

Clinton team targets British-backed terrorists

by Jeffrey Steinberg

In a move that is driving the British royals berserk, the Clinton administration, in compliance with the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996, and a January 1995 Executive Order by the President, has released a list of 30 terrorist organizations that will be banned from fundraising or any other activities inside the United States. The list, and an accompanying fact sheet, were released to reporters at the State Department briefing on Oct. 8, and at a follow-up special briefing by “senior administration officials” later the same day.

Whereas the 1995 Executive Order was restricted to Middle East terrorist groups, including two Jewish terrorist groups linked to the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, the list released on Oct. 8 had some very significant additions—and one equally significant omission.

In addition to the dozen Mideast groups already identified as terrorist organizations, the expanded list included: the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the Basque separatist ETA, the Abu Sayyaf Group from the Philippines, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) from Sri Lanka, the Mujahedin-e Khalq, and five Ibero-American narco-terrorist groups: the Colombian FARC and ELN, the Peruvian Shining Path and Tupac Amaru (MRTA), and the Chilean Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front Dissidents (FPMR/D).

U.S.-Iran signals

The fact that the Clinton administration included the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO) on the list has been widely read as a signal that the United States is willing to begin the process of normalization of relations with Iran. The MKO, an Iraq-based Iranian Communist sect, which is heavily British-backed, has, in the past, enjoyed the support of many members of the U.S. Congress, who were often motivated more by hatred of the Teheran leadership than concern about the MKO’s record of terrorism.

The Iranian government promptly responded to the Clin-

ton administration action. The daily *Iran News* editorial on Oct. 13 said, “It is not every day the Islamic Republic can welcome a decision taken in Washington, but just for a change it should, in response to the U.S. State Department move declaring the self-styled Mujahedin-e Khalq organization a terrorist group. . . . The inclusion of the MKO on this arguably unsatisfactory list is a little victory for Iran on the all-important public relations fronts.”

The Paris daily *Le Figaro*, in an article on the ongoing Iranian naval maneuvers and the simultaneous visit of the *USS Nimitz* to the Persian Gulf, considered the State Department move as a “transparent” message: “In diplomatic terms: Washington has taken a small step toward the recognition of the Iranian regime, burning all bridges with a movement which is trying to overthrow it by force.”

The fact that the Clinton administration placed the FARC and the ELN on the terrorist list, at a point when there is growing international pressure from the British and from the United Nations world federalist crowd to “negotiate” a peaceful settlement with these narco-murderers, is especially significant—particularly because it took place on the eve of President Clinton’s week-long trip to Ibero-America. White House drug policy adviser Gen. Barry McCaffrey (ret.), travelling with the President in Venezuela, emphasized at a press conference in Caracas, that the FARC and ELN are an integral part of the narco-insurgency against Colombia.

Her Majesty’s terrorists

Although the State Department fact sheet and the public remarks by senior administration officials made no mention of America’s so-called “ally,” Great Britain, the fact is that the vast majority of the 30 groups named by the Clinton administration have enjoyed the full backing of the British monarchy. Moreover, the leading person in the United States hammering away at London’s harboring of international ter-

rorism, has been Lyndon LaRouche. The role of LaRouche in identifying the groups now targetted for official censure is another facet of the Clinton administration action that is sure to send the British royals climbing the walls of Windsor Castle.

The Oct. 13, Nov. 10, and Nov. 17, 1995 issues of *EIR* featured a comprehensive report on what LaRouche labeled “the new international terrorism.” In his introduction to the series of in-depth dossiers, featuring all of the organizations subsequently named by the Clinton administration, LaRouche wrote, “A new wave of international terrorism is stalking the world. It is led by a horde of mujahideen mercenaries: human flotsam, like the 1920s ‘rootless’ veterans of World War I, cast upon the world in the wake of the 1980s Afghan war. This is the worst terrorism yet; it is much worse than that of the 1970s. It is coordinated from the capital of a former U.S. ally, London; worse yet, it was created with complicity of former U.S. Vice President (and, later, President), George Bush.”

Since the publication of the *EIR* series, nine governments from around the world, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, France, Israel, Turkey, and Germany, have filed formal protests with London over the British government’s harboring of international terrorists.

Britain’s response to these protests was to defeat an effort by a member of Parliament, Tory MP Nigel Waterson, to pass a bill that would have, for the first time in British history, banned the plotting and financing of foreign terrorism from British soil. As reported in *EIR* on April 4, 1997, Labour MP George Galloway, an ally of Prime Minister Tony Blair, led the drive to defeat the anti-terrorism bill, and defended his actions on the floor of Parliament in February 1997: “We are in all in favor of controlling terrorism in Britain. . . . Surely not a single honorable member has any truck with terrorism here, but we are talking about terrorism in other countries, and what is defined as terrorism by foreign dictatorships, where there is no democratic process.”

In another move that sent some British Lords into a rage, the list released by the State Department did *not* include the Irish Republican Army. This was a topic of heated discussion with several reporters at the Oct. 8 briefing. The administration representatives stated that, with the IRA cease-fire holding, and with the British government admitting that Sinn Fein deserved a seat at the peace negotiations, the United States decided to keep the IRA off the list, although the group can be added on at any time, should the cease-fire break down.

Mossad hit-squads

State Department spokesman Jamie Rubin was asked by several reporters at the State Department briefing on Oct. 8, why the Israeli Mossad was not placed on the list of banned terrorist organizations, following the failed assassination attempt against a top Hamas official in Amman, Jordan on Sept. 25.

One reporter asked, “Some of the names that are not on the list are sort of curious. . . . What about Mossad, given the

events of last week?” Rubin replied, “Mossad is not a terrorist organization. . . .”

Q: “Why not? How do you define terrorist organizations . . . ?”

Here Rubin began to get flustered. “Well, certainly in the case of—let me make this generic. In our view, a terrorist organization targets innocent civilians to make their political point. That’s a very different situation than what we’ve been talking about. . . .”

A third questioner jumped in: “Just to follow up on Mossad, how would you characterize the attempted assassination?”

Rubin: “I would say this, is that the United States has long made it a practice of not second-guessing the Israeli government when it comes to the decisions in the fight against terror. We—however, we believe that Israel must take into account the repercussions and consequences of any actions it takes in its fight against terror. We consider the Israeli-Jordanian relationship to be one of the most important cornerstones of the peace process. Protecting this relationship should be of the highest priority, especially for Israel. So . . . our view is that the consequences of actions that are taken in the fight against terror have to be examined, whether they succeed or they fail those actions. And in this case we think the Israeli government could have better taken into account the repercussions and consequences of its actions.”

President Clinton, in his January 1995 Executive Order, identified two well-known Likud-linked Jewish “underground” groups, Kahane Chai and the Kach Movement, among the dozen Mideast terrorist groups banned from operating on U.S. soil. Both were outgrowths of Rabbi Meir Kahane’s Jewish Defense League, and, according to author Robert Friedman, all of the Kahane groups were backed by factions of the Mossad, including former Mossad executive and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The furor over the Mossad’s bungled murder attempt in Jordan has been further fueled by another recent development, suggesting deeper Israeli involvement in the recent “Palestinian” suicide bombings in Israel. On Oct. 17, the London *Times* reported that ten Jewish residents of Jerusalem had been arrested for “allegedly supplying explosives to Palestinians for use in terrorist attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and the occupied territories.” According to the *Times*, “Israeli security sources said that the case was one of the biggest of its kind in which a ring of Jews had been found apparently supplying weaponry to Palestinian extremists to enable them to continue their terror campaign designed to sabotage the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.”

The fact that factions within Israel are fueling the blind-terror campaign against the Jewish state to subvert the peace process, should come as no surprise. *EIR* has documented for over a decade the role of Netanyahu cabinet minister Ariel Sharon, and his allies in the Likud, in creating and deploying both the Jewish underground and “Islamic” terrorists in gang-counter-gang irregular war.