

Financial Oligarchy Goes On a Terrorist Offensive

by Elisabeth Hellenbroich

At a moment when the global financial crisis is intensifying, and a general financial crash is becoming more imminent, the Anglo-American financial oligarchy has started a new terrorist offensive around the globe, in the desperate hope of destroying every potential for regional economic and trade development. The main theaters of this strategy of tension and chaos, are Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Europe, especially France, Spain, and Russia.

In Southeast Asia, since the May 6 Chiang Mai meeting, terrorism has hit the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia, as "Islamist" separatist movements attacked. In the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, numerous bloody assaults were launched, just at a time when the Indian government was intensifying its "Eurasian cooperation" with Russia and China. In Moscow, on Aug. 8, exactly one year after the attacks in Dagestan had reignited the Chechnya conflict, a bomb exploded in the Tverskaya Street subway station, at rush hour. Eight people died and 93 were wounded. Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Rushailo spoke of an "act of terrorism," while Deputy Chief of Staff Valeri Manilov held Chechen rebels responsible for the attempt.

In Central Asia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan have come under pressure from self-styled "Islamist" guerrillas, linked to the Taliban in Afghanistan. During Aug. 6-8, a force under rebel leader Nomongani, launched an invasion, reportedly from Tajikistan, into Uzbekistan. Nomongani's declared aim is to overthrow Uzbek President Islam Karimov. One senior Russian Orientalist told *EIR*, that Nomongani and his supporters are being actively backed by Afghanistan's Taliban. "This is all happening in parallel to what is happening in Kashmir, where the Taliban is also very active in supporting fundamentalist Islamic groups," the expert stated. "We are seeing a counteroffensive of radical Islamic forces, extending into the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia."

Furthermore, according to other regional experts, the

Uzbek situation, aggravated by drought and severe economic crisis, could rapidly worsen. This could present Russia with "two wars," the ongoing one in Chechnya, and a looming conflict in Central Asia/Uzbekistan. In addition, if the crisis worsens, and if the Islamist terrorists were to prevail, there could be up to 5-10 million refugees fleeing into Russia. The Uzbekistan government took a resolute stand against the insurgents, as demonstrated in the statements of Foreign Ministry spokesman Bakhodyr Umarov on Aug. 10: "We don't intend to enter into polemics with bandits and terrorists. We can make them understand only one way, which means using force to destroy them." Uzbekistan President Karimov, in a telephone conversation with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Aug. 9, reported that government authorities had located and identified 70-80 terrorists, and would proceed to annihilate them.

The Nation-State in the Crosshairs

In Europe, it is France and Spain that are under the guns in this strategy of tension, whose declared aim, separatism, is to destroy the integrity of the nation-state. From the standpoint of the Anglo-American financial oligarchy, France represents the last bastion of the defense of the nation-state (see article, p. 59). This is the reason why, at the beginning of this year, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan spoke in a Senate hearing about the need to destroy that "dirigistic attitude" in Europe (meaning France). Former CIA director James Woolsey, in referring to the Anglo-American intelligence operation known as "Echelon," which the French government is officially investigating, singled out the dirigist French economic policy, "Colbertism" for attack.

Regarding the catastrophic crash on July 25 of France's Concorde supersonic jet, the Paris daily *Le Monde* raised the question, whether the crash had been the result of a terrorist act.

In Germany, a shrapnel bomb was exploded in late July at the metro station in Düsseldorf, whose authorship has still not been clarified. Notwithstanding, this, and other violent acts, have been used as an excuse to renew accusations that Germany is becoming a “Fourth Reich,” (the original campaign was launched by then-British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1990 to sabotage German reunification). The Anglo-American-controlled press is fully complicit in making such specious use of these terrorist acts, seeking to discredit any and all opposition to globalization and the free market, as “right-wing extremist,” to create a climate of paranoia and fear among the population, and to render the political class incapable of action.

ETA Terror in Spain

The global terrorist offensive has taken on especially brutal dimensions in Spain, where the Basque separatist organization ETA has committed 18 terrorist acts, after it officially announced in December 1999, that it was ending the cease-fire, which had begun in September 1998. So far, eight people have been killed, and more than 25 left wounded.

Beginning in July, ETA unleashed a vicious terror campaign, including car-bombs, “blind terror” bombings in public places, and outright executions of leading political and military figures. On July 12, a car-bomb exploded in Madrid; three days later, a leader of the People’s Party was killed. On July 18, a bomb exploded in a crowded Basque marketplace, and the following day, a car-bomb exploded, targeting a member of the Socialist Party. July 24 saw a similar car-bomb attack, this time against a People’s Party senator, and on July 29, a regional governor was killed.

On Aug. 8, two bombs went off, one in Guipuzcoana and one in Madrid, the latter near the home of a leading People’s Party member, with a clear message to Prime Minister José María Aznar, that even government figures could be killed. The bomb, which left 11 wounded, went off just meters from the People’s Party Organizational Secretary, who had been vice prime minister under Adolfo Suárez, and the former director of the Civil Guard. The other bomb killed businessman José María Korta, the chairman of the Adegí businessmen’s federation, who had tried to generate a dialogue among all parties against terrorism. Korta, the owner of a machine-tool plant, was considered to be very nationalist and very close to the Basque National Party (PNV).

On Aug. 10, two ETA members killed an Army officer in his home, by shooting him in the neck, execution-style.

The goal of the Basque terrorists and their sympathizers, grouped in ETA’s legal arm, Herri Batasuna—whom the chairman of the National Basque Party, Arzallus has been propitiating—is clear: to create an independent Basque state carved out of the French and Spanish Basque provinces, and thereby, to fully break with the central governments. Thus, the ETA insurgency, is designed to threaten the integrity of two nation-states. The more the ETA appears to lose support from the population throughout Spain, millions of whom have

poured into the streets, to protest ETA terrorism, and who have no interest in a separate state, the bloodier the ETA attacks have become. ETA used the 14-month cease-fire, as *Le Monde* pointed out on Aug. 10, to reorganize its logistics and infrastructure completely. Thus, the ETA was able, despite the fact French and Spanish security forces have destroyed 17 ETA commando units over the last three years, to steal two tons of explosives in Brittany, France, and to arrange purchasing weapons supplies from eastern Europe, through German middlemen.

Le Monde also reported, that in connection with activities against ETA’s international apparatus, which has links between Spain and underground ETA fighters in Ibero-America, Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzón spoke of a list of 170 businesses, that have financed ETA to the tune of \$13 million. The network, Garzón said, stretched from France, to Colombia, Cuba, Panama, and Cape Verde.

The Financial Crash and the ‘Gang of Five’

Lyndon LaRouche has identified in this growing number of terrorist offensives, a symptom of the imminent crash of the global financial system. Anyone who considers all these events as a whole, will recognize their common denominator. Evidently, the financial oligarchy, which has long lost control over its own system, is bent on weakening the growing resistance of emerging regional blocs, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Plus 3, against global speculation and the unipolar arrogance of the British-American-Commonwealth group. French assertion of a degree of independence from Anglo-American policy, and joint Franco-German efforts in the financial-economic domain, have made those nations a target.

A well-informed Indian source has expressed to *EIR* his suspicion, that the terrorist actions in Central Asia, and Moscow, could be attributed to “Islamist” terrorists, who are steered by the “Gang of Five”—the group including Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and their partners in the United States. The intelligence services of these countries, he said, cooperate most closely on this.

On Aug. 11, the role of the British intelligence networks came to the surface. According to the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the Russian domestic security agency FSB, accused a British organization, Halo Trust, which is officially supposed to help in removing land mines, of training Chechen terrorists in the war against the central government. And, in the Uzbek destabilization, the British Broadcasting Corp., has hosted interviews with the terrorists. Following a BBC interview with the spokesman for the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Zubair Ibn Abdurrakhman, and the BBC’s broadcast of false information regarding supposed terrorist military victories, the Uzbekistan government warned the British against acting as the mouthpiece of the militants. The Foreign Ministry press secretary stated that Tashkent “will be drawing certain conclusions” regarding the British radio and TV broadcasting.