

The Islamicist, the Nazi, and the Trotskyist: Ben Bella and his friends

by Thierry Lalevee, Middle East Editor

Sometime during the summer, a conspiratorial meeting of the Muslim Brotherhood was held in Paris on the pretext of discussing the upcoming mass pilgrimage to Mecca. Chaired by former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella, and a Swiss convert by the name of "Ahmed" Huber, the gathering met under photos of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini and Jerusalem's late Grand Mufti, al Hussein, and among other things, planned celebrations of next year's 50th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's rise to power! In preparation, numerous books on Hitler and on al Hussein, Hitler's closest friend in the Middle East, will now be translated into Arabic and Swahili!

Ben Bella is right in the center of a Nazi International project aimed at a re-emergence of Nazi-type dictatorships in Europe; in the Middle East, the remaining network of old Nazis, and a new generation of the Abwehr's Abteilung Zwei creation, the "Brandenburg Division" and its "Arab Legion" subdivision, are being mobilized toward purposes discussed at the secret Paris Brotherhood gathering.

As a participant at that meeting old the French economic weekly *La Vie Française*, the Brotherhood, in alliance with the Nazis, has a precise plan for the coming period. First, the Brotherhood intends to use the aftermath of the Lebanon crisis to impose a new leadership on the Palestine Liberation Organization, eliminating Yasser Arafat's moderates in favor of "real Muslims" who revere the likes of al Hussein. Then will come deployment of terrorist capabilities, aided by Iran's Khomeini regime, part of Brotherhood efforts to "deal with Saddam Hussein, the Gulf states, and Jordan." Last but not least will be the Brotherhood's plan to eliminate Israel. "But that will come later through our use of nuclear capabilities," concluded a participant who praised the "Islamic scientists" who attended the Paris gathering.

In sum, the conference outlined the Brotherhood's grand design for the region, prepared over years of underground work through a wide network in many countries, with clear support from the Nazi International—but basically work for British intelligence (SIS "Arab Bureau"), which founded and remains "mother" of the Brotherhood. The connection to the old and new Nazis, in fact, emerged in its present form through the deal which preserved the Nazi Gehlen Organization and other intelligence networks, a deal struck between the defeated forefathers of today's Nazi International and Allen Dulles and British intelligence, based in Bern, Swit-

erland as World War II neared its end.

What has former Algerian President Ben Bella to do with all that? He is certainly not a mastermind of any plot; he is a pawn, a useful one, created and controlled by old Nazis during the 1950s. First, they made him an "Algerian independence leader," and then what he is trying to be today, the Khomeini of Northern Africa.

The key to understanding Ben Bella and the current he represented in the Algerian independence movement of the 1950s and early '60s, is to be found in Cairo in the years 1952-53. It was there that Ahmed Ben Bella was repeatedly visited and tutored in politics and philosophy by unrepentant Nazis, the most famous of whom were Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's pre-1936 finance minister; SS Captain Reichenberg; General Ramcke; and most important, the Swiss Nazi leader and banker, François Genoud.

The Nazi

Genoud, for example, visited Ben Bella faithfully each week when the "independence leader" was in French jails after 1956. It was Genoud again who, in 1959, created the "Banque Commerciale Arabe" in Lausanne to "help the FLN," Algeria's National Liberation Front, by safehousing FLN monies then held by Ben Bella's friend, Mohammed Khider. Partners in the bank included the Syrian Khalil Mardam; they also included Genoud and the SS's Reichenberg.

When Ben Bella became Algerian President, Genoud became his economic adviser through the "Banque Populaire Algerienne"; the FLN's war-chest still sat in Lausanne. When Ben Bella was overthrown and replaced by Louari Boumedienne, Genoud kept the money and made a deal with the new president, who appointed Reichenberg an economic adviser. Genoud, according to Spanish writer Gonsales Mata, then organized the assassination of Ben Bella's friend, Mohammed Khider, who opposed the deal.

When Ben Bella was released from jail in 1980, his first visit was to François Genoud. In an interview in the *Tribune de Lausanne* June 19 of this year, Ben Bella shocked even his left-wing supporters by characterizing Genoud as his "best friend." This recent trip to Switzerland had as its main aim to defend his "best friend" against articles published principally in *Le Monde* revealing many of Genoud's secret activities—including his having introduced Ben Bella to the

Grand Mufti of Jerusalem in the mid-1950s.

The government of Ben Bella in the first years of independence exemplifies how “right” meets “left,” usually at the extremes. That is one reason why Ben Bella, located in Paris at present, is an important international connecting point between European and Middle Eastern terrorism of both “left” and “right.”

The Trotskyist

On the “left,” Ben Bella has a long-standing friendship with Michel Raptis, a.k.a. “Michel Pablo,” renowned leader of a Trotskyist splinter-group of the Fourth International. As a matter of fact, after meeting with Genoud in Switzerland recently, Ben Bella went on to meet Pablo. Michel Pablo, as well as Genoud, was an adviser to Ben Bella’s government.

An unholy alliance? Not really. Pablo the Trotskyist played a substantial role in collaboration with the Nazis during World War II in Belgium. And just as Genoud had introduced the young “independence” leader to the Grand Mufti and British intelligence’s Muslim Brotherhood networks, so Raptis-Pablo had introduced him to British Fabian Society circles, including the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation and the so-called Amnesty International, organizations which played an important role in pressuring the Algerian government to release Ben Bella from prison.

The Islamicist

With such godfathers, Ben Bella today has become security problem number one for French authorities—at least, those not members of the Socialist Party. Those authorities know, however, that Ben Bella enjoys high-level protection from inside France’s Socialist government. The sources of that protection are most interesting. The most cited name is President Mitterrand’s special adviser, and a former guerrilla in the swamps of Bolivia alongside Che Guevara, Regis Debray. Although Paris’s official policy is one of friendship with Algeria’s Chadli government, Debray has prevented French law enforcement from putting a halt to the free movement of Ben Bella and his six body-guards. This may have to do with the French Socialists’ efforts to impose a “New Islam” ideology on France’s large immigrant Arab community. However, the Debray connection to Ben Bella involves something more fundamental. When Debray was playing “leftist guerrilla” in the Bolivian jungle, his band’s weapons were supplied by one Klaus Barbie. Barbie was of the Nazi Gestapo, escaping from trial at Nuremberg with monies and underground networks provided by . . . François Genoud.

Last year, Ben Bella was elected President of the “Islamic Human Rights Commission,” a pro forma body created by the London-based Muslim Brotherhood center, the “Islamic Council of Europe” under Salem Azzam. The “Human Rights Commission” is merely public cover for a Muslim Brotherhood triumvirate—Ben Bella, Salem Azzam, and the leader of the Brotherhood’s Egyptian branch, Said Ramadhan. Azzam and the Geneva-based Ramadhan are also

“close friends” of François Genoud.

The “human rights” activities of Ben Bella’s commission came to light last October at a gathering at the Schlumberger-de Menil family’s Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas, including Ben Bella, Azzam, Saudi Prince Mohammed al Faisal and others. At that meeting, the speakers rejoiced in the assassination of Egypt’s Anwar al-Sadat.

Ben Bella used that American trip to establish personal contact with the American Indian Movement (AIM), for whom he hosted a press conference in December in Paris. Ben Bella declared that “200 years of American history has been built on the graves of the real Americans, the Indians!”

These antics reflect not only his outlook, but the leading edge of the Nazi International conspiracy headed by François Genoud: to promote an insurgency of “ethnics” and “tribes” of separatists against republican nation-states, to discredit and dismember nations to bring fascist forces into dictatorial power in Europe and elsewhere once again.

Of direct interest in this regard is that Ben Bella will soon announce his full reconciliation with a former member of the FLN, Ait Ahmed. Ait Ahmed is based in Lausanne, and is yet another “close friend” of François Genoud. Ahmed is the leader of the Kabyle minority in Algeria, where they staged riots two years ago. Although while President, Ben Bella opposed Ahmed’s Kabyle separatists, now that he is a Genoud-run “Islamist,” he will embrace them—inasmuch as François Genoud has promised a very large sum of money to celebrate this “marriage.”

Genoud’s financing is key to other Ben Bella activities. He may be found engaged in arms smuggling between Belgium and France, on behalf of European-based Iranian terrorists, or on behalf of France’s own Action Directe terrorist ganglet. Perhaps it is Regis Debray who prevents French law enforcement from raiding certain spots in the border city of Douai, where Ben Bella’s weapons shipments first touch down in France. In any case, Ben Bella may be implicated in the recent massacre of the Rue des Rosiers, since the logistical network used by those terrorists was the same as the route usually adopted by the Action Directe networks. Lately, Ben Bella has also been said to be involved in a ring smuggling arms to Latin America—probably Regis Debray knows something about this, too.

Ben Bella recently expressed the hope that, as an “Islamic” leader, he might become either the new secretary-general of the Arab League, or even—why not?—of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. For both posts, he received the enthusiastic support of Tunisian leader Bourguiba, whom he met for lengthy discussions last July in Monastir. His election, which would have given Genoud’s Nazi International control of one or both of the most important Islamic and Arab organizations, was blocked when Saudi Arabia along with Algeria intervened strongly against him. However, the Muslim Brotherhood’s secret gathering in Paris a few weeks later indicates that the backers of Ahmed Ben Bella have not given up hope.