

Genoud, the KGB, and the comeback of Carlos

by Thierry Lalevée

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, better known as Carlos, has been reactivated as part of the Soviet-controlled global terrorist onslaught. The Arab Armed Struggle organization, associated with Carlos since 1975, claimed responsibility on Jan. 2 for the bombings which struck on New Year's Eve in southern France and in Tripoli, Lebanon, where the French cultural center was destroyed. Bombings in the Marseilles railway station and in the Paris-Marseilles high-speed train claimed four dead. As Carlos's communiqué made clear, the bombings were not only a blow of revenge for French airforce bombings against Islamic terrorist bases at Baalbek, Lebanon, but for the Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist organization Islamic Jihad, which had warned that Dec. 31 was the "deadline for the peacekeeping forces to leave Lebanon."

Carlos had become famous when in 1974 he took over the French embassy in the Hague and in September 1975 held hostage the entire OPEC ministerial conference. In June 1975 in Paris, Carlos had killed two members of the DST, the French equivalent of the FBI, and Michel Moukarbal, a Lebanese who founded the "Arab Armed Struggle" organization in 1974 but was suspected of being an informant of the French police. With several million dollars of ransom money, Carlos disappeared into the Middle East for several years, reportedly staying in Libya; he is now said to live in Damascus.

Carlos and the Curiel network

Carlos is said to be nothing more than a mercenary who has now established his network as a sort of consultant firm, advising terrorist-sponsoring governments and organizations on how and where to strike. This is the role he plays with Iran and its terrorist offspring Islamic Jihad, which lacked the technical expertise and the means to deploy in southern France.

But Carlos the mercenary is Carlos the puppet. His name recalls two intertwined networks going back decades and deployed under control of the Soviet secret services: the network of Egyptian communist leader Henri Curiel, assassinated in 1978 in Paris, and that of Swiss Nazi banker François Genoud, a key go-between for Soviet intelligence and the Islamic fanatic groups he helps to finance.

Created in the mid-1950s around the Algerian war, what later became known as the Curiel network was an umbrella for terrorist groupings across Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Out of that network Carlos, whose father was

a dignitary of the Venezuelan Communist Party, emerged after being trained at Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow.

The communist Curiel had been in touch at least since the early 1950s with Nazi banker Genoud; after the death of Curiel, the leadership of the reorganized network was taken by Genoud's old friend Jacques Verges, currently the lawyer for SS criminal Klaus Barbie.

Verges has been dubbed by the French media "Carlos's lawyer" in reference to several court cases, including those of the terrorists Bruno Breguet and Magdalena Kaupp, arrested in February 1982 and defended by Carlos as "my friends." Indeed, the arrest of Breguet and Kaupp was one of the occasions when Carlos surfaced, warning the French interior minister that unless they were released, bombings would hit France. A day before their condemnation by a French court, a bomb exploded in the Rue Marbeuf in Paris, killing several people.

Both *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro* pointed out on Jan. 4 that before his arrest Breguet was Genoud's protégé. Another connection between Carlos, Verges, and Genoud emerged last November when Carlos sent a letter to West German Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann threatening him with assassination if Bonn persisted in the extradition procedures of Baader-Meinhof member Gruecher-Tindeman, now in jail in Switzerland. Tindeman's lawyer was M. Rambert, at the time accused of having facilitated a jailbreak by one of his clients. For his own defense, Rambert took Jacques Verges.

This month, the same day Carlos claimed responsibility for the New Year's Eve Marseilles bombings, the West German weekly *Der Spiegel* honored him with no less than three pages announcing such a comeback. *Spiegel* was better informed than others, and this may relate to the deals made with foreign terrorist organizations by certain West German authorities linked to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher—deals which allow the terrorists to use West Germany as a safehouse as long as they don't target German installations as such. Genscher is the head of the liberal Free Democratic Party, of which the publisher of *Spiegel* is a long-standing member.

It was from West Berlin than the "Arab Armed Struggle" organization telephoned Agence France Presse on Jan. 4 to flaunt their responsibility for the French bombings. Investigations show that Berlin has become a major center of the reorganized Curiel network, with links to Verges in France and Rambert in Switzerland, centered around Bruno Breguet's German girlfriend and such veterans of the Baader-Meinhof group as Thomas Reuter, arrested in 1976 in Kenya as he was about to fire a SAM missile against an El Al plane in an operation for Carlos's group.

To the Carlos network has been added the terrorist potential of the Islamic groups whose controllers in France, as a report from the French DST recently underlined, are located in the Iranian embassy in Paris, and the Iranian cultural center, which was finally shut down on Dec. 22. No less than 150 to 300 Iranians are potentially "operational" for terrorist activities in France, said the DST report.