

Qaddafi, Soviets plotting new assassination spree

by Vin Berg

There would usually be nothing extraordinary about meetings between Soviet officials and Libyan officials. Libya is a Soviet client state. But the spectacle of the entire Soviet military leadership embracing Colonel Qaddafi's deputy defense minister in Moscow beginning Nov. 19 is to be viewed as quite extraordinary—in particular, its timing.

It took only the August 1914 assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, given the ripeness of the strategic situation, to touch off World War I. By their present meetings with a ranking Libyan, the Soviets are virtually broadcasting their involvement in what could have amounted—and may still—to a dozen such assassinations at once.

On Nov. 17, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced that in the course of a brilliant operation that foiled attempts by assassins in the hire of Qaddafi to kill a leading Libyan exile official, his intelligence services uncovered hard information of plans to kill leaders of seven nations in Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian Subcontinent. Mubarak also revealed evidence of direct Libyan involvement in the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

As he spoke, threats against President Reagan's life were heard from certain Soviet-linked liberal quarters in Europe, and Qaddafi himself issued a statement calling Mubarak a U.S. puppet, and declaring: "The President of the United States is mad, mad."

During his Nov. 17 press conference, Mubarak designated Qaddafi "an international terrorist" and revealed that he planned the murder of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Saudi Arabian King Fahd, French President François Mitterrand, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Pakistan's General Zia ul-Haq, and the chiefs of state of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The Libyan dictator was "financing some organizations to commit all these crimes," said the Egyptian President.

Mubarak's secret services had infiltrated a Qaddafi op-

eration aimed at the assassination of Abdul Hamid el-Bakoush, who had been Prime Minister of Libya during the reign of King Idriss, overthrown by Qaddafi in 1969. El-Bakoush was granted political asylum in Egypt in 1977, and is now head of the anti-Qaddafi Organization for the Liberation of Libya.

Upon reports of Libyan plans to kill el-Bakoush, coordinated out of Qaddafi's Malta embassy, Egyptian security forces dispatched him to Aswan for safe-housing. They then arrested the assassination team—consisting of two British and two Maltese nationals—the moment they set foot on Egyptian soil. They did not immediately reveal the fact, however. Instead, they faked pictures of el-Bakoush's death, showing him lying on the floor in a pool of blood, and ensured that the photos made their way into the hands of Libyan authorities, including Qaddafi personally.

Within hours, Radio Tripoli was exalting over el-Bakoush's "death," and officially claiming their responsibility. With Qaddafi on record as a terrorist killer, Mubarak called a press conference and revealed the operation, that el-Bakoush was alive in Aswan, and that in the course of the operation, information on Qaddafi's broader assassination plans had been secured.

Egyptian intelligence sources have told *EIR* that their counter-terrorist coup was the beginning of a far broader war on the terrorist spree now in the offing, involving a number of Middle Eastern and Western intelligence services. Egypt's operation "should be seen in the context of President Reagan's speech after the elections, where he committed the United States to an all-out war against international terrorism. What's happening now is definitely an American plan," one source commented. Soviet and East bloc intelligence services, Qaddafi's owners, are the real target of the operations, he said.

Indeed, only two days after Mubarak's startling revela-

tions, Libya's Deputy Defense Minister and Commander in Chief of the Libyan Army, Gen. Abu Bakr Younes Jaber, arrived in Moscow and was received by the Commander of the Eastern Theater of War and Deputy Defense Minister, Marshal V. D. Sokolov, who proceeded to chair the Libyan general's meetings with Chief of Staff Sergei Akhromeyev, Chief of Air Defense Koldunov, Air Force Commander Kutakhov, Navy Commander Gorshkov; Deputy Vice-Admiral Grishin, Red Army Colonel-General Grinkevich, and Lieutenant-General Borisov. They have left little doubt who, behind Qaddafi, is really toying with a new, multiple Sarajevo.

Fruit of appeasement

Britain's *Daily Telegraph* commented on Egypt's operation: "Western sources said there had been so many reports about Libyan 'hit teams' that the warnings were being ignored. The Egyptian incident would make these governments more security conscious."

The news struck Europe like a bombshell. For instance, news of the flopped assassination attempt reached Qaddafi himself while he was on the island of Crete for a suddenly not-very-secret meeting, not only with Greece's Prime Minister Papandreou, but with France's President François Mitterrand—himself on the target list! Mitterrand's government has not only been engaged in extensive diplomatic negotiations with Libya over the crisis in Chad, but broader accommodation to Libyan (Soviet) imperial ambitions in Africa. To further humiliate the French President, not only did American intelligence services provide aerial photos showing that Libyan troops remained in Chad, contrary to the agreement which led to French-troop withdrawal; one week after Mitterrand told the world he had a written agreement from Qaddafi to pullout, the Libyan foreign minister acknowledged that Qaddafi's troops were staying in Chad "for technical reasons."

There continues to be deafening silence on the whole affair from the Elysée Palace.

In Germany, whose Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has led Europe in efforts to appease the Kremlin, the nervousness at Mubarak's reports was evident. Herr Bönisch, the spokesman for the government of assassination-target Helmut Kohl, was quoted in the Nov. 20 *Wiesbadener Kurier* saying: "In such a situation, there is no reason to get alarmed [!] and in any case, we will not take part in an attempt to nail Libya to the wall."

"No one can take such revelations seriously," said a West German official privately—with much emphasis! Observers do note that security around both the French President and West German chancellor have been sharply stepped up.

More relevant statements have issued from Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, who on Nov. 23 warned that what the Egyptians had exposed was only the tip of a massive outbreak of international terrorism, including as targets the Italian state and the Pope. Craxi emerged from three days of

consultations with Mubarak and with his own secret services to specifically warn against terrorist atrocities issuing from the European "peace movement"—known to be financed by Qaddafi, and by the Soviet Union through East bloc secret services.

"Recent events confirm the existence of attempts to relaunch terrorism," Craxi warned, in an unmistakable reference to Mubarak's exposure of Qaddafi's operations. Then, in an unmistakable reference to Soviet interests, Craxi declared: "The political design supporting these attempts is the exploitation of particularly delicate tensions . . . and exploitation of dissent against the security policy of our country and its international alliances," i.e., the United States.

During the three days in which he conferred with the Egyptian leader and the Italian secret services, nine members of the terrorist Red Brigades were arrested in Naples.

Soviet coordination

Obviously, the Russians are planning something important in North Africa and the Mediterranean on the strategic and military plane (see article, page 36). As their military embrace of the Libyan general occurred, the Italian Communist Party launched a mobilization in Sardinia against the U.S. military base at Maddalena, even announcing an initiative for a referendum against cruise missiles in Sardinia. No one overlooks the fact that both the Italian "peace movement" backed by the Communists and the Sardinian and Sicilian separatist movement are publicly supported and financed by Qaddafi.

In addition, a Soviet delegation consisting of ranking members of the Supreme Soviet and of the Central Committee's advisory council arrived in Bonn on Nov. 19 for three days of meetings with leaders of the Green Party—whose numbers include the counterparts of Italy's Red Brigades, as well as top figures in the Nazi International, forming the core of the "peace movement" in Germany. Green and peace movement leaders have held meetings with Qaddafi, who makes no secret of the fact that he has funded them.

Prior to the arrival of the Soviet delegation, Green Party leaders were in East Berlin for talks with party officials there. According to the Greens, the talks were on "arms control, peace initiatives, and the issue of nuclear-free zones in Europe." The Greens' defense program asserts: "One has to respond to Soviet military might by posing the greatest political challenge to them which can be imagined—full withdrawal of all U.S. troops stationed in West Germany."

It is clear that the European "peace movement," in the wake of President Reagan's landslide re-election, will need a new strategy and tactics. And even as Soviet officials arrived in Bonn to talk with them, a Green Party delegation departed for other talks in Sofia, Bulgaria—the coordinating center for the KGB's dirtiest international operations, including drugs-for-guns traffic and the assassination attempts against the Pope.