

# From the shores of Tripoli... to Damascus

by Thierry Lalevée and Michele Steinberg

The terrorist year 1986 began four days earlier, on Dec. 27, 1985, when two hit teams of the Abu Nidal organization perpetrated one of the most savage massacres ever at the Rome and Vienna airports. Similar massacres occurred months later, at the Karachi airport and at Istanbul's oldest synagogue. For several weeks in February and March 1986, and again in September, Paris won the dubious title of "Beirut on the Seine," as bombs exploded indiscriminately in shopping centers, cafés, and restaurants. If a few hostages were released by their terrorist kidnappers in Lebanon, as many were seized.

Not since the early 1970s, when George Habash's PFLP was hijacking and blowing up planes at will, did the Western world face such a terrorist challenge. Even so, 1986 could not be compared to 16 years earlier. In the last 18 months, any pretense at unleashing terrorism in support of a particular cause has been dropped. The Rome, Vienna, Karachi, Istanbul, and other massacres were not perpetrated on behalf of "the Palestinian cause." Terrorism's aim was the destabilization of Western society. In that sense, these were a follow-up to the October 1983 kamikaze mission by Shi'ite terrorists which killed hundreds of American and French soldiers in Lebanon. And one aim was achieved: By 1985, all foreign troops but the French—chief target of 1986 terrorism—had withdrawn from Beirut. By November 1986, the remaining French presence within UNIFIL had been withdrawn. With France, the United States, and Britain weakening under the terrorist assault in the Middle East, the terrorists felt free to increase direct actions in Europe.

As much as the myth of terrorism having a "sociological cause" has vanished, so has the myth of independent terrorist organizations. In all cases, states and their intelligence services have been involved, and the daring investigator even found that behind these states and services stands the Warsaw Pact countries and the "Department of Active Measures" of the Soviet KGB.

It was by investigating such sponsorship that Western intelligence services began to disentangle the web of the terrorist spider. First, such groups as Abu Nidal's were linked to the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (FARL) of George Ibrahim Abdallah, which sponsored the French terror wave. From the FARL, they were led into the "national" terrorists around "Direct Action," and their European friends, the Red Brigades, the Red Army Faction, and the IRA, not forgetting the Basque ETA. The same safe-houses, the same arms caches, the same logistical network, and more often than not, the same bank account at Crédit Suisse in Zurich.

## The terrorists get a bloody nose

Countless cynics are now heard commenting that the American strike against Libya was "theater," because secret negotiations with Teheran were under way at the same time that Tripoli was bombed. Maybe Qaddafi knew, as of April 15, that Washington—through Israeli intermediaries—was talking with his good friends in Iran, but such knowledge didn't help much when the bombs began falling.

The raid has to be seen as one crucial step in the fight against international terrorism and its sponsors. One might compare how a population feels when one deals with terrorists, as in "Irangate," compared to the great hope that spread throughout the citizenry of the United States, Europe, and the Middle East as the first news came in that Tripoli was being bombarded. Premier Chirac was right to tell the *Washington Times* that one quick operation and "barking" were not enough. A broader operation was needed. Six months after the operation, that comment is still accurate. No doubt it will be put to the test in early 1987 as the crisis around the latest Libyan aggression against Chad widens.

In Qaddafi's primitive state of mind, he was bombarded and narrowly escaped. That was clearly enough for him to lie low for more than six months. It awakened him to how few friends he really had. The screams of "murder" were loudest in Moscow, which understood the raid as a slap in the Kremlin's face. For Qaddafi, who dreams of being an Arab leader, Moscow's support was little consolation when Arab capitals remained silent. It underscored his status of satrap.

Qaddafi's buddy, Syria's Hafez al Assad, had the same experience six months later. Because his country is geographically closer to the Soviet Union, and he has signed a defense treaty, he has been spared military retaliation for his actions. Nonetheless, Assad must sometimes wonder to what extent the Soviets will back him, and whether Moscow is not plotting against him, too. For Assad's personal pride as the "Bismarck of the Middle East," to use Kissinger's phrase, being branded an international terrorist was a deep insult—but, it was true. The decision of the British government on Oct. 24 to break diplomatic relations came as a shock. Assad's bluff was being called. And as in Qaddafi's case, no Arab country followed Damascus's call to break diplomatic relations with Britain.

As the year ends, another component in the international terror wave—the Israeli factor—is being exposed. For over a decade, a corrupt, international mafia-run faction in Israel, around Ariel Sharon, has built up “assets” in Arab terrorist groups, to deploy at strategic moments when a major military move by Israel—like the bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor, and the 1982 invasion of Lebanon—is desired.

### Sharon’s ‘Splinter Factor’

Disclosures in the United States and Israel, about Israel’s role, since 1979, in arming Iran, and maintaining “assets” in Iranian intelligence such as arms broker Manucher Ghorbanifar, may make a major contribution to the war against terrorism. It is now openly on the table that Ariel Sharon pushed the arming of Iran, despite the clear facts that Shi’ite terrorists backed by Iran had killed American marines and French soldiers, and Israeli soldiers and citizens in Lebanon.

Sharon, then Israeli defense minister, had set in motion the new “Black September” carried out by the likes of Abu Nidal and the FARL, with his invasion of Lebanon in 1982. And just as Sharon pushed the policy for Israel to force a bloody prolonging of the Persian Gulf war by arming Iran, Sharon in 1981 had made a deal with Syrian Rifat Assad to use the civil war in Lebanon as a bloodletting that would wipe Lebanon off the map as a unified nation, and splinter the Palestinian leadership into anti-Arafat terrorist cells that could be deployed by Syria and Israel.

Earlier this year, with the confession and guilty plea of Israeli spy Jonathan Jay Pollard in the United States, a key player in Sharon’s “terror against terror” war, Rafael “Dirty Rafi” Eytan, was uncovered as controller of espionage and terrorism—against the United States. Eytan, who ran the retaliation murders of Palestinians throughout Europe for the 1972 killings of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, was exposed in the Pollard case as the spymaster who recruited, paid, and issued orders to Pollard. Eytan gathered sensitive information on moderate Arab countries, friendly or allied to the United States, which was passed along to the fundamentalist crazies like Iran—which itself threatened the leaders of moderate Arab countries.

In April 1986, *EIR* issued two reports: *Moscow’s Secret Weapon: Ariel Sharon and the Israeli Mafia*, and *Moscow’s Satrap: The Case of Muammar Qaddafi*, which together provide all details necessary to identify the top controllers of international terrorism in the Middle East and Europe.

No one has the illusion that Libya and Syria have been neutralized, or that Sharon’s “divide and conquer” strategy, carried out on Moscow’s behalf, is ended. In fact, a new terror wave, perhaps bloodier than 1986, is expected. However, drawing the lessons of the anti-Libyan and anti-Syrian operations of 1986 shows the way to go. The year 1987 has to be the one in which Qaddafi, Assad, and Khomeini become mere historical curiosities, and their backers are thrown out of every Western government.

## The year of irregular warfare

by Lena Mletzko

The past year will be remembered for the densest, most brutal terrorist deployments against the two pivotal countries of the Western Alliance in Europe: West Germany and France. Although the strategic motive of these events—clearly located in Moscow—can hardly be overlooked, the political elites in Western Europe responded inadequately to the potentially lethal assault.

It is the unique merit of *EIR* to have clearly identified and analyzed the command and control structure of these developments as part of the Soviet strategy to undermine Western defense by moral and material subversion, i.e., irregular warfare. *EIR* put out a series of in-depth *Special Reports* in several languages to establish this analysis among military and political elites. *EIR* editors also brought out the new edition of Prof. Friedrich von der Heydte’s classic, *Modern Irregular Warfare*.

The concept of “irregular warfare” as a strategic, coordinated deployment of the enemy in a yet-undeclared war is not only the key to competently understanding the situation. It is also the precondition for any defense. The question of how to identify the enemy has therefore prompted the most intense faction fights, which surfaced in September in France between interior and defense ministry spokesmen—who wanted to clearly expose Syria’s control over international terrorism—and spokesmen of the foreign ministry, who favored the usual cover-up.

*EIR* was the forum chosen by Jean Rochet, former head of the internal French counterespionage agency, DST, to warn that “détente” is a cover for Soviet war against the West. Gen. (ret.) Revault d’Allonnes, renowned French resistance fighter, stated at a seminar in Mainz on Sept. 27: “The Free World is not in a crisis . . . the Free World is faced with war. There is a will to destroy and subdue us. If we do not realize or do not want to realize that this will exists, then we are doomed.” He was seconded by Gen. (ret.) F.W. Grünwald, vice-president of the Patriots for Germany.

### Assassinations, civil war, sabotage

Between March and early April, bombs went off in Paris and West Berlin, leaving two dead and many injured in Paris, and at West Berlin’s La Belle nightclub, 3 dead and 230 injured, most of them American soldiers.

The murder of Swedish Premier Olof Palme on Feb. 28 began a series of political assassinations. Most were aimed