

around him while discrediting his opposition as terrorists and Muslim fanatics.

But Syrian nationalists, merchants and businessmen, and Sunni Muslim moderate currents have all been shut out of power by the Alawite clique. It is an explosive situation most observers think cannot last.

In supporting Assad, the Soviet Union is therefore making two related blunders. First, they are associating Soviet prestige with an isolated regime; by helping to maintain Assad in power, the Soviets are viewed as furthering their own interests, not necessarily Syrian ones. Many Syrians are upset about reports that KGB advisers, including torture specialists, are assisting Syrian security officials. Second, the Soviets are de facto collaborating with the policy of sectarianism in the Middle East, which carries great risks of instability for virtually every Middle East country.

The policy for increased sectarianism and tribalization in the Middle East is a long-time Anglo-Zionist policy objective. In more recent years, it has been organized under the code name "The Bernard Lewis Plan," after Princeton's Professor Lewis, an Oxford University British intelligence specialist on Islam and minorities. Informed Syrian sources say that because of Assad's shortsighted policy, the possibility exists that a Lebanon-style civil war could erupt within Syria and spread to other Arab states, as well as Turkey.

For the Soviet Union, the architect of that policy is Mr. Kim Philby, currently a KGB general and very active in formulating U.S.S.R. Middle East policy. Philby, who defected to the Soviet Union in 1963 after supposedly serving as a Soviet double agent in British intelligence, is in fact still a serving officer of London's secret service. For many years, until 1963, Philby was active in Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab world, among contacts delivered to him from his famous father, St. John Philby, the "Philby of Arabia" who helped to set up the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Syrian government's recent attacks against Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, and the deliberately provocative Syrian stance on the Palestine question—for instance, Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam's foolish call to expel Israel from the United Nations, a call that dismayed many Arabs—reflect the "Philbyite" anti-West confrontationist posture. This posture suits the interests of a certain, militant faction of the Soviet leadership.

Who benefits?

To the extent that the Soviet Union and the United States are placed on a confrontationist course in the area and regional stability is undermined, then the possibility of stepped-up European-Arab cooperation, along the lines suggested by France and West Germany, is eliminated. In that context, only the British—who have long been set on undermining the "Paris-Baghdad-Riyadh" axis—and the Israelis gain.



Mossad faction targets France

by Dana Sloan

The current series of neo-Nazi bombings and acts of terrorism in France, which has profoundly shaken the country, is seen by counterterror experts in the United States and Europe as a move unleashed from the outside, with the objective of creating a broad upheaval against the French president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. On a secondary level, the objective of the bombing is to create a highly charged atmosphere among European Jews to foster support for the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government.

Operations put into motion over the last few months by a number of intelligence agencies, including the Israeli Mossad, have succeeded in setting off a process of mass street demonstrations and creation of self-defense vigilante groups in France's Jewish community. The mass demonstrations in Paris and other cities this week coincided, in fact, with an official Israeli defense cabinet declaration on "the right and duty" of Jews to form self-

Eight thousand in Paris protest terror Oct. 2.

Photo: Wide World

defense squads against real and imagined anti-Semitic elements, a declaration that followed by a day Begin's interview with UPI denouncing European efforts in the Middle East as an anti-Israeli policy responsible for the terrorism.

Begin's statements served as an international signal for the anti-Giscard operation. New York's mayor, Edward Koch, jumped into the headlines Oct. 7 when he declared before the French-American Chamber of Commerce in New York City that President Giscard's Middle East policy would "ultimately lead to genocide." Koch accused Giscard of "encouraging terrorism," "delivering Jews to the PLO," and made the distorted claim that during World War II, "the French people and the government delivered French Jews to the Nazis."

As Begin and Koch themselves acknowledge, their target is Giscard's active involvement in fostering a Middle East peace package based on Israeli withdrawal to its 1967 borders, with international guarantees of those borders, and creation of some sort of genuine Palestinian homeland. A Middle East peace, combined with stabilized oil prices, is, in the eyes of the Giscard government, the most important prerequisite for a thorough overhaul of present petrodollar recycling and energy policy toward transfer of nuclear and other high technology to the Third World.

Political alignments

At stake in the current upheaval is the second presidential term Giscard needs to bring his international economic plans into operation.

The French Socialist Party (SP) has taken a leading role in seeking to oust Giscard, and has openly mobilized its supporters for the Oct. 7 demonstration with a call for Interior Minister Christian Bonnet to resign, and for a general reorganization, that is, purge, of the French police.

Speaking for the hard-line Zionist organizations in France, Maurice Hadjenberg, leader of the *Renouveau Juif* (Jewish Revival) group, announced that the Rue Copernic bombing has put an end to the "truce" between the government and the Jewish community, and that his organization will do everything to defeat Giscard in the presidential elections this spring. Hadjenberg is known for his close ties to Begin's Likud Party in Israel.

The Socialists have also tried to pressure the French Communist Party (PCF) into a common opposition stance around the anti-Semitism issue, demanding in fact a renewal of the Union of the Left between the two parties. So far, their success is uncertain. While the PCF and all responsible organizations in the country, including the parties that most directly back Giscard, are united in condemning the recent wave of anti-Semitic violence, many of them are refusing to be used as pawns

against Giscard's government.

The PCF and its affiliated trade union, the CGT, participated in the demonstrations, but the CGT announced that it was demonstrating against "all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism," and not for the government's ouster. And in a sharp response to the Socialists' argument that the PCF is responsible for the resurgence of Nazism because of its withdrawal from the Union of the Left, the PCF's daily, *L'Humanité*, ran a stinging editorial Oct. 7 recalling the Socialist Party's direction of the war in Indochina and in Algeria, and its jailing of PCF members of the opposition. *L'Humanité* equated these Socialist actions with opening the door to fascism. Spokesmen for Giscard's Republican Party warned at the same time against "forces who are trying to transform this affair into an evil political manipulation."

Within the Jewish community, traditional Zionist organizations led by Guy and Alain de Rothschild have emphatically rejected *Renouveau Juif's* call for the creation of armed "self-defense" militias, and have warned that the real intention of the "criminals" who carried out the terrorist attack is to "shatter French society" as a whole.

The conduct of the Paris demonstration was further evidence of the difficulties the Socialists and Begin partisans among the Zionists are encountering in trying to build an effective force to disrupt Giscard's reelection. Fist fights broke out among participating marchers over what position their organization would take in the line. PCF leaders announced they supported a police cleanup and the resignation of Interior Minister Bonnet, but also accused the SP of lying in its claim that the PCF had agreed to demonstrate on common grounds with the Socialists. And Alain de Rothschild did not march with the *Renouveau Juif*, which was sent to the rear of the demonstration.

Despite widespread media efforts to intensify hysteria over anti-Semitic violence and to portray the Paris demonstration as keyed to that response, such characterizations are being significantly deflated in France. The French daily *Libération* downplayed the issue of anti-Semitism as such, and stressed that in France anti-Semitism is always the product of anti-republicanism, and never the reverse.

Perhaps the most important statement of all came from Simone Veil, president of the European Parliament in Strasbourg and a highly respected figure in the French Jewish community. In an interview over radio RTL, she stated her firm conviction that "one can be anti-Zionist, that is to say, opposed to the present policies of the Israeli government, without being anti-Semitic." Simone Veil speaks from the standpoint of one whose family members were all sent to their deaths in Hitler's concentration camps.