade, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Geneva, and Madrid to "launch the operation" against U.S. forces.

Bombs exploded at banks and government buildings across France on March 28, injuring at least two people.

Then on April 2, a TWA passenger airliner bound from Rome to Cairo narrowly escaped disaster, when a bomb exploded in its luggage department as it was making its descent to the Athens airport. The pilot was able to land the plane successfully, but four passengers were killed and 20 seriously wounded. The action was claimed by the Arab Revolutionary Cells. While Qaddafi officially denied involvement, in February he chaired an international conference which explicitly warned civilians not to fly on American airliners, because if they did they would find themselves the targets of terrorism.

'Operation Nightmare': Is it now under way?

by Umberto Pascali

The NATO bases at Sigonella and Torregrossa on the south-east coast of Sicily are on alert, following a threatening phone call received over the Easter period, to the bases' top secret telephone number. The number is known only to a very select number of people in the military command. It was along this coast that the U.S. Sixth Fleet dropped anchor after operations against Libya.

On March 27, Sgt. Walter Thomas of the Sigonella base was shot at by four youth while driving his car a few miles from the base. The day before, an anonymous caller took credit for the burning of two vehicles owned by soldiers working at the Vicenza base in the Veneto region. "Yankees and NATO out of Italy" was the anonymous message. The only daily in Tripoli, Libya, *Al Fajer Al-Jadid*, reported on March 31 that these incidents are "the beginning of vendetta operations against U.S. targets all over the world."

According to the experts in Sicily, the relatively small Torregrossa base is the most probable target for Libyan terrorism or sabotage. Qaddafi has the full support of the Italian Communist Party (PCI), whose CGIL trade union controls the civilian workforce at the bases.

These terrorist threats cannot be viewed in isolation from a massive destabilization project now afoot in Sicily. Sicily has been the scene of a mass rebellion, sponsored by the mafia and led by communists. The pretext for the bloody social explosion is a law passed by the Italian parliament that imposes taxation on illegally built housing. The rebellion is spreading rapidly to other southern Italian regions such as Calabria and Puglia.

Over the last two weeks, several Sicilian cities and towns, including the capital, Palermo, have been closed to the outside, the highways blocked by barricades and transformed into battlefields by well-organized "spontaneous" demonstrators led by both the communists and the neo-fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI). The powerful mafia's blessings are obvious. The demands include abolition of the illegal-housing tax and of seismic-related building codes—a suicidal move in an area characterized by frequent earthquakes. Where is all this heading?

Operation Nightmare

In the spring of 1982, *EIR* exposed a plan to destabilize Sicily, "Operation Nightmare," which included a separatist insurrection in Sicily, aided by the mafia, and launched by anti-American protests. The trigger for the insurrection was to have been demonstrations

east Sicily, where U.S. cruise missiles are to be deployed.

Directly involved was Soviet military intelligence, the GRU, and elements of the British secret service. Large amounts of weapons were being smuggled into Sicily from Spain. Financial and other support was coming from Qaddafi, via the West German Green Party and an assortment of communist, peacenik, lesbian, and other groups, who established a camp near the missile site as a base for demonstrations.

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separatist revolution. This is not without precedent: It happened at the end of World War II, when the separatist party was backed by the mafia. Most of the separatists ended up in the Communist Party.

At the time, *EIR* and its friends in Europe immediately informed Sicilian and Italian authorities of the threat. The demonstrations took place, but the plan was aborted. It was not, however, canceled.

For over a year now, Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro has devoted much attention to Sicily and its threatened destabilization, not only because of police repression of organized crime. A destabilization of Sicily is a threat to Italian national security. Operational Nightmare is not just the mafia acting to protect itself, but is a form of warfare launched by the Soviets against Italy and the West as a whole through Sicily—a strategic point in the Mediterranean.

In past months, demonstrations of thousands of unemployed in Sicily used the slogan "We Want the Mafia Back, We Want to Work," during a large trial against the mafia bosses in Palermo. On Feb. 17, ca. 30,000 people went to Rome from southern Italy, most from Sicily, led by 400 Sicilian mayors, for a demonstration in front of parliament. From somewhere, the mayors got the money to finance this

expensive enterprise. They protested against the housing law and asked for a general amnesty, without making much distinction between the rich contractors who got their money from illegal building without taxation, and the families who had illegally built their house stone by stone over 5 to 10 years, because there was no other way.

Communists and neo-fascists

There are an estimated 3 million illegally constructed houses in Italy; of these, more than 2 million are in the south, most in Sicily. It is also well documented that one of the ways used by the mafia to launder dirty money from drug traffic, is to "invest" in real estate and the building sector. In Italy, this is known as the "black economy." It is the economic model that the International Monetary Fund recommends, and it is indicative that one of the most determined defenders of IMF austerity dictates in Italy is the Communist Party.

The boss of the Sicilian mayors now leading the social disorders there is a Communist, Paolo Monello, the mayor of Vittoria, a city of 55,000 bordering on Comiso. With 60% of its voters going Communist, it is the "reddest" city in Italy. In Vittoria, 80% of the houses were illegally constructed.

The Communists, despite a few dissidents, immediately endorsed the illegal-house rebellion, as did the neo-fascists of the MSI. MSI parliamentarians proudly marched behind the Communist Monello against the parliament in February. After that test of strength, the well-organized revolt exploded in Sicily.

With Palermo and many other cities and towns isolated by highway barricades, violent battles with police have occurred almost daily, resulting in many wounded and many more arrested for attempted homicide. Because of one barricade that blocked the highway to Palermo in the suburb of Trabia, the prefect of Messina was killed, on March 20, when his car was suddenly hit by a truck because of trees placed on the road.

While the neo-fascists intervene frantically in every hot point, the delegation from Comiso joined the meeting of the mayors in Ragusa displaying a huge banner: "The Only Illegal People Are the Americans: Make Them Pay!" All this happened while the U.S. Navy was bombarding Qaddafi in the Gulf of Sidra.

The disorders expanded to Calabria, and barricades have also now gone up in Puglia. Despite a softening of the law by the government, announced on March 26, Monello and his people state that they will go on until the law is repealed.

Among the motivations attributed to the Communists for conspicuously supporting this mass unrest is the election scheduled on the island for next June. But the fact is, there is little difference between the Communists, the Soviet KGB, the mafia, and the neo-fascists. They are virtually the same people. Not a cynical electoral trick, but a very dangerous attempt to render ungovernable Sicily and the entire Mezzogiorno region in the south of Italy, is under way. With that, Italy becomes ungovernable, and a gaping hole is opened in the Mediterranean on NATO's Southern Flank.