

Leads had been broadcasting for 18 months. Walton admitted that the terrorist infrastructure behind the December 1981 Nyack, New York Brink's truck robbery attempt, involving the Black Liberation Army, the Weatherunderground (now known principally as the May 19th Communist Organization), and the FALN, had been largely reconstituted into an active nationwide core of more than 200 individuals spread out in nearly 20 cities from coast to coast.

That terrorist infrastructure has not been idle over the past half decade of apparent inaction. As the result of the pardons of over 20 hard-core jailed or fugitive terrorists during the reign of President Carter and his Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, the climate was created for the resurfacing of a network that never really went out of business. Law-enforcement agencies throughout the United States are now recognizing that a broad-based pattern of violent criminal actions, including a string of bank robberies and possible kidnappings, has been the work of veterans of the early 1970s terrorist apparatus. That apparatus, like its not-so-distant European cousins, has diversified its activities into such lucrative ventures as drug trafficking.

More recently, this U.S.-based radical "veterans" terrorist apparatus has forged alliances with foreign terrorist and support groups. Among the most frequent convergence points is the Caribbean island of Granada, the recent recipient of heavy financing from the Qaddafi government.

Another major source of funds for the domestic terrorist apparatus is Prince Mohammad al Faisal. One year ago, the Prince followed his appearance at Rothko Chapel with a visit to Philadelphia, where he was joined by representatives of Chase Manhattan Bank, the bank of the Trilateral Commission's North American branch. Faisal and friends mapped out an "urban-development" program that has seen a reported half billion dollars socked into "urban renewal" projects in cities like Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia. In Chicago, the redevelopment centered around the founding of East-West University, a radical pseudo-Muslim center that has sought to recruit American blacks into Khomeiniac sects. At a spring 1982 meeting in Chicago of one such group, headed by Libyan-financed "Black Muslim" Louis Farakkan, a call was issued from the podium of the lakefront Hilton Hotel for the 2,000 plus attendees to launch a "jihad" against America's urban centers.

Many law-enforcement professionals are aware of at least part of this picture. In the following interview, Juval Aviv, a leading anti-terrorist intelligence specialist, concurs that the same apparatus that was used in the last decade's continent-wide European terrorist upsurge, is now being activated in the United States. The sense is that the United States is a time bomb. Neither the underlying issues nor the professional infrastructure behind the terrorist apparatus has been placed under the spotlight of public exposure, much less dismantled. Until such actions are taken—beginning with the known "citizens above suspicion" who give protection to terrorist capabilities—that bomb will remain on a short fuse.

Interview: Juval Aviv

Counterterror expert cites the dangers

The Western intelligence community has long recognized the special expertise of Israeli Defense Force anti-terrorist units. Friend and foe agencies alike have acknowledged that from both a counterintelligence and an operational standpoint, Israeli Intelligence has amassed an impressive expertise and knowledge regarding terrorist activities on a worldwide scale. In 1967-74, Juval Aviv was a unit commander in the Israeli Defense Force, stationed in Western Europe for much of that time. Now an American citizen living and working in the New York City area, Aviv has founded a private security consulting firm, Interfor, Inc. which services a range of U.S. corporations. While formally retired from government service, Aviv remains a consultant to a number of Western intelligence services. Mr. Aviv agreed to "come out of the cold" to grant the following exclusive interview with EIR Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg on Sept. 15.

Steinberg: I understand that you have a number of years of experience working of behalf of the Israeli government around the world as a counter-terrorist intelligence agent. Can you tell me about your background and what it represents for your present capabilities?

Aviv: I have to start in 1968-69, which was the period when terrorism began to be an effective weapon in Europe. Israel at that time was the only country which had begun to research the right methods to counter terrorism. This was because we were the major targets at the time: El Al Airlines, our shipping companies, and, I would say, any Israeli or Jewish company around the world was a target. Israeli intelligence put some of the best minds in anti-terrorist tactics into the field, drawn primarily from veteran command groups, as was I, experienced to function as lean, hard, resourceful attack units using our tiny numbers to infiltrate and overwhelm heavily manned enemy installations. Through the late 1960s and early 1970s, we came up with some very effective ideas.

The theme of our anti-terrorist measures was that we would not give up to any threats. We would not negotiate to any terrorist groups, we were fighting back. This was the key. Psychologically, you could see the effect of this policy all along. I can give you an example.

There has never been an attack on a Russian embassy anywhere in the world. The reason is not that those embassies are invulnerable or that they could not be taken by terrorists.

The reason is that you do not fool around with the Russians.

It's a myth. I don't know how the Russians are going to react if their embassy is taken in Geneva or Rome. But it is common knowledge that you do not fool around with them. But American and other embassies have been taken over right and left everywhere around the world.

Israel did not want to be another America or other Western nation that could be taken easily. Right from the beginning, the idea was to be strong, and to create that same myth about our ability to handle situations, so that we would not be challenged every second day.

Those basic ideas have been taken from the army. The entire idea behind the Israeli army is that when and if we have to fight, we immediately have a very short war, preferably in the enemy's country, not ours. It has to be quick and short, and to the point, so that we can prove, again and again, that you do not fool around with us. It will cost you many lives and a lot of money every time you try to fool around with us.

When I left the Israeli government, and moved to New York and opened my own company, I adopted the same philosophy. I am trying to teach major corporations, the Fortune 500, and smaller companies, that you have to establish some guidelines for how you will react to stress situations. Those guidelines should be put together, as the Bible of the company. This is not only to deal with terrorism; it will be guidelines for what you do in any emergency. Who might be captured, who is going to respond to what situation, do we negotiate a kidnapping, do we pay ransom.

You cannot wait and react to situations; you have to think ahead and prevent them. I adapted those techniques, Israeli counter-terrorist techniques, to private industry.

Steinberg: The key to aggressive counter-terror efforts is intelligence. You were operating in Europe, in active government service during and immediately following the Black September massacre of the Israeli Olympics team in Munich in 1972. From that experience, what would be your intelligence assessment of the security situation confronted by the U.S. corporate sector today. After the Israeli actions in Lebanon, following the PLO withdrawal from Beirut and diaspora around the Mideast, what is your estimate of the situation faced by prominent American Jewish business leaders and Israeli officials active in the United States and Europe?

Aviv: Before I discuss the present situation, I should go back and describe the development of those terrorist organizations in Europe and around the world. This will give you a good idea of what will occur in North America in the next few months.

I would say that America today is as vulnerable as Europe was in the early 1970s. I remember at that time that the only country that really had an effective anti-terrorism program was Israel. We sealed our borders. El Al, the Israeli airline, was sealed. I would say that you virtually could not hijack an Israeli aircraft.

But if you go back to the Lod Airport massacre, where a

few terrorists took an Air France plane and ended up in Lod, this proved to us that no other airline or nation was taking precautions.

We kept warning Europe that Israel would not be the only target, that the situation would move into Europe, once Israel was sealed. Once terrorists cannot penetrate Israeli territory, they are going to try and attack Israeli Jewish and non-Jewish corporations and other entities in Europe, because Europe is wide open.

No one listened at the time. They were all convinced that they knew what they were doing in their own countries. Actually, they did not know the answers, and these countries were embarrassed about this.

Soon enough, England began to have a problem with the Irish terrorists, and they called Israel, I remember, to ask about our experience, and to learn our counter-terrorist techniques. They had to start from scratch....

Then came the Baader-Meinhof in Germany, and the Red Brigades in Italy. Those countries were not ready.. I would say that Italy is not ready even yet. They are getting better at counter-terrorism, but it is like a drop in a bucket.

However, I must say that Europe has become tight today. It has been tightened mostly by Germany, which came out with very tight check controls on the borders and quick response to terrorist attacks within Germany. The Baader-Meinhof had a very rough time operating in Germany, which is why they began moving out and branching out in coordination with other groups who work in other countries, in 1978.

The reason that I am going back to those years is that America is wide open now. At this time, Israel is tight, and Europe is tightened up. But America, South America, and Canada are wide open.

In New York alone, you have the headquarters of most of the major corporations. You have embassies of all the great nations. You have the United Nations. You have diplomats all over New York, and New York is not ready.

You could hit somebody in New York and just disappear. You would not even have to leave the city; you just move to another street and nobody will catch you, or it will be hard to find you.

America is naive about the future. American law enforcement has been warned and is aware of the potential of terrorism in this country, but whether or not they are equipped to deal with it, and have the funds, is another question. I would not say that America does not have the knowledge. America could, under pressure, come up with a good answer to terrorism. But everyone believes that it will never happen in their home, but only in the other courtyard.

I would say that, based on my experience and the network of informers I have in Europe, that terrorism is being shifted, and it will be shifted to America. . . .

Steinberg: Could you give me an idea of what your company has to offer in this area of corporate counter-terrorist

risk analysis, that other companies you are competing with cannot offer?

Aviv: I would say that the answer is that most security counter-terrorist companies obtained their expertise out of books and seminars. Their experts have never countered terrorism, because this country has never experienced terrorism per se. These companies do not have the field experience. Thus, I do not compete with corporate security directors or standard firms, I supplement them as consultant.

I bring in years of experience from the streets, not seminars. You have to be a terrorist yourself to understand the terrorist mind. I'm not suggesting that I have been a terrorist. But in my work for the Israeli government in the past, I often had to work undercover for months. I have even been accepted as a colleague and "cleared" by certain terrorist groups, the Baader-Meinhof and the Red Brigades, in order to learn their way of thinking, their minds, and how they move in Europe. Where they get their money, their weapons, and their phony identities and papers; how they have been able to move about for so many years in Europe, where every local police force is after them, these were the questions. These groups had succeeded in doing these things very well. The lessons we learned directed our operations.

After several years under cover in Europe, I can quickly recognize their methods and develop counter methods. I know how they think, how they would act, how they negotiate, and possibly, by recognizing some of the names and backgrounds, I could know how far they are going to go in a given situation. I know some of those people personally.

I have met Carlos personally on several occasions, while resting in safehouses undercover. I spend many hours talking to him, about general things, about his view of the current world situation. It is interesting to know how those people think.

In answer to your next question, *no*, I would not risk taking him. It would have jeopardized my operation, my networks, and people. Also, other units may have been also onto him, watching for movement. The rule is: 'you don't act without orders from control, even to seize such an opportunity.'

The difference between my company and others is that you have to be out in the street, meet the people and work with them to know how to deal with them. That is a good rule for anything you do in the security field.

Steinberg: There have been books published documenting that the Israeli government, and the Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, developed a terror operation against terrorism after Munich. Again, I emphasize the question of intelligence. You described generation of networks of terrorists that goes back to this post-Munich period in Europe.

Do you still maintain what you would consider current up-to-the-minute channels of intelligence, monitoring positions within these networks? Can you actually speak on the basis of current capabilities as opposed to past experiences?

Aviv: You have to understand that once you are involved in those organizations, in working with terrorists, and informers, it is a job that never ends. You cannot stop doing that.

Israel definitely maintains those capabilities. I would say, without tipping off too much, that definitely I am still connected with those in the Israeli government who have the capability of those information sources, and I have my own networks. Part of the ability I had while I was undercover in Europe was to establish my own network, and I have transferred those capabilities to my own business.

I am using those situations and resources to protect my clients' operations, as opposed to government installations.

Steinberg: I understand that both in the course of your official career with the Israeli government, and since you set up your private security business in New York, you have done a great deal of work concerning organized crime and international drug-running operations. I also understand that recently this has developed as another area of specialty for your capabilities.

Aviv: You must remember that terrorist groups have to finance their activity. Most of them were financed in part directly or indirectly by Russia, proven again by evidence such as documents recently obtained from captured PLO training sites in Lebanon. This was obtained during the recent crisis, and it can prove, without any doubt, the connections of Russia to organized crime and international terrorism.

However, in the early stages of terrorist activity, and even now, there is not enough money; there is never enough money for operations. Most of the terrorist organizations have adopted the drug idea, and are among the biggest pushers in drug trafficking to raise funds.

To be really effective, the terrorist groups did not want to get involved in another area that attracts the greatest attention of the local authorities and the intelligence networks. So they now operate in conjunction with organized crime figures in the United States.

The terrorists would traffic the drugs from the Far East or South America through their networks, and bring the drugs to a center point, where organized crime picked up and distributed the drugs. The terrorists are not the ones doing the distributing; that is organized crime.

So we have a conjunction of organized crime and the terrorist international in trafficking drugs for money. It has been very effective, and it has been very hard to beat. These forces have tremendous amounts of funds, they are well armed, well trained, and have a lot of connections. Through the efforts to combat terrorism, we have touched organized crime, and I would say that we have been very successful. I remember the date when Meyer Lansky was in Israel. We have always monitored visitors to Israel, and we watched those who came to seek his advice and his connections. We got a very good picture of who is who in the organized crime world, and their connections to drug trafficking and to other white-collar crime mainly in the United States.