

## Terror wave profits Soviet gamemasters

The April 5 hijacking of a Kuwaiti passenger plane is the first act of a broader terror offensive which is expected to culminate next summer. Already, it has been paralleled by various other acts of terrorism. On March 28, terrorists bombed a petrochemical plant in Saudi Arabia's Shi'ite-dominated Eastern province, and on April 8 the Saudi embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, was bombed.

Hours later, an ammunition depot was blown up in Islamabad by Soviet-directed terrorists, killing close to 1,000. Another ammunition depot was blown up near the Afghan border on April 15.

Indicating that this wave of terrorism will not remain confined to "Islam," a car-bomb explosion in Naples killed four on April 14. Claimed by the "Revolutionary Jihad Brigade" as a commemoration of the April 15, 1986 U.S. bombing raid on Tripoli, it was perpetrated by a member of the "Japanese Red Army" traveling with a Lebanese passport. On April 15, a car filled with explosives was also found parked in front of the U.S. mission in West Berlin.

This wave of terrorism comes at a time when the United States and the Soviet Union have acted for the first time since Yalta, as co-guarantors of a regional settlement, over Afghanistan, and are close to setting up the kind of superpower condominium which has been sought by a large part of the Western establishment. Western intelligence services can expect to be told to cooperate with Soviet "anti-terrorist" efforts.

In reality, while Moscow is "negotiating," the Soviet intelligence services have reactivated their sabotage and terror divisions. Coherent with the strategy followed in Afghanistan, Moscow is set to exploit Western weaknesses to the utmost, to bring further concessions. Terrorism targeted on the Middle East and Western Europe, is a key weapon. Already, several European intelligence agencies are on alert in the expectation of a terror wave against West Berlin in particular, between now and the September conference of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The focus on West Berlin is Moscow's way to "persuade" West Germany to accept a pro-Soviet German neutrality in the wake of the set of treaties that Ronald Reagan has committed himself to sign with Mikhail Gorbachov.

### The Iranian connection

Islamic terrorism will obviously be a major component

in this campaign. The Kuwaiti hijacking was organized by the Iraqi-born Shi'ite ideologue, Mohammed Takieddine Modarassi, who leads the shadowy "Islamic Action Group," founded in summer 1984 for the purpose of planning commando operations during the yearly pilgrimage to Mecca, of the kind perpetrated in July 1987. The IAC is merely a military subgroup under the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution" set up months after Khomeini's takeover of Iran to spread the Islamic Revolution worldwide. Cooperation between these fundamentalists and the Soviet Union has been handled by Iran's General Prosecutor, Hojatessalam Musawi Khoeiniah, trained in East Germany and the Soviet Union prior to the 1979 revolution. Khoeiniah was a founder of the IAC.

The hijacking's "motives" ranged from avenging the murder last January in Khartoum of a SAIRI leader, Mehdi al Hakeem, to the demand for the release of 17 of its members in jail in Kuwait. There are also reasons with broader implications. They stem from Iran's ongoing internal warfare which, far from being a mere rivalry among persons, represents an ideological debate on the future of Iran's "Islamic revolution" and whether it should be spread abroad or contained within its borders. It was the same debate which had led Mehdi Hashemi, an associate of Khomeini's official heir, Ayatollah Montazeri, to expose the secret negotiations between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the American administration.

Today, Modarassi and a few others have taken on the mantle of Hashemi and of his "Organization for the Export of the Islamic Revolution." Iran's leader, Ruhollah Khomeini, intervened in their favor during an April 8 speech, in which he called for confrontation with Saudi Arabia during this year's pilgrimage. Rejecting Saudi demands that only 40,000 Iranian pilgrims should be allowed, and that no political rallies will be permitted, Khomeini warned that Iran will send 150,000 and that it will "be their political and religious duties to hold rallies." Intelligence sources also report that the group of Modarassi has sent its own agents into such countries as Spain, Switzerland, Pakistan, India, and Turkey. Timed with confrontations at Mecca, Modarassi's agents are to strike at wealthy Arabs holidaying in these countries.

The hijacking hence also had the aim of sabotaging ongoing dealings among Paris, Washington, Damascus and certain Iranian figures, over the release of the hostages.

There is little doubt that the hijacking and its consequences have played into Moscow's hands. It is in Moscow's interest to prevent any internal political stabilization of Iran which could lead to direct negotiations between the Iranian leadership and the West. The commitment of Iran's fanatics to expand their revolution abroad has been Moscow's best diplomatic card in the last two years. Claiming good relations with both Baghdad and Teheran, Moscow has been able to woo all of the Gulf countries, and act as a mediator between both sides of the Gulf.