

# Islamic terrorists threaten the West

by Jeffrey Steinberg

A U.S. consular official in Strasbourg, France and the French cultural attaché in Beirut were the targets of assassination attempts by Islamic terrorists on March 26 and 27. U.S. envoy Robert Homme and French attaché Sauveur Gliozzo both sustained multiple bullet wounds but survived. The Revolutionary Armed Lebanese Fraction (RALF) claimed credit for both shootings.

According to U.S. and French intelligence sources, RALF has been responsible for a half dozen assassinations of U.S., French, and Israeli diplomats in France, Italy, and the Middle East since 1981. The group, believed to be financed by the Iranian government with logistical backup from Syrian intelligence, is said to draw upon both Arab and Western European terrorist networks. One French source told *EIR* that the same networks were believed to have been behind the assassination February of Leamon Hunt, the U.S. head of the Sinai peacekeeping force and a top Middle East intelligence specialist.

The day of the hit attempt against Homme, a team of bank robbers claiming in a communiqué to be from the Italian Red Brigades, who are supplied with arms by the Libyans, robbed \$20 million from the Rome central offices of the Brinks Armored Car company.

## Damascus and its allies

This terrorist activity coincided with threats against the West by the Khomeini and Qaddafi regimes, just days after the Soviet Politburo's top "Arabist," Geydar Aliyev, completed an unusual week-long "working visit" to Syria (see Middle East Report, page 39). While Aliyev was in Damascus, U.S. embassy security officials there received warnings that Syria had dispatched a three-person hit squad composed of two Iranians and a Palestinian to Athens to assassinate the U.S. ambassador. A high-level security alert was called in the Greek capital and on Cyprus, where the terrorists were believed to be staging for the attack.

Other theatres of terrorism are being carefully monitored. On March 18, Iranian president Rafsanjani threatened to unleash chemical warfare against U.S. forces inside Lebanon. Under East German and North Korean supervision, Iran is known to be stockpiling vast amounts of deadly chemical weapons, and it is believed in U.S. and European intelligence

services that Khomeini may put these weapons in the hands of terrorist networks.

A bombing of the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, Jordan on March 26 is seen as the trigger for a terrorist activation aimed at the "Lebanization" of Jordan. Plans to assassinate King Hussein were, according to one Middle East source, a topic of discussion during Aliyev's visit to Damascus.

The Jordan situation has been further targeted by the fanatical Sharon-Eytan wing of Israeli intelligence—the "Terror Against Terror" unit responsible for recent terrorist attacks against Arabs inside Israel and the occupied West Bank. TNT is directed by Rafi Eytan directly from the office of Prime Minister Yitzak Shamir. Ariel Sharon and others hit the ceiling in February when the Reagan administration endorsed the arming of a Jordanian Rapid Deployment Force at the same time that King Hussein continued to house the moderate PLO leadership of Yasir Arafat.

According to an unconfirmed report, Sharon representatives recently huddled with KGB-linked oil magnate Armand Hammer to wrap up an Israeli-Soviet agreement encompassing the early elimination of King Hussein and the destabilization of Cyprus through radical Palestinian terrorist actions.

## Target North America

The most tempting target of the Moscow-Teheran-Tripoli axis is North America. From May through November 1984, there will be a World's Fair in New Orleans, the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the Democratic and Republican presidential conventions in San Francisco and Dallas, and tours of Canada by Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and Pope John Paul II.

While the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and its director, William Webster, continue to publicly downplay the magnitude of the terrorist danger, the Immigration and Naturalization Service reportedly issued an internal report the third week in March acknowledging that some 7,500 Iranians are "missing" inside the United States. Many of them were smuggled in during the Carter-Mondale administration and have established a terrorist interface with U.S. radical groups.

*EIR* has learned that on Feb. 15, a meeting in Teheran of the "Islamintern" Assembly of United Islamic Movements, the umbrella for Khomeini's international terrorist operations, was devoted almost exclusively to the plan for violence in North America. Reportedly, the Iranian embassy in Nicaragua has been designated as the command center for these plans. A terrorist training center just outside of Managua housing upwards of 1,000 Iranians, Libyans, Nicaraguans, and so forth, is believed to be the staging area for terrorist penetration of the United States from both Canada and Mexico.

Meanwhile, some U.S. law-enforcement agencies are investigating whether the United Freedom Front, the group responsible for recent bombings of the U.S. Capitol and at a half-dozen corporate offices in the United States, is financed and directed by Libya.