

EXCLUSIVE

## The Abu Daoud Affair

The Abu Daoud affair was staged from the beginning to force a crisis in the growing alliance against the dollar between the Arab states and Europe. Rockefeller's Die Spinne terrorist networks, including Interpol, and its French, W. German, and Israeli networks, arranged the Paris arrest of Palestinian leader Abu Daoud to provoke Arab rage against the European governments involved and to provide a context for terrorist incidents and counter-terrorist repression.

The provocation backfired, however, despite an international press effort to turn the arrest into a full-fledged anti-Arab campaign, and even conservative French press sources are now openly discussing the fact that the U.S. CIA and related intelligence agencies were behind the whole affair. To be more specific than these French sources, the arrest involved the Interpol network of police and paramilitary right-wing organizations as well as the leftist networks of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies, with the entire operation under the aegis of the U.S. National Security Council and the Rockefeller financial interests.

### *The Facts of the Abu Daoud Affair*

Abu Daoud, also known as Mohamed Daoud Odeh, is a 39-year-old Palestinian leader of Al Fatah, the grouping within the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasser Arafat.

Abu Daoud arrived in Paris Jan. 5 from Beirut, after having obtained a proper visa from the French foreign ministry. On Jan. 6 he met with French officials at the foreign ministry to discuss the investigation of the murder of PLO representative Mamdouh Saleh, gunned down in Paris a week earlier by Israeli agents operating with the complicity of French Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski.

Saleh's assassin was identified at a public press conference in Paris by leading Gaullist Vincent Monteil. Monteil named Harlay Libermann, the Israeli military attaché in Paris in 1965, as the coordinator of a continentwide hit squad responsible for a series of murders of Palestinian Arabs. Monteil stated that he had provided the evidence on Libermann to French authorities, but had achieved no result.

On Jan. 8, Abu Daoud was suddenly arrested by the French secret police (DST). It was initially reported that the arrest was made on the basis of an Interpol warrant issued by West Germany, which blamed Abu Daoud for the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre. Later, however, it was revealed that West Germany had issued no such request, and the DST and Interpol had acted solely in cooperation with Israeli Intelligence.

Israeli Intelligence, meanwhile, contacted the right-

wing Bavarian state government in West Germany, dominated by the political machine of neo-Nazi Franz Josef Strauss and his Christian Social Union, to get them to put pressure on the federal government to demand Abu Daoud's extradition from France. Aware of the international crisis that such an event would cause, the West German government stalled and refused to grant the Bavarian request.

The incident, solely the result of an Interpol provocation, developed as a major political crisis for France. The Arab states put tremendous pressure on France, while Gaullist and communist forces inside France sharply attacked the DST and Poniatowski's interior ministry over the arrest.

On Jan. 11, Abu Daoud was released unconditionally and flown to Algeria.

### *Interpol's Failure*

From the start, the purpose of the arrest of Abu Daoud was to disrupt European-Arab relations. Had Abu Daoud been held, and had he been extradited to West Germany or Israel, Arab sentiment would have exploded. In addition, the arrest was intended to trigger a number of spectacular terrorist incidents run by the Institute for Policy Studies' networks in so-called retaliation for the Abu Daoud arrest. The terror option, used as a political weapon by Interpol, was meant to trap Western Europe in support for the U.S.-Interpol "counterterror" repression, thus worsen European-Arab relations.

With the release of Abu Daoud, the whole affair — so

### West German Paper Asks:

## Is CIA Responsible?

*Die Welt*, Jan. 13: "France Puzzles: Who Wanted Abu Daoud?"

"... There is completely open speculation in France over whether the American secret service, the CIA, and behind them possibly the State Department or the Israeli lobby in the USA, might not have had an interest in burdening France's constantly improving relations with the Arab world. This is particularly significant since only days from now Giscard will visit Saudi Arabia, a country which until now has been an exclusive bastion of American capital."

carefully planned by Interpol and its French, Bavarian, and Israeli allies — backfired. Throughout France, the Gaullist political machine that mobilized, along with Arab support, to force the Daoud release has now turned its wrath against Poniatoski and President Giscard d'Estaing with a force that may topple the Giscard's Atlanticist regime. *Le Monde*, France's leading daily, has accused Poniatoski of virtual treason in sabotaging

## Daoud Comments on His Arrest

*PLO leader Abu Daoud delivered the following remarks in a telephone interview conducted with reporter Bob Graham printed in the New York Post Jan. 14:*

"I am a member of Al Fatah and proud to be a member," Daoud said in perfect English, "but we have no contact with such people as Black September. The rumors that I am a terrorist and planned the Munich affair are propaganda created by the Israelis."

The 39-year-old Palestinian laughed when he answered questions about his reported involvement with terrorist groups: "I too have heard these rumors. Yes, I have heard them. But they're not true."

"I am also a father of six children and I understand how fathers of children feel when their relatives are killed." "I was sorry for those killed in Munich. I felt the sorrow that many people felt."

"The Israelis wanted to get me out of France because they are worried about close ties between France and the Arab nations. They are trying to ruin that connection."

"The Israeli secret police used propaganda to force the French police to arrest me illegally and get me thrown out," Daoud said. "I know that the man who arrested me for the French is one of the Israeli secret police."

French-Arab relations, causing Poniatoski to dive for cover rather than face up to the accusations. According to the *Washington Post*, Poniatoski "at first gave out conflicting accounts of the arrest and then retreated into silence as the government embarrassment and Arab criticism grew."

In the course of the affair, the Arabs exerted powerful pressure on France, especially Algeria. "Once again, the Elysée administration has unveiled its anti-Arab face, which had long replaced that which, at a certain moment, made France into a friend to the Palestinian and Arab cause," wrote *El Moudjahid*, the Algerian daily. The English language *Koweit Times* said: "The Arab world expects the French government to act very carefully over this arrest. Any other action... could have serious consequences on the presently healthy and friendly Arab-French relations." In addition, the PLO's second-in-command, Abu Iyad, told a rally in Beirut: "Someone in the French government is trying to sabotage French-Arab relations." *Le Monde* pointedly noted that Abu Iyad meant Poniatoski.

West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's refusal to acquiesce in the Strauss request to extradite Abu Daoud contributed to the rapid collapse of the Daoud affair. Schmidt's decision received critical support from members of his cabinet, including Justice Minister Vogel, who asserted that government would reject the Bavarian application for extradition if it were outweighed by "grave considerations," such as "high priority foreign policy interests," — an allusion to growing Euro-Arab cooperation around oil.

Abu Daoud's release was a major defeat for the Carter team as evidenced by their reaction. Outgoing Secretary of State Henry Kissinger announced, "We are outraged," while the *New York Times* attacked France as "foolish, abject, even cowardly." Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon charged that Paris had "failed the international test of courage and integrity." Although this Interpol operation failed, the ease with which the Interpol apparatus could so easily operate across national borders, using its agents with impunity, underscores the vulnerability of Europe to another, more successful operation in the future, unless the Interpol-Institute for Policy Studies network is taken apart.

## Egypt's Sadat Continues to Back PLO,

## Push United Arab Front at Geneva

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat continued diplomatic and political actions this week that indicate his refusal to be part of a plan by the U.S., Israel, and Syria — piloted by Carter advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski — to undercut the Palestine Liberation Organization. Western press reports to the contrary, Egypt is insisting on maintaining

firm support for the PLO, a position that placed Egypt in opposition to Syria throughout the civil war in Lebanon.

The reason for Egypt's persistent stand is simple. Sadat realizes that in the overall context of a Middle East peace settlement, the PLO is an important vehicle to restore normality to Soviet-Egyptian relations, a