

Ben Bella's latest terrorist operations

by Thierry Lalevée

On Nov. 1, Algeria will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the bombings which launched its independence war in 1954. Most of those who participated died either in the war or in subsequent factional warfare. But one survivor, the exiled former President Ahmed Ben Bella, is not likely to be invited to these ceremonies; he is reported to be planning his own celebration, either by launching a symbolic wave of terrorism inside Algeria or by sabotaging the festivities among the large Algerian community in France. Ben Bella, who has been all but forgotten by modern Algerians, is now deployed as a tool of the Swiss-based Nazi controllers of international terrorism and their Nazi-Communist networks, which want an Islamic fundamentalist-dominated Maghreb.

Ben Bella and his Paris-based group have been trying to build up arms stocks. On Aug. 10, French customs officials discovered some 20 machine guns and hand guns in a Swiss car which was travelling through the Savoy region on its way to Lyon. Inside the car were two Frenchmen and one Swiss, Philippe Eichbrunner, who happened to be a former member of the "Service d'intervention rapide" of Geneva, a semi-official auxiliary police force in charge of protecting diplomats and high level visitors. Eichbrunner happened also to work for Ben Bella, the close friend of Swiss Nazi François Genoud. In subsequent investigations, four more Frenchmen and two Swiss were arrested in Geneva; Eichbrunner was smoothly extradited to Lausanne, and then no further reports were published.

Though it has not been proven that the weapons were being smuggled on behalf of Ben Bella's newly created Algerian Democratic Movement (ADM), the suspicion lingers. The ADM was created in May in a Paris suburb as the "Algerian section of a new Arabo-Islamic international," whose aim is to overthrow a dozen governments, including the present regime in Algeria. Ben Bella and his movement have been implicated in at least three other instances of arms smuggling during the past year and a half.

It began in January 1983, when the French police raided Ben Bella's residence in the city of Montmorency close to Paris, and discovered an arsenal which included several weapons from Libya. One hand gun came from a lot which had been used two years earlier in an assassination attempt in London. It was also discovered that one of Ben Bella's bodyguards had been involved in June 1982 in a major robbery and had been underground ever since. After these discoveries, Ben Bella was declared *persona non grata* in France,

and sought exile in Switzerland under the sponsorship of Genoud and company.

Then on Aug. 16, 1983, four Algerians were arrested at the Franco-Belgian border while driving two cars fully loaded with rifles, hand guns, and ammunition. The arrest of the leader of the group, Abdel Wahab Ben Chenouf, who was working for Ben Bella, led directly to a successful crackdown against the network within Algeria. Then in May 1984, an Iranian, a Moroccan, and an Algerian named Yahya Gouasmi were arrested in the city of Dunkirk in France, and charged with plotting the assassination of anti-Khomeini Iranians in France and smuggling arms between France and Belgium. Yahya Gouasmi, as it turned out, served as a liaison between Ben Bella's ADM and certain Iranian operations.

Ben Bella's protectors

Though many of the weapons discovered were intended for use directly inside France, their main purpose was to supply a "resistance movement" in Algeria, which is actually a small group of isolated would-be terrorists. With 5-7,000 people traveling back and forth daily between France and Algeria, more weapons can reach Algeria from France than from anywhere else.

Furthermore, there is little doubt that Ben Bella's ADM receives protection from the apparatus of the French Socialist Party which is fundamentally pro-Libyan, and likes to play the Ben Bella card to pressure Algiers. Then there is the Communist Party—Moscow is displeased by Algeria's pro-Western turn. Thus known associates of Ben Bella like Saad Absy, his former secretary when he was president, or Mohammed Bakhouri, who lives in a suburb of Paris, have been regularly interrogated by the police, then set free, not because of lack of evidence against them, but because of high-level political protection.

It was due to such sponsorship, which reaches high into the l'Elysée Palace, to the circles around presidential adviser Regis Debray, that Ben Bella was allowed to come clandestinely to France in the weeks preceding the founding conference of the ADM. In the subsequent period, the ADM concentrated on building its apparatus within France, and has now consolidated a structure which even includes a counter-intelligence department, led by Mohammed Yadi, a former director of Algeria's National Sureté under Ben Bella. Based in Rome where he maintains liaison with both the Libyan and Iranian embassies, Yadi is the logistical coordinator of the ADM's arms network, which reaches from Belgium and Switzerland into France and Spain. One of Yadi's assistants is said to be the same Boukhari mentioned above, who is close to Iranians who are otherwise connected to the French terrorist group Action Directe. There is growing evidence that Action Directe, the Iranians, and the ADM are sharing the same arms smuggling ring, run from Belgium. When the facts of this are made known, they will create quite a scandal for those French political circles who are deliberately playing with fire.