

French investigators are overlooking Britain's role in terror campaign

by Christine Bierre

With six major terrorist bombings since President Jacques Chirac took office earlier this year, he and the new French government face a situation that could lead to a total destabilization of the country, if not approached with utmost care. To the persistent questions of television interviewer Anne Sinclair on Sept. 10, as to who could be behind the bombings, Chirac responded frankly: We don't know. Indeed, one of the major difficulties facing government investigators, is that no group has credibly claimed the bombings, nor has there been any political demand associated with the bombings.

Initially, all roads were open to investigation, including an "Islamic" track (a spillover from the Algerian civil war), a Serbian track (due to Chirac's support for Bosnia), and a track that led to violent ecologist, "peace," or anarchist groups, emerging out of France's decision to resume nuclear testing. But now the inquiry seems to have more and more focussed solely on the "Islamic" track. We put "Islamic" in quotations, because the networks of secret agents and thugs hiding behind the name "Islamic fundamentalism" have really nothing to do with Islam.

Such a narrowing of focus could severely hamper the investigation, at a time when the French nation, led by a President who wants to revive Gaullism, has powerful enemies, capable of setting into motion a whole series of alternative measures to destabilize the country.

The 'Islamic' track

The "Islamic" track, is, to be sure, the most likely instrument at this point being deployed by forces hostile to France to carry out the bombings. The bombings of July 25 in Paris at the St. Michel Station; of Aug. 17 at the Place de l'Etoile; the Aug. 26 attempt against the Lyon/Paris TGV high-speed train; the Sept. 3 attempt at the Richard Lenoir marketplace, the Sept. 4 attempt at a market in the 15th Arrondissement of Paris; and finally, the bombing of a Jewish school in the Lyon suburb of Villeurbanne, are all of the same modus operandi: blind terrorism against innocent passersby, using very crude bombs.

These bombs are typical of those used by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the Algerian extremist group known

to be heavily infiltrated not only by Algerian military security, but also by the British secret services, in the present Algerian civil war. The police have located many videotapes circulating in the poor suburbs of French cities, where Algerian "fundamentalist" leaders give clear instructions on how to build such bombs. One such tape was found in the possession of a North African arrested in Turin, Italy a few days after the St. Michel bombing, as he was returning from Zagreb, Croatia.

After some hesitation, the French police finally decided, a couple of weeks ago, to follow up the track leading to GIA member Abdel Krim Deneche, who lives in Sweden and who edits and distributes a GIA publication, *El Ansar*. Deneche's name had been mentioned in an article in the Algerian newspaper *La Tribune*, prior to any of the bombings, which revealed that a five-man GIA commando squad had entered France via Bosnia. The unit, according to this report, was made up of five "Afghans," that is, Muslims who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviets. Deneche has since been arrested by the Swedish authorities, and France has demanded his extradition in order to question him.

Further indicating the "Islamic" track, was the arrest of a group of four Muslims in the Lyon area, two of them with police records. Although they had nothing to do with the bombings, they possessed weapons and plans to carry out bombings in the area. The arrests point to the existence, particularly in France's poor suburbs, of what appears to be a relatively decentralized network of terrorist capabilities, operating in coordination with international "Islamic" groups.

Further confirmation of this was the arrest warrant issued the first week in September against Khaled Kelkal, a 24-year-old Algerian, who has lived most of his life in a Lyon suburb. His fingerprints were found on the container used in the failed bombing attempt against the Lyon/Paris TGV. His fingerprints were also found on a stolen car, which he and a couple of friends had used in a shootout against police on July 15. In that car, police found bullets of the same type and same lot as those which had killed the Algerian Imam Sahraoui on July 11 at his mosque in Paris; police suspect Imam Sahraoui's murder is linked to the recent

bombings.

Kelkal's profile is typical of the terrorist of this period. He plunged into petty crime in 1990, then was sent to prison, where he allegedly "converted" to Islam—which did not stop him from engaging in fraud and petty theft as soon as he was released, while attending services at the mosque.

Serious and moderate Islamic forces in France and abroad, as well as social workers active in the poor suburbs, confirm that the "Islamic fundamentalists" are taking more and more advantage of the poverty, unemployment, and rage which prevail among Franco-Arab youths, to recruit new followers. The economic crisis, indifference, and sometimes racism, have led to a grave deterioration of the social situation in such areas. Among the 7 million people living in these suburbs, unemployment reaches sometimes 40-60% of those under 25 years of age! Drug trafficking and other illegal activities have created a parallel economy, and now many of the suburbs are a no-man's-land, which the police cannot even enter.

As the case of Kelkal shows, juvenile delinquents are being recruited into the terrorist networks. The prison guards' trade union warned the government on Sept. 4, that the GIA is recruiting in the French prisons. An article in the Catholic publication *La Croix*, recalls that in 1991, leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS, which today is the moderate wing of the Algerian Islamic movements), were openly calling on petty delinquents to join their ranks.

The French suburbs could easily explode, surpassing even the riots of May 1968.

The Pasqua factor

As real as these networks are, and as much as they have to be dismantled, it would be a mistake to see the present terrorist wave simply as an extension of the Algerian civil war, combined with the social-economic problems in France.

Investigators would benefit from looking at this problem first as a philosophical problem, modelled on Plato's *Parmenides* paradox: the One and the Many. "Many" networks are attacking France, on many flanks: Islamic fundamentalists, peaceniks, ecologists, and others. The investigation would have everything to gain from considering that these attacks are coming from a "One," at the highest level.

This is the only way to avoid following false trails, which could be extremely dangerous to the country. The Islamic track will be fruitful to investigators, so long as they start from the true, historic mother of all Islamic fundamentalist networks: the British secret services. Isn't London, to this day, the center from which all Islamic opposition forces, but especially the fundamentalists, run their propaganda operations?

To view this wave of terrorism as only a problem of the GIA, or as only an extension into France of the Algerian civil war, could lead to grave consequences, namely lumping

together all Islamists, moderates and extremists, and even the whole Muslim community, into one single bag: all of them enemies of France. Given the importance of France's 5 million Muslims, this could create a situation of civil war in France.

It is well known, for instance, that the butchers of Algerian military security have heavily infiltrated the GIA in order to discredit the moderate Islamists by creating a monstrous image of Islam inside and outside of Algeria. This is precisely why French investigators hesitated for some time to take the Deneche information seriously, because *La Tribune*, the paper which made the revelations, is known to be very close to Algerian military security. Many investigators in France are convinced that the Algerian government would be perfectly capable of manipulating a hideous terror wave in France, in order to force the Chirac government to return to the earlier policy of total support to which they had been accustomed under Mitterrand's Interior Minister Charles Pasqua. Yet, the DST, France's domestic secret services, are known to keep close contacts with Algerian military security.

The danger that France could follow the profile manipulated by the Algerian authorities is heightened by the fact that because he was twice French interior minister (in 1986 and 1992), Pasqua's conceptions and methods have had a lot of impact on the judiciary and the police apparatus. Many of those running the anti-terror apparatus today were nominated by Pasqua or by his close associates. This is the case with that section of the judiciary police in charge of the anti-terrorism fight, which is almost entirely comprised of judges who are very close to Judge Alain Marsaud, a close collaborator of Pasqua who is now an RPR deputy. Both Judge Jean Louis Bruguire and Judge Laurence Le Vert, as well as Judge Irène Stoller, who is expected to replace the outgoing head of the anti-terror unit, are known to be close to Marsaud.

Even though these judges are presently working in an exemplary manner at discovering who is behind the bombings, the danger persists that an approach typical of Pasqua, which fixates on the immigrant, Islamic, Arab communities, could blind investigators about who, internationally, is using dirty networks in Algeria and in the intelligence-infected GIA, to create havoc in France.

The British hand

A centralized investigation over the main thrusts of attacks on the French nation since Jacques Chirac came to power, will reveal a very interesting pattern of British meddling against France: These are the traditional enemies of both Charles de Gaulle and John F. Kennedy—what de Gaulle called the Anglo-American oligarchy based in London—which are quite likely at the center of the efforts to destabilize France.

Look at the international protest campaign against the

French nuclear tests, run almost entirely out of Britain and the British Empire colonies of Australia and New Zealand, with an assist from Her Majesty's fellow oligarchs among the Dutch, Danish, and Swedish monarchies. The entire media operation of Greenpeace, which employs a unit of 30 people, is run out of London, while the financial operations are run out of Holland. Moreover, the British elites tied into Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature contributed a commercial which included a veiled death threat against Jacques Chirac, while two former British Special Air Services agents were hired by Greenpeace to swim into the Mururoa Atoll in order to sabotage the French nuclear tests!

Another British-spawned angle of attack is being directed from Spain, where a scandal is being brewed by a British-controlled newspaper to accuse the governments of Spain's President Felipe González and the previous French government of François Mitterrand of having created the GAL death squad to eliminate the Basque separatist ETA terrorists in a dirty war (see article, p. 41). The attack is obviously aimed at reconstituting an ETA network, within whose circles, other anarchist and autonomist elements could be unleashed against France.

Moreover, the historical role of Britain in creating Islamic fundamentalism has been largely documented. Today, the United Kingdom harbors and tolerates in its territory some of the more rabid expressions of fundamentalism in the world, such as the Hezb ut Tarir, which holds its annual international conferences every summer in Britain. Rabid attacks against France for its role in the Algerian conflict were launched at its August 1994 conference. Serious Islamic organizations in Britain indicate that it is the British establishment which created the Hezb ut Tarir from nothing and promoted it. And notably, the GIA takes credit for all its attacks through the London-based Arab press, including Deneche's newspaper *Al Ansar*, where his networks are believed to be based. Finally, the "Afghan" networks of non-Afghani Muslims who fought the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, were set up by British stooge, then-U.S. Vice President George Bush, and today, these networks are wholly controlled by the British elites.

In trying to solve this extremely delicate problem of terrorism, Jacques Chirac will be walking a tightrope, and will need all the support he can get. In order to avoid the worst chaos scenario, and to act according to justice, he must support those moderate forces in Algeria which want to stop the butchery which the present Algerian government and groups like the GIA are inflicting on that nation. At the same time, he must reinforce the ties between France and the Muslim community in France which, as he recently stated on national TV, is anything "but fundamentalist" and who "will suffer the most from the activity of terrorists and fundamentalists."

The counterattack against France's enemy must be refocused against the "One," the British Empire head of the "Many" terrorist and destabilization networks.

Venezuela

London, Wall Street seek Caldera's ouster

by David Ramonet

The City of London and Wall Street are trying to overthrow Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera before February 1996, when Pope John Paul II will visit Venezuela. It is expected that the pope's visit will be the occasion for continuing the strategic and economic understanding the two reached last May, when Caldera was in Rome. London and Wall Street fear that Caldera's economic policies—especially with papal support—could serve as an alternative for other nations of the continent, in the face of the imminent disintegration of the international financial system.

In July 1994, Caldera caused a great deal of concern within the international banking community when he imposed exchange controls and explicitly rejected International Monetary Fund (IMF) policy. In January 1995, that concern turned into alarm, when Caldera publicly presented what he has done in Venezuela as an alternative to the failed "Mexico model" of Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Throughout this period, Caldera was under intense pressure from the international banks, but he consistently rejected IMF "shock therapy" for the Venezuelan economy, and oriented instead toward a concept of social justice akin to the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. Later, in May 1995, based on an interview with Pope John Paul II, Caldera advanced a series of moves toward Ibero-American integration, beginning with certain agreements with Brazil. On repeated occasions, as for example during his visit to Peru on July 28, 1995 for the inauguration of President Alberto Fujimori, Caldera had indicated that, faced with the dire prospect of financial disintegration, Ibero-American integration shone as a unique alternative.

Caldera's visit to the Vatican in May 1995 triggered immediate countermoves from London. Caldera's policies were no longer merely upsetting the oligarchy, but now had to be stopped cold. The reverses the British oligarchy had suffered throughout the Caribbean Basin (see *EIR*, Aug. 18) now demanded that London not only oust Caldera, but also rehabilitate Carlos Andrés Pérez (known as CAP), the former Venezuelan President who had to abandon the presidency under charges of corruption in May 1993.

London and Wall Street's policy with regard to Pérez was stated on Oct. 21, 1992, when Pérez was still in office.