

of Israel, which LaRouche has compared to the fascist regime of Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, is allowed to dictate U.S. policy, the very concept of international law will be a joke.

At the same time, if ruthless political action is taken by the United States, simply to enforce what has been agreed upon in the existing peace accords, the Netanyahu gang can be sent packing. Any action the Israeli government is forced to take, for example, to withdraw from the occupied territories in the West Bank, will enrage the most extremist thugs in his coalition, and bring the government down. That, as many Palestinians realize, would be the quickest way to restart the peace process.

Brits send terrorist controller to Mideast

by Joseph Brewda

An item in the March 28 London *Daily Telegraph*, shows the method that British Intelligence has used to keep the Mideast in a continuous state of war or near-war, most recently through fielding "Islamic terrorist" groups.

According to the report, the British government, which nows chairs the European Union (EU), has appointed British Foreign Service officer Alistair Crooke to be the EU "security liaison" to the Palestinian Authority, headed by President Yasser Arafat. His primary duty, the paper says, will be to help the PA "control radical groups," such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, responsible for suicide bombings targetting Israeli civilians. Crooke will work out of the offices of the EU special envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Angel Morantinos.

Left unsaid by the *Daily Telegraph*, is that Crooke is a specialist in deploying terrorist organizations, and his real function will be to supply Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with the bloody terrorist massacres that Netanyahu needs, to continue to justify sabotaging the Oslo Accords. The target is not just the Palestinian Authority; it is also the Clinton White House, whose efforts to bring peace to the region threaten British domination. Crooke arrives on the scene following Netanyahu's defiant refusal to make any concessions to U.S. envoy Dennis Ross on Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Territories, provoking rage and despair that plays into British hands.

Portrait of a terrorist

Alistair Crooke is certainly well-qualified for his new job. He personally oversaw the arming of the Afghan mujahideen during 1985-87, according to British sources, when he was vice counsel at the British Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. These were the days when Margaret Thatcher and George

Bush paid out billions of dollars to fund and equip what they called the mujahideen's valiant fight against Soviet Communism. Crooke controlled one of the spigots, and built up extensive connections with the mujahideen leadership.

When the anti-Soviet phase of the Afghan war ended in 1987, Bush and Thatcher abruptly shut down their operation. Cut off from funds and Western political support, the mujahideen, now termed Islamic terrorists, were dumped on the job market. Many found their way back to their countries of origin, where they now lead Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Group, and other British-run terrorist organizations, which Crooke supposedly will be called upon to counter.

During the period that the mujahideen were drifting back to the Mideast, Crooke was transferred to Brazil and Colombia, where he handled terrorist organizations, and oversaw the transfer of Chilean weapons to Mideast terrorist groups, according to regional sources. Now he will return to the region, to reassume mujahideen control.

Crooke's career as a terrorist controller has been aided by his older brother, Lt. Col. Ian Crooke, former head of British Special Air Services Counter-Terrorism Warfare Task Force. SAS played a dominant role in training, arming, and leading the Afghan mujahideen. Crooke's task force played a major role in training, arming, and leading terrorist groups, especially in the Middle East. In 1989, Prince Philip of Britain and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands hired Crooke, then officially retired from government service, to run the World Wildlife Fund's Operation Lock, allegedly established to protect the southern African white rhino from poachers.

South African court records show that under the cover of training game wardens, Colonel Crooke fielded terrorists who indiscriminately massacred supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, and of KwaZulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to provoke violence between the two groups. Thousands died as a result. This was per the British monarchy's policy of blowing up South Africa through ethnic, tribal, and racial violence. The same method is what Alistair Crooke will bring to the Mideast.

Opportunities abound

Meanwhile, Netanyahu is ensuring that there are more than enough provocations in place to spark renewed violence.

A Hamas operative found dead at the scene of a car bombing in Ramallah on March 29, in what was initially attributed to the premature explosion of a suicide bomb, was actually shot to death three hours before the blast, Palestinian officials reported on April 1. Palestinian pathologist Jala Jabar told Associated Press that the victim, Mohieddin Sharif, had died from bullet wounds. The bomb in the car in which Sharif's body was placed, was later detonated by remote control, Palestinian police officials said, in an apparent effort to hide the cause of death.

Sharif topped Israel's most-wanted list, because he reportedly masterminded several suicide bombings. He was the des-

igned successor to the notorious Hamas master bomber, Yayah Ayyash, whom the Israelis assassinated in January 1996, provoking the Hamas February-March bus-bombing spree which paved the way for “strong-man” Netanyahu’s election that May. Predictably, Hamas Gaza leader Abdel Aziz Rantisi threatened a renewed terror wave in response. “Hamas cannot forget its members,” he told AP, “and they [the Israelis] have to understand that Hamas is in the habit of taking revenge.”

British Army fuels N. Ireland conflict

by Mary Jane Freeman

As the April 9 deadline for an agreement in the Northern Ireland peace process approached, an extraordinary revelation appeared in the London *Sunday Telegraph* of March 29. Under the headline “Assassination by Proxy—Army Set Up Ulster Murders,” the *Sunday Telegraph* claimed to possess copies of British Army intelligence “contact” forms, which show that the Army infiltrated at least one agent into a loyalist paramilitary group for the purpose of targetting republicans and/or members of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) for assassination.

Such collusion has long been suspected. Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, when asked about the *Sunday Telegraph*’s exposé, said he was not surprised, since he had submitted evidence of this sort to the British government long ago. If the documents prove to be authentic, and the *Irish Times*’s assertion that the secret Army unit involved, the Force Research Unit (FRU), “was disbanded in 1990 but was reconstituted and is still active in the North,” is correct, it raises the question: Does British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government have two diametrically opposed policies on ending the Northern Ireland conflict: a public official line of support for the peace process, on the one hand, and a covert operation to undermine it, on the other?

Murder for hire

The *Sunday Telegraph*’s feature recounts the recruitment of Brian Nelson (Agent 6137), who had been a soldier in the elite Black Watch counterinsurgency unit of the military, to infiltrate the Ulster Defense Association (UDA), also known as the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF). The alleged purpose of his insertion was to ensure “that UDA’s death squads, instead of murdering Catholics indiscriminately, would target only people involved in republican terrorism,” according to the account. But, as the *Sunday Telegraph* notes, “if the Army colludes in murder, it becomes indistin-

guishable from” terrorist groups.

Nelson was given personal information on the homes and movements of republicans by the FRU, “which was used to carry out assassinations.” The quality of his information led to his advancement, to head UDA intelligence. Many details of specific murders are given, but two statistics, based on the paper’s review of the Army’s contact forms and Nelson’s diaries, stand out. First, during the two years he was being “handled” by the Army FRU, he was involved in 15 murders, 15 attempted murders, and 62 conspiracies to murder. Second, the Army knew in advance of at least 92 cases in which the UDA planned murders.

The most glaring instance of the Army’s foreknowledge, was the attempted assassination of Sinn Fein elected official Alex Maskey, a Belfast councillor. The contact forms show, writes the *Sunday Telegraph*, that hours after an attempt was made on his life by the UDA, Nelson called his handler to report that Maskey “just missed death by 20 seconds.” The handler replied, “If you were caught there was nothing we could have done.” Nelson assured his handler he wouldn’t get caught, and informed him that another attempt would be made on Maskey’s life the following week. Knowing this, the FRU made no effort to warn the councillor. The only thing that saved his life is that he did not show up at the expected place.

In 1990, after another republican had been killed by the UDA, a hue and cry went up. In an effort to justify the action, the UDA published its intelligence report allegedly showing that the victim was an IRA terrorist. The information the UDA published, of course, had been provided by Nelson, who had gotten it from the FRU. This was the first crack in the case. An official inquiry was immediately initiated by a Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) deputy. But, the inquiry ended after his offices were set ablaze and the key suspect, Nelson, fled to England. The fire was ruled an “accident,” and a report was written absolving the Army; it stated that the collusion was “neither widespread nor institutionalized.”

What is the Blair government’s role today?

After the *Sunday Telegraph* piece appeared, the *Irish Times*’s seasoned security analyst, Jim Cusack, wrote that the contact forms “are regarded as the first solid evidence that the British Army colluded with loyalists in the murder of republicans.” He added, “There has been strong circumstantial evidence to support this since the early years of the Troubles.” Reportedly, the FRU was disbanded after the 1990 investigation. However, Cusack wrote that “the *Irish Times* has been told by senior loyalist sources that the British Army is once again operating in a clandestine fashion.” These sources told the newspaper that the current collusion is not with the UDA-UFF, which has signed onto a cease-fire and is represented in the peace talks, but rather, is with the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a splinter group opposed to the peace process. If true, this is quite significant, in that it was the LVF which went on a killing spree in January 1998, murdering eight Catholics in the aftermath of the cold-blooded murder