

The Politburo's Geidar Aliyev and the heritage of fundamentalist insurgencies in the Mideast

by Thierry Lalevée

By mid-summer the Middle East will be the site of four or five major crises, some full-blown, others just beginning. At the core of the crises is the expected disappearance of the nation of Lebanon by August, divided by Syria and Israel after either a "limited" war or through a quiet agreement. As Lebanon is being eliminated, the PLO as a representative organization of the Palestinian people is also being destroyed. Syria and Israel will ensure that only warring military factions survive which can be controlled at will.

On the Eastern African front, Ethiopia and Sudan are set for a confrontation by early September, as a result of the increased activities of numerous Sudanese or Ethiopian separatist groups and the uncontrollable economic disaster stemming from the Sub-Saharan drought, which could lead to more than 2 million deaths in certain areas of Ethiopia. An Ethiopian-Sudanese confrontation could draw in these nations' two large neighbors, Egypt and Libya.

The nations of the Middle East's Northern Tier--Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan--are also facing separatist upheaval. A first approximation occurred in late May, when the Turkish government had to order its troops to intervene in Iraq to prevent Kurdish separatists from blowing up vital Iraqi-Turkish oil pipelines. In Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, there is stepped up activity by long-existing separatist movements. Such a splitoff has long been considered an option by the British as well as the Soviets. Some Muslim sources say these movements have the clandestine support of sections of the Ahmadiyya sect, a heretical cult created by British Intelligence in the late 19th century. Pakistani dictator Zia ul-Haq works hand in hand with the Ahmadiyya, but, the sources warn, Zia may be presented with a surprise by his trusted allies, and the real beneficiary of any separation may be the Soviet Union.

These situations, all blowing up at the same time, in conjunction with crises in southern Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe, could well create an uncontrolled and uncontrollable situation for the U.S. administration that no one in Washington is currently equipped to deal with.

The mid-summer confrontations in the Middle East will be overseen from Moscow, directly from the Politburo seat of recently appointed member Geidar Aliyev. Aliyev's career has taken him from his position as former director of the

KGB to secretary-general of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, where for years he developed expertise in manipulating Islamic groups, minorities, and Middle East and Asian communist parties. Indeed, intelligence specialists report that Aliyev has personally supervised all senior appointments inside such parties for more than 10 years. At the same time, since Khomeini's fundamentalist Islamic revolution in Iran, Aliyev has been in charge of a specific "Islamic experiment" in Azerbaijan, on how to take control of the most extreme fundamentalist groups.

Aliyev, who hails from an Azerbaijani Shi'ite family, is rumored to be a member of a Sufi mystic sect. Sufi mysticism dominates the life of Soviet Muslims in Central Asia. As one observer put it, in Aliyev's case, "everything is possible."

Aliyev's strange allies

For years, and increasingly in recent months, Aliyev has been re-assembling under Yuri Andropov's leadership a Comintern whose members are not communists nor even socialists, but leaders of "minorities" and "nationalities," control of which could enable the Soviet Union to run the Middle East and good parts of Asia and Africa. This potential was indicated by the revelation that the instigator of the Kurdish attacks against Turkey in May was the outlawed Iraqi Communist Party, whose secretary-general Aziz Mohammed, himself a Kurd, is now somewhere in the Soviet Union.

The composition of the Iraqi Communist Party—Kurds, Armenians, Arab Shi'ites, and Arab Christian Gnostics of the Chaldean cults—shows the kind of resources for destabilizing the Middle East that are now at Aliyev's disposal. In activating such separatist groups, Aliyev, who is coordinating policies with Boris Ponamarev's deputy in charge of ideology and strategy in the Third World, has allied himself with the Ariel Sharon-Moshe Arens faction in Israel, which is known to maintain ties with the Kurds and wants to restrict the role Turkey could play, in alliance with the United States, in the region. Coherent with present Soviet policy, an Israeli foreign ministry official, Oded Ginon, announced recently in a working paper that Israel's only chance of survival in the future lies in the carving up of the Middle East into ethnic and tribal entities. A rationale for Sharon's Lebanon policy,

the paper in fact signaled a tacit agreement between Israel and the Soviet Union on the region's future.

Another ally of that new form of the old British "Great Game" for the Middle East is the Swiss-based Nazi International led by Swiss banker François Genoud. Genoud's ties extend through Ahmed Huber (see *EIR*, April 19) into Iran and into the Palestinian movement--the very same factions that are allied to Syria and the Soviet Union against Arafat.

The Comintern 'People of the East' operation

Geidar Aliyev is doing nothing more than reactivating the early-1920s operation which was led by his own father, also named Geidar Aliyev. The elder Aliyev, a Shi'ite tribal chief who had lived in a harem, chaired the 1921 Comintern-sponsored "Anti-Imperialist Conference of the People of the East" in Baku. The theme of the Baku Conference, as it became known in later decades, was that the "People of the East" were fundamentally superior to those of the West, and that, through sheer demographic growth, they would impose the "world revolution."

What was meant at the time by "world revolution" was the establishment of Moscow as head of a Third Roman Empire. Specifically, the purpose of the Baku Conference was to set up an organizational structure for merging the ideologies of Pan-Slavism and Pan-Turkism, two belief structures created in the late 19th century as part of British and Russian efforts to carve up the Ottoman Empire.

Both ideologies were developed at the same time and had led to the creation of Pan-Arabism and Pan-Islamism, products of Propaganda-1 Freemasonic lodge member Jamaleddin al-Afghani through the Oriental Institute of St. Petersburg University. Afghani and one Prince Dedeyan also created a number of secret Armenian organizations, the forebears of today's terrorist Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia.

It is interesting to note that the "Islamic" revival inside Russia during that period never turned against the Russian government itself, but was instead exclusively directed at Constantinople, except for the brief period in 1905 when the Russian Orthodox Church itself turned against the Czar and enlisted the minorities to that end, spreading "Islamic socialism."

Baku itself was probably not attended by a single political leader of Lenin's pro-West, nation-building commitment, but rather was dominated by representatives of the nationalities and minorities from Russia's Central Asian region, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent, including Pan-Turkish leader Enver Pasha, a personal associate of the German von Sebottendorf, founder of the proto-Nazi Thule Society. Enver Pasha was a product of the Bektashi Dervish Sufi order, a crucial component of the Propaganda-1 lodge which built the Young Turk coup in 1908 in Turkey.

The Baku conference created the communist parties in the East; the Arab and Islamic movements in the region, which were all associated with the Freemasons; and later, the

Muslim Brotherhood and related pro-Nazi operations of Jerusalem Grand Mufti al-Husseini.

A "League of Oppressed People" created in Berlin by Karl Radek and monarchist-Marxist Graf Reventlow worked with the Swiss-based Freemasonic "Order of the Druids" which advocated autonomy for Europe's Celtic regions. Reventlow's wife led a anthroposophic center called the "Children of the Sun" in Ascona, Switzerland where Nazi Rudolf Hess, Anthroposophy founder Rudolph Steiner, and others of the same kind met. In Egypt, the league sponsored the creation of a communist party whose immediate deployment was to join with the National Grand Lodge of Egypt. The grand master of the Egyptian lodge, one Zaghlul, was the

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leader of Egypt's main party, the Wafd.

On the Arab side, Oppressed Peoples League member and Druze leader Shekib Arslan, of the same Arslan family working closely with Ariel Sharon today, created a Pan-Arab Congress (PAC) in Geneva in 1926, which organized the first Islamic congress of Europe in 1935, in preparation for the 1936 Comintern-sponsored Anti-Imperialist conference of Brussels. An umbrella organization, the PAC controlled the Syrian People's Party of Ma'arouf Dawalibi, a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and founder of the Islam and the West association. PAC also controls Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba's Ad Dastour party and Algeria's Popular Party of Messali al-Hadj. Most of these countries, at least from 1939 to 1942, joined operations with the Abwehr, the Nazi secret intelligence organization, and Grand Mufti Husseini.

In this same clique was an obscure Algerian named Ahmed Ben Bella, who was trained at the Abwehr Paris center at the Caserne Mortier before changing colors and joining the Allies. One of Ben Bella's supporters to this day is Sultan Galiev, a founding member of the Baku conference. The spirit of Baku is indeed alive and well.