

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

of LVF leader Billy Wright, which occurred *inside* the British-run Maze prison on Dec. 27, 1997. Once again, this new wave of terror destabilized and slowed down the peace talks.

Sinn Fein President Adams has elaborated his call for an independent international inquiry, saying, "British military intelligence and other intelligence agencies within the British military apparatus have been using dirty tricks to kill political opponents since the early 1970s. [This] case took on a particular significance because of the number of people killed, the fact that British military intelligence helped in the importation of weapons from South African government suppliers, and the provision of intelligence information to loyalists on potential targets." Adams especially singled out the British governments of Margaret Thatcher and John Major for their role in supporting this "illegal and murderous strategy."

Officially, Blair's Ministry of Defense spokesman dismissed the report, saying that a 1990 inquiry resulted in "no charges . . . against Army personnel." When asked about Adams's call for an "international inquiry" into the matter, the spokesman replied that the Ministry had "nothing else" to say. When asked about the story, Downing Street, Blair's official offices, said it had "nothing to add" to the Defense Ministry's statement. Britain's Northern Ireland Office insisted the matter had been fully investigated previously, but added, "if there is fresh evidence," submit it to the courts.

Kosova like N. Ireland: Serbs impersonate KLA

by Umberto Pascali

On March 5, "Greater Serbia" dictator Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his "anti-terrorist" gangs in the town of Prekaz and in the neighboring villages in the Drenica region, west of the Kosova capital, Pristina. The gangs, most of whose members wore masks, zeroed in on the villages, sealed them off, and committed appalling butchery. Despite the official number of "more than 90 people" tortured and killed, still today, the real number is not known. What is known, however, is that among those whom Milosevic's squads killed, there were at least ten children and infants.

The pretext for the massacre was the fight against the newly emerged terrorist group, the Kosova Liberation Army. Now, eyewitness reports confirm the *EIR* analysis of those events: Serb paramilitary forces, *disguised in KLA uniforms*, were roaming freely in Prekaz! The modus operandi, of which the British special forces are masters, involved terrorist and anti-terrorist forces deployed in a complementary way to obtain total control of the territory and to allow any manipulation by those who control the "game." What occurred was identical to what the British special forces did in central Bosnia in 1992-93, when they created "mujahideen" gangs and the superchauvinist Croatian formations, to be thrown one against the other. Like British operations in Northern Ireland, that is exactly what the British Cheshire battalion unleashed in central Bosnia.

Now, a Kosova Albanian teacher and native of Prekaz found the courage to state publicly what he saw that day, in an interview with a local newspaper. "The attack in Prekaz started at 6:30 a.m. From my house I could see a large number of uniformed persons who opened fire without warning. Shelling started. . . . I saw houses being burned down from grenades," he said. When he tried to leave the village, he was blocked by armed men in uniform. "The uniforms they were wearing were those I had seen in newspapers and television described as being the uniforms of the KLA. They spoke in Albanian when ordering me to stop, but soon they shifted into Serbian. . . . I was in front of man in a blue-and-black uniform and a painted face, who started kicking me immediately. He broke my jaw, while blood was coming out of my ear. 'There will be meat for tonight,' other Serbs said."

More on MI6 operations Bosnia

This dramatic revelation comes while further reports are emerging on the role of British Intelligence in support of

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