FIR Feature

Who is *really* behind the Mideast terror campaign

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The recent campaign of international terrorism—begun with the Pan American 73 bloodbath in Karachi, Pakistan, on Sept. 6 and continued unabated through the ensuing week's anti-personnel bombing spree in Paris—signifies that the Soviet Union has completed its retooling of the international terrorist forces under its control and has launched a dramatic new phase in its low-intensity war against the West.

U.S. and Western European intelligence sources canvassed in the preparation of this *EIR* report concur that the Soviet military command, centered around Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, has defined a series of near-term strategic military objectives and have integrated the restructured terrorist command into these now ongoing military maneuvers.

The Soviet shift into the unconventional warfare phase of strategic engagement with the West, unveiled with the KAL-007 incident in September 1983 and embraced at the recently concluded XXVIIth Party Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, has become even more critical to Soviet strategy in recent months.

As the result of the nuclear reactor disaster at Chernobyl, the Soviets suffered a setback in their own strategic defense crash research effort. Numerous sources have reported that a team of leading Soviet scientists working on x-ray laser systems perished in the reactor explosion. This loss, combined with recent dramatic advances in the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative effort and the prospect of U.S. government-to-government SDI collaboration with Japan, may have altered the Soviet timetable for a "best date" launching of a first strike global war at acceptable levels of loss, by as much as two years. As the result, victory through unconventional, or low-intensity, warfare means, has taken on a greater relative weight within Soviet war planning.

In this context, the Soviets have identified the following theaters of operation as critical to their near-term unconventional warfare drive to consolidate an unchallenged empire over the Eurasian land mass and adjacent areas:

1) The Indian Subcontinent. Moscow intends to unleash a full-scale destabilization of, first, Pakistan, and, then, India, aimed at breaking up those nations into

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High Command



Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov

Assets



Hafez Assad



Ariel Sharon



Muammar Qadaffi

Useful fools and agents



George Shultz



Henry Kissinger



Alexander Haig



Michael Ledeen

warring and easily controlled ethnic and tribal enclaves—Baluchistan, Khalistan, Kurdistan, etc. This is at once part of a strategic condominium between Moscow and Beijing, and an integral feature of the Soviet Union's drive to attain warm-water access through the Indian Ocean. U.S. intelligence sources are predicting a major Soviet military offensive into Afghanistan aimed at crushing the rebel forces, in which the Soviets will likely resort to biological and chemical weapons.

The Sept. 5 hijacking of Pan Am 73 was a direct attack against the Zia ul-Haq government—and its relations to Washington. As such, the incident was exemplary of how the Soviet command is directing international terrorist forces centered in the Middle East as a decisive and integral component of their low-intensity warfare. Moscow's willingness to break up India, indicated in Moscow's involvement with Beijing in sponsoring Sikh separatist guerrillas, is an essential feature of the Soviet-Chinese condominium stretching from Southeast Asia through the Persian Gulf. The effort by agents of the Anglo-Soviet "Trust" networks infiltrated into the circles of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to conceal the direct Soviet hand in the dissolution of India is a crucial feature of the entire subcontinent destabilization, one which could fuel a Soviet-manipulated India-Pakistan conflict that would only accelerate the breakup of both nations.

2) The Persian Gulf. With the People's Republic of China recently having emerged publicly as a major arms supplier to the Khomeini regime, and with the simultaneous Soviet reassertion of influence within Iraq, the stage has been subtly set for Iran to achieve-with Soviet-Chinese complicity-a limited but strategically significant breakout in the six-yearold Iran-Iraq war. When Khomeini launches his imminent autumn offensive, the Iranian armed forces may successfully seize control of the Bozra region bordering Kuwait. This heightened Shi'ite fundamentalist pressure on the pro-American states of the Gulf Cooperation Council—rather than an overt Iranian march on Baghdad—would tilt the situation in the eastern Mediterranean in favor of Moscow's Syria-centered radical axis. This axis includes Israeli circles centered around former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. The suspicion that Sharon had a personal hand in setting the stage for the Sept. 6 massacre at the orthodox Jewish synagogue in Istanbul is exemplary of this Moscow-Irgun collusion.

In fact, as a corollary to the Persian Gulf war situation, Moscow has been reportedly involved in intensive back channel talks with Sharon and with Irgun circles of incoming Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. These talks involve a regional condominium between Damascus and the Irgun circles in Tel Aviv to jointly rule the eastern Mediterranean as Moscow's two principal satraps. Far from being a short-term

marriage of convenience, Moscow's deal draws upon the original roots of the Irgunist movement in the Russian Okhrana (Czarist secret police)—identical to the roots of the Bolshevik Party—to forge a revival of the old-world ties as a critical element of Moscow's grab for Middle East hegemony.

A limited, pre-rigged war between Syria and Israel is now a standing option, one that Moscow would activate particularly to wreck any further momentum of Prime Minister Shimon Peres's Marshall Plan for the economic development of the Middle East as a cornerstone of enduring regional peace. The successful pinning-down of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and the weakening of the Saddam Hussein

U.S. and Western European intelligence sources concur that the Soviet military command, centered around Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, has defined a series of near-term strategic military objectives and have integrated the restructured terrorist command into these military maneuvers. But the effectiveness of the U.S. response has been crippled by the faulty intelligence supplied by Moscow's agents and such "useful fools" as Secretary of State George Shultz.

regime in Baghdad as the result of a military advance by Khomeini's forces in the Bozra region would be a strong plus for Moscow playing out the Syria-Israel war-games. In military terms, such an Iranian advance would provide improved Soviet logistical lines of assistance to Syria.

3) Western Europe. The Soviet military command has defined the January 1987 federal elections in the Federal Republic of Germany as a target of opportunity to break up NATO by helping to install a pro-Soviet combination in power in Bonn. A Social Democratic-Green Party or a Social Democratic-Liberal coalition with parliamentary backing from the Greens would define such a political combination, driving the U.S. military out of West Germany and rendering continental Europe indefensible.

In the short term, the Soviet leadership has reacted violently to the recent political shift inside France. Under Premier Jacques Chirac, France has begun to reassert a role in African and Middle Eastern affairs directly opposite to that of the previous Socialist Party government, dominated by President François Mitterrand. This loss of de facto Soviet control over France through the complicity of the Socialist International apparatus—which permitted overt KGB agents to hold critical positions within the French cabinet up through March of this year and which openly abetted Soviet-directed terrorism against all of Western Europe—has defined France as a priority target of terrorist low-intensity warfare. The same Socialist International circles inside France who joined with Moscow in turning Paris into a capital of European terrorism from the time of election of Socialist Mitterrand to the presidency in early 1981 are among the prime "inside" collaborators of the Soviets in the recently activated blind terrorist assault.

Every recent terrorist incident that has occurred in the region stretching from the Korean peninsula to the British Isles has been part of the top-down low-intensity warfare drive by Moscow, associated with the near-term strategic targets cited above.

As the accompanying articles will detail, Moscow "fine-tune" directed a major reorganization of the terrorist infrastructure in the wake of the U.S. retaliatory bombing of Libya last April. The reorganization was carried out under the cover of a series of nominally "cultural" conferences and diplomatic trips made by leading figures within the Islamic fundamentalist movement, many of whom are converts to Islam acting on behalf of European-centered networks of the Anglo-Soviet Trust. The main purpose of that restructuring was to hide the tight Soviet control over the pending waves of bloodshed and upheaval. In point of fact, the underlying organization remained intact and unchanged:

- Syrian intelligence remains the most trusted vehicle through which the Soviet military command and KGB direct the international low-intensity warfare offensive. Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, in late August, became the emissary of Moscow, traveling to Tripoli, Libya and Teheran, Iran, to personally deliver marching orders for the terror wave that began days later. Middle East sources have underscored the role of Alois Brunner, a wartime Nazi who took refuge and eventual political prominence in Damascus during the 1950s under Soviet sponsorship. Brunner is a controller of both Syrian Defense Minister Mohammad Tlas, Moscow's most trusted asset in the Syrian command, and Syrian foreign policy in general.
- Among the most critical fronts for this Syrian intelligence apparatus remains the Syrian Popular Party (PPS), a neo-Nazi organization created in the early 1930s by Antoine Sa'ade, incorporating overt Nazi Party propaganda into a geopolitical doctrine of "Greater Syria," encompassing present-day Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and Cyprus. The PPS, which casts itself as a "secular" political movement, has Shi'ite, Druze, Greek Orthodox (Antiochian), and some Maronite members, and is centered in five areas of Lebanon. According to both French and American intelligence spe-

cialists, the majority of suicide commando actions in Lebanon over the past year, though universally attributed to the Jihad organization, have in fact been carried out by Shi'ite members of the PPS.

- In France, the recent spate of anti-personnel bombings has been carried out by a network directly spun out of the PPS: the FARL-Direct Action. Sources familiar with the personal history of jailed FARL leader George Ibrahim Abdallah, say that he is a longtime PPS member. The financing of this PPS-FARL-Direct Action apparatus is reportedly maintained through a Lebanese banking network interfaced with the notorious Crédit Suisse bank.
- Middle East specialists have also underscored the importance of the recently reorganized terrorist training camp infrastructure, in the direct Soviet hand into the Lebanoncentered terrorist nets. These sources underscore the role of KGB "foreign nationalities" agents within the Iranian and Syrian military in screening and deploying the terrorist forces.

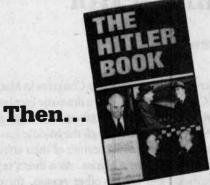
Through these devices, Moscow hopes to prevent the development by Western intelligence agencies of the kind of "juridical evidence" that led to Washington's retaliatory bombing of Tripoli and Bengazi in the aftermath of the La Belle disco bombing in West Berlin. This "ambiguity" is intended to facilitate the work of Moscow's agents and "useful fools" within the West. These Western circles, typified by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, are providing decisive assistance to Moscow's low-intensity war by repeatedly throwing distractions into the strategic assessment process.

Washington sources report that Shultz has received the recent critical backing of a consortium of "Trilateralists" including his predecessor in office Alexander Haig, Henry Kissinger, and Georgetown "terrorism expert" and Haig associate Michael Ledeen, in pushing ahead with the U.S. pursuit of the "Syrian Card." Shultz, with the backing of a bankers' faction of the CIA, typified by Kermit Roosevelt, the 1950s author of the original U.S. intelligence community flirtation with Shi'ite Islamic fundamentalism, is not only pursuing the "neutralization" of the Assad regime in Syria.

This grouping has, according to U.S. intelligence sources, systematically blocked any inclusion of the PPS in the assessment of who runs Middle East terrorism, has been instrumental in the destabilization of the Magreb region, particularly Tunisia, and has maintained open channels, including financing, to Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic fundamentalist networks who have been active players in Moscow's unconventional warfare against the West.

In the most extreme cases of this bankers' intelligence faction, such as Zbigniew Brzezinski, overt endorsement has been given to the Moscow-proposed New Yalta agreement that would cede Eurasian hegemony to a Moscow proclaimed as the capital of a third and final Roman empire. The simple solution to this Soviet unconventional warfare assault is to openly call Moscow's game, as French Prime Minister Chirac and other European leaders have done in recent days.

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