

EUROPE

The Mountbatten affair: Britain tries to put screws on Ireland

The British government is holding Irish Prime Minister Jack Lynch and his government personally accountable for the murder of Lord Mountbatten, Earl of Burma, an intimate of the Royal Family who was killed when his fishing boat exploded off the coast of Ireland last week.

Although the Irish government is already closing in on the suspected assassins, British newspapers and government officials have laid the blame for encouraging terrorism on Ireland's doorstep and have seized the opportunity to propose a new "pacification" scheme which would jeopardize Ireland's sovereignty.

But the British government has more in mind than stopping terrorism in its attacks on the Irish government and its prime minister, Jack Lynch. The bedrock of Lynch's party, the Fianna Fail, is a program for the eventual reunification of Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic. The foundation of unity is to be expanded industrial development in both Irelands based on the successful implementation of the European Monetary System. As chairman of the European Economic Commission's Council of Ministers for the current six-month period, Ireland is working with France and West Germany to restart the European Monetary System, which only Britain has opposed.

In retaliation for Lynch's breaking of the link between the punt (the Irish currency) and the British pound, and to head off Lynch's solution for Northern Ireland, the British government is putting extreme pressure on the Lynch government—both economic and political. British Petroleum and its sister Royal Dutch Shell have cut back oil supplies to Ireland, exacerbating the economic crunch there which had already reached a crisis because of the oil hoax earlier this year. The *Financial Times* gleefully notes that if elections were held today, Lynch would lose to his opponent, the pro-British Garrett Fitzgerald.

Britain's solution

The British are now demanding that Lynch agree to

full Irish-British security cooperation in a crackdown against the Irish Republican Army, which allegedly carried out the Mountbatten murder. Demands for a coordinated intelligence service and police cooperation are features of the latest outlines for a "confederal" solution to the Northern Ireland question.

Under the pacification plan, which has been presented as a radical new political initiative, the Republic of Ireland would become part of a confederation of "independent" nations, including Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England. The scheme, endorsed by the head of the Welsh Nationalist Party and leading Liberal members of Parliament, would solve Britain's immediate problem: the break-up of the United Kingdom, while preventing the reunification of Ireland under Dublin's able leadership.

It is no wonder that Irish opposition leader Fitzgerald favors the confederal solution, as do the London *Economist* and the British Intelligence-run Institute for the Study of Conflict. The plan is also backed by certain dubious friends of Ireland in the United States, such as Sen. Ted Kennedy, New York governor Hugh Carey, and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill.

In Ireland, Fitzgerald, a former foreign minister, has proposed an added feature: that the Republic of Ireland rejoin the British Commonwealth.

Pressure on terrorism

In a radio interview three days before he was to meet with British Prime Minister Thatcher to discuss antiterrorist measures, Lynch ruled out British requests that Ireland allow British security forces to cross the border to question terrorists and made it clear that extradition of "political" prisoners was contrary to the Irish Constitution. Lynch further pointed out that Ireland already has the strongest code against terrorists of any country in Western Europe.

The Irish Republican Army, whose aim is to force Britain to relinquish Northern Ireland through a campaign of violence, terrorism, and bombings, is a pros-

Closing in on Italy's Socialist godfathers

Italy's anti-terrorist investigators over the past week have zeroed in on the Italian Socialist Party as the central organizing nexus of terrorism for the peninsula. This development, which *Executive Intelligence Review* had predicted, has occurred months after the European Labor Party published the details of the Socialists' creation of terrorist gangs.

One of the Rome judges preparing the documentation needed for the extradition from France of terrorist leader Piperno, stated yesterday that Piperno's role was in fact one of mediating between the notorious Red Brigades gang (kidnappers last year of former premier Aldo Moro) and the Socialist Party. Piperno's French lawyer had complained a day earlier that the real aim of the Italian magistracy in seeking the extradition for trial of Piperno was to use him as a means of tracing terrorism back to the Socialist leadership, including party general secretary Bettino Craxi himself.

On that same day, the Roman judge Galluci, who is charged with overall responsibility for the Piperno extradition, had issued a thinly veiled threat of legal action against one of the top national Socialist leaders—Giacomo Mancini. Gallucci announced that he was requesting of the national council of the magistracy that he be given the right to take legal action against all those who sought to protect Piperno from being returned to Italy to stand trial.

Mancini panicked

Judge Gallucci's statement was a response to the provocation of Socialist leader Mancini, who had addressed a mass rally in the south to attack Gallucci and his fellow magistrates for their handling of the Piperno case. Mancini had appealed to the French Socialist Party of François Mitterrand to do everything in its political power to block the extradition in the French courts.

Mancini's panic is related to the fact that Piperno is known to be his particular protégé.

The Socialist leader had already thoroughly discredited himself days earlier when he had similarly criticized the Italian judiciary for its successful extradition of the notorious fascist mass murderer Freda, who was finally caught in Costa Rica after his successful escape from imprisonment in Italy months earlier. In that instance, too, Mancini had attacked the magistrates as "undemocratic" for successfully bringing the nation's most notorious mass murderer home for trial.

—Vivian Zoakos

cribed organization in the Republic. Ireland's six-year old emergency law against terrorism has been used to arrest, prosecute and imprison many IRA members.

Irish authorities have already made two arrests in connection with the Mountbatten murder and suspect that as many as 10 to 15 people took part in the assassination operation. "The police have names and they know whom they are looking for," Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister George Colley told the press. In addition, detectives in Dublin are investigating the connections of an internationally known terrorist who was picked up in Ireland's largest drug bust the week before the Mountbatten murder. Irish security forces are also investigating the hypothesis that the recent wave of bank robberies, arson attempts and kidnappings in the Republic is the work of "hired gangs"—former IRA members and other mercenaries working for whoever pays and deploys them.

Nevertheless, the British and American press are conducting a smear campaign against the Lynch government, contending that it is "soft" on terrorism. Thatcher's lightning visit to Northern Ireland last week, during which she toured British Army installations in combat dress, was meant to dramatize the fact that Lynch had not cut short his vacation in Portugal to deal with the emergency.

Headlines such as "Maggie Shames the Irish" and "Ireland's Shame" appeared in the tabloids like the popular *Daily Express*, charging that Ireland has become an "open house" for worldwide terrorists. The more respectable *Financial Times* merely reported on Lynch's "political difficulties," saying that his popularity was sagging because of recent—British-created—economic problems such as the oil crisis and flagging industrial production. Lynch's Health Minister, one Charles Haughey, who was implicated in a gun-running scandal several years ago, is "poised to take power," reported the *Daily Telegraph*.

—Marla Minnicino