

## British unleash terror to sabotage Mideast peace

by Dean Andromidas

The terrorist bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv from Feb. 25 to March 4 were aimed at destabilizing the whole Middle East region, far beyond Israel and Palestine. Their aim is to destroy the electoral campaign of Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the Labor Party's peace ticket, as well as to prevent the re-election of U.S. President William Clinton, who has played a key role in the Middle East peace initiative and made it a cornerstone of his foreign policy. Were the slaughter of 57 Israelis to trigger the desired "profiled reaction" by the Israelis against the Palestinians, the result could be disastrous. One must ask the question: Who benefits? The answer to that question is: the British oligarchy, which has made the destruction of Middle East peace and the Clinton Presidency the central aim of its policy.

British intelligence has many and long-standing assets in the Middle East, and especially among the Hamas group. They have the capability to draw upon a worldwide network of "mujahideen fighters" who received their training during the war in Afghanistan in the 1980s, in operations financed by British intelligence and Oliver North's Iran-Contra operation. The network has deep clandestine roots throughout the Middle East, and has been responsible for terror operations in Egypt, including the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on June 26, 1995. It has been responsible for operations in Algeria and Saudi Arabia as well. Clandestine British assets are based in the Gulf States, Syria, Iran, and Jordan. This network is also linked to terror operations in France and the United States.

The "Islamic fanatic" side of the operation is coordinated with extreme right-wing elements within Israel, led by British stooge Gen. Ariel Sharon, one of the key factional leaders in the opposition Likud Party. Sharon, in cooperation with the

American Anti-Defamation League and the Brooklyn-based Jewish extremist/terrorist networks, has been fundraising in the United States, London, and Paris for the "right-wing settlers movement." It is this movement which was responsible for the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Nov. 4, 1995, and now threatens the lives of Prime Minister Peres and key leaders in his peace camp.

But it would be wrong to attribute the actions of these networks simply to the synthetic ideologies and belief-structures with which they have been brainwashed. It is crucial to identify the fact that all their actions are ordered, directed, and financed from outside the region. The only way to counter this operation is to identify those international forces who ultimately control it and who are based in London.

In his statement on the terror bombing, Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian National Authority, denounced "the foreign power that stands behind it." Although not naming the country, he told the Italian daily *La Repubblica* on Feb. 29, after the first Jerusalem bombs had gone off, "We are sure that Rabin was killed by a representative of an extremist Israeli group, just as we know that there is a pact between Israeli and Palestinian extremists to obstruct peace." Arafat quoted the head of Eyal, the organization which plotted Rabin's death, who "said that he had met with representatives of the Jihad. And he said that it was not the first time." Arafat stressed, "These are all things I can prove. I have documentary evidence." He quoted the Israeli extremist Avishai Raviv as saying, "We and the Jihad are agreed on destroying the peace process."

The Israeli government, too, while couching its complaints in diplomatic language, pointed to the British role. On March 4, senior Israeli security sources told a British

journalist that Hamas terrorists were not only enjoying safe haven in London, but that London was the source of millions of dollars in funds. The senior officer charged that \$10 million is transferred annually from London to finance the Hamas infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza. He pointed out that the family of Majdi Abu Wardeh, who blew himself up in one of the bus bombings that left 22 dead, had received money from a Hamas welfare fund financed out of London.

Although the British government denied the charges, an Israeli embassy spokesman in London confirmed the following day that "constant discussions" were going on between the two, as the Israelis were demanding that London "act, so as to prevent the flow of funds from Britain to the Hamas." A member of the Israeli embassy staff in London told the British press: "It is not the first time we have pointed out that Islamic terrorists are in Britain. We have stressed, again, we need urgent action to stop such funding and allowing Hamas and others any assistance in this country."

British Labour Party parliamentarian Grenville Janner, head of the British-Israeli Parliamentary Group, denounced the fact that Britain has been a "haven for terrorists" for far too long. He also announced that he is writing to Home Secretary Michael Howard, asking him to investigate whether supporters of terrorists are abusing immigration laws to gain entry to Britain, in order to use it as a base to organize their activities abroad.

A spokesman for the British Foreign Office denied the charges, claiming, "We have seen nothing to support allegations that funds raised by Hamas in the U.K. are used directly in support of terrorist acts elsewhere." This denial is ridiculous. It is well known that every leading Arab faction, especially those opposed to the peace process and tied to British interests, operates out of London. It is well known that Hamas terrorist cells have been active for years in London. The current head of the Islamic Jihad, the Hamas offshoot responsible for several of the recent bombings, Ramaden Shallah, spent three years at the University of Durham in Great Britain, prior to taking command of the organization. And of course, British banks play a key role in transferring funds from the Persian Gulf States into the Hamas organization.

By contrast, last year, President Clinton invoked the National Economic Emergency Act to declare various groups illegal and to empower government agencies to investigate and block such financing, thus admitting that Israeli and Palestinian terrorist groups were receiving financing from U.S. sources. No such action has been taken by the British government.

### **Target: Israeli elections**

In an interview in the French daily *Le Monde*, Nabil Shaath, president of the Committee of the Palestine National Council, in answering the question "who benefits?" said, "Who beyond the massacred innocents, are the victims of these bombings? The Palestine National Authority, our



*Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat in Gaza, in 1995. Arafat charged that a "foreign power" stands behind the recent terrorist bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.*

people, Shimon Peres, and his Labor Party. Look, open your eyes, it is quite clear."

When Prime Minister Peres announced early elections at the end of February, it was obvious that only in the case of a dramatic shift in the political situation in Israel, could the peace ticket lose the elections. It is also no coincidence that Ariel Sharon, British stooge and godfather of the extremist settlers' movement, has been brokering a unified electoral slate among the highly factionalized Israeli opposition. Sharon had already negotiated an electoral deal with the Tsomet Party led by the radical anti-peace Gen. Rafael Eytan. And negotiations are now under way with the new party of David Levy, the former foreign minister who broke from the Likud last year to form his own party. The resulting "dream slate" would bring together all the significant right-wing anti-peace leaders behind Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The current crisis has led to calls for the cancellation of elections and the formation of a government of national unity, a move that could put the peace process on indefinite hold or lead to its rapid collapse. Sharon and his political associates have geared up a hate campaign against Peres and the peace process. They take every opportunity, particularly in front of TV cameras, to denounce Peres. This campaign is having visible results against the prime minister in the electoral polls.

## Target: Arafat

It is also no coincidence that the terror campaign is being initiated just at the point when President Arafat has consolidated his position within the Palestinian National Authority. The withdrawal of Israeli troops from most major population centers and the successful and internationally recognized elections had enhanced his position. In fact, preliminary discussions had been taking place between Yossi Beilin, the Israeli minister attached to the office of Prime Minister Peres and his special coordinator in the peace talks, and Abu Abbas, Arafat's representative. These talks were to prepare for negotiations on the Palestinian proposal for the final status of the Palestine territories scheduled for the end of May. The question of the creation of a State of Palestine was high on the agenda.

These developments, and Arafat's victory in the elections in the territories in December 1995, had led to a state of disorganization and factionalization within Hamas. The splintering of Hamas only underscores the fact, that outside forces are in control of the latest terror campaign. Hamas, as a movement, has recently undergone a three-way split, which became openly manifest during the recent bombing spree.

First, there is Hamas, the political movement, which is based within the territories now under the Palestinian Authority. This grouping had come to a *modus vivendi* with Arafat; although this wing had officially boycotted the Palestinian elections, many Hamas members ran as "independents." A de facto cease-fire had been in force for some months. The agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority was that violence would be halted, in return for Hamas participation in the political process.

But, a second political leadership exists in Hamas. It is composed of radical elements, based mainly in Damascus. This grouping is tied to the terrorists of the so-called El Qassam Brigades. This Hamas grouping has also consolidated a working relationship with the extremist-terrorist Islamic Jihad. However, in recent months, Israeli intelligence has decapitated this terrorist network by killing Islamic Jihad head Shīqaqi and El Qassam Brigade leader Ayyash.

Third, there is a super-clandestine terrorist network, the so-called "military structure." Its numerical strength is estimated at around 50 hard-core terrorists. In addition, it is believed that some 300 activists provide logistical support (weapons, hideouts, communications). The question is: Who gives the orders to these terrorist desperadoes? It is clearly not the Hamas political leadership in the Palestinian areas. These Hamas leaders have called for a halt to the violence, but their demands go unheeded.

The "third force," the hard-core terrorist Hamas structure, has broken loose from any political movement on the ground in Palestine. The orders for the terrorist suicide bombings are issued from abroad. The individual cells, which have suicide bombing capabilities, are wont to operate

autonomously. And this brings us back to what we said in the beginning: Who from the outside has the capability—and the motivation—to steer these terrorists into committing bloody atrocities of the type we have seen between Feb. 25 and March 4?

## LaRouche: 'Take it from the top down'

In a radio interview with "EIR Talks" on March 6, U.S. Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche had this to say on the latest Mideast developments: "Let me take it from the top down. Put this together with the situation in Northern Ireland, and the bombing in London, which was attributed by the British, with their tongue in their cheek, to a sleeper IRA unit, which I don't believe. Look at the Middle East in those terms, and you come up with another terrorist operation, you come up with a pattern. First of all, the Hamas operation was set up jointly by the Sharon faction in Israel, to use the generic term, and the British. It was set up as an operation to destroy the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization of Chairman Yasser Arafat."

LaRouche went on underscore how both the Israeli and Hamas terrorism are being run through the Quatuor Coronati, or so-called research lodge of the Scottish Rite Freemasonry in London, a lodge which was set up by Lord Palmerston. "This lodge plays a key part in the Arab Bureau operations of British intelligence, to which Henry Kissinger was affiliated," LaRouche said.

"These are the guys who are actually running this Hamas operation, particularly. Now Hamas, of course, has two aspects. Hamas had a lot of people recruited to it, who wanted a more militant, Islamicist position, relative to the more moderate position of the PLO. Also, under the cover of this, the British created another group, which was also sponsored by the, I'd say again generically, Sharon wing of right-wing Israeli factions, who used it as an operation against the Rabin-Peres faction. . . .

"This is part of the same process as the Brooklyn-sponsored assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin," said LaRouche. "This is obviously an effort to destroy the peace process in the Middle East. The power behind it, is the British Empire, or British government, or whatever you want to call it, the same agency which is behind the outbreak of incidents trying to disrupt the peace in Northern Ireland."

LaRouche warned of the consequences of *not* identifying the British role. "My concern in this, is that I'm afraid that if people start using the appellation "terrorism" as such, they're going to look for some poor Arab in the Middle East as the author of this. And that would be totally counterproductive. And I would worry about anyone who says, 'It's only an Arab terrorist operation.' It's *not* only an Arab terrorist operation, it's a British operation. . . . If we would say that publicly, I think the terrorism would stop. I fear that if we don't say it publicly, the terrorism will continue, and might even be successful in its strategic purpose."