

## Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

### Spetsnaz problem taken seriously

*Dealing with Soviet irregular warfare became a major problem in the recent NATO maneuvers.*

**F**or several months now, West Germany has been spared any large outbreak of terrorism or other forms of political extremism. Anti-terror officials, however, have repeatedly warned that new terrorism and sabotage against the military-industrial infrastructure of the country is coming.

Ranking anti-terror officials like Federal Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann and BKA (anti-crime division) head Heinrich Boge have especially warned that Iran may try to retaliate against the United States for its deployment in the Gulf, directing terrorist attacks on American depots and bases in Germany. Therefore, all U.S. Army bases have been put on special anti-terror alert.

During September, terrorists almost succeeded in blowing up a U.S. military train with 150 GIs on board, near the city of Göttingen. The train was late, and so, missed the bomb.

Those who tried to blow up that train were certainly not the ordinary anti-American extremists. Better-informed security circles know (not least through numerous *EIR* exposés on the problem) that the terrorist underground as well as the "Islamic terrorist" networks in Germany are proxies at the political disposal of the Soviet Union.

It does make a lot of sense to expect a new round of terrorism and sabotage against the Americans in Germany, because it makes sense for Moscow. The Soviets want to see a total American disengagement from Europe and Germany. After the with-

drawal of U.S. nuclear missiles under the Geneva INF agreement, the pull-out of American troops and aircraft is on the Soviet "arms control" agenda.

One may look at the many publications of the German anti-nuclear movement, which justify violence and sabotage against the "U.S. military presence," and draw one's own conclusions. Such pamphlets insist that escalated terrorism, sabotage, and intimidation will help to accelerate a withdrawal of the U.S. troops stationed in Germany.

This brings up the question of a more direct Soviet involvement. Most of the terrorist attacks of past years have been attributed to the "domestic" terrorist underground in West Germany, but an eventual direct deployment of spetsnaz, Moscow's special forces for irregular warfare and precision sabotage attacks, can no longer be ruled out.

The military is beginning to deal with this possible threat and to think in terms of countermeasures. At his Sept. 15 press conference opening the "Certain Strike" NATO exercise in northern Germany, NATO's new supreme commander in Europe, Gen. John R. Galvin, responded to a question on this posed by *EIR* with the statement: "Indeed, we consider these special forces a big threat to NATO." Without revealing more details, Galvin added that NATO was taking "countermeasures."

These were no mere words, as could be seen from the maneuvers themselves. As *EIR* learned, a contingent of 200 French soldiers, officially

declared "special staff personnel serving with the exercise command," was on hand to simulate the role of Soviet spetsnaz. During the staging phase of the "Blue" troop deployments, mainly the American reinforcements from the U.S. Army III Corps, the Frenchmen deployed in small spetsnaz units with assignments to spy on the "Blue" troop movements for the "Red" side. Later, when "Blue" began its counterattack on "Red," the same Frenchmen served to simulate live sabotage attacks on vital rear positions of the Americans. In one case reported, such spetsnaz succeeded in destroying a mobile British Harrier jetfighter base.

At the "Kecker Spatz" French-German exercise in southern Germany, taking place a week later, simulated spetsnaz attacks played a big, if not decisive role. When the French rapid deployment force (FAR) was about to move its ground forces from the staging area into the battle zone of the exercise in the early morning hours of Sept. 22, Redland forces (German parachute troops) carried out a simulated airborne attack on the rear logistical supply routes of the FAR.

Some 250 spetsnaz sabotage specialists (German parachutists, for exercise purposes) were landed by helicopter in the region around the city of Ulm, where the main supply routes for FAR ground reinforcements were located. Several key bridges and roads were destroyed by the spetsnaz in a precision operation. This slowed down the FAR's advance considerably, and allowed a big and unexpected thrust westward for the "Redland" (Warsaw Pact) forces.

Although this simulated rehearsal of a spetsnaz attack meant quite a disaster for the exercise planners, it provided a useful lesson: The West has to step up countermeasures against Soviet irregular warfare capabilities, and the sooner, the better.