

West Germany's Kohl government faces explosion of Soviet-sponsored terrorism

by Paolo Serri

It is the estimate of this publication that Moscow and its Western friends do not intend to allow the Kohl government of West Germany to survive beyond this coming spring. The clearest indication of this is the wave of terrorist atrocities now escalating in both frequency and choice of targets in the nation of West Germany, by East-bloc-controlled terrorist organizations.

Ernst Zimmermann, an important West German industrialist, was brutally murdered the morning of Feb. 1 in Munich by two members of the Red Army Faction (RAF). It is the first major political assassination in Germany since 1977, when State Attorney Bubak, banker Jürgen Ponto, and industrialist Hans Martin Schleyer were killed. A nationally known figure, Zimmermann was a member of the board of the important arms-related industry MTU involved in the production of airplanes and tanks engines. Apparently, he had no police protection, although his name was reportedly found on an RAF hit list months ago in Frankfurt.

On Friday evening, Jan. 25, a three-man terrorist unit waited for French Gen. René Audran in front of his house near Paris, and a professional killer, with cold precision, unloaded his .45 pistol into the general. This dramatic event struck France with horror. Audran was the most important French victim yet.

Only few hours later, terrorists operating with military-style coordination destroyed a gigantic high-voltage tower in the village of Krümmel north of Hamburg in West Germany. Military explosives were placed at the four pillar bases of the electric tower and simultaneously detonated, collapsing the tower which destroyed two smaller ones in its fall.

The latter action was immediately defended by West Germany's neo-Nazi Green Party. Thomas Wüppesahl, the leader of the Green Party section in region where the Krümmel plant is located, said on television news that although he was against violence "personally." Wüppesahl continued: "I feel compelled to state clearly that it seems quite appropriate that such actions occur at this time, because this seems to bear the only chance for resuming the political discussion on nuclear energy."

Early the following Monday, Jan. 28, three mortar grenades were fired against some six of the NATO fleet harbored in the port of Lisbon, Portugal. Fortunately, no ship was hit.

Then, on Feb. 1, a West German army barracks in Portugal (the only one abroad) was attacked with bombs by a terrorist group, probably the same.

The current terror wave revolves around the hunger strike begun Dec. 4 by some 30 left terrorists of the RAF (formerly Baader-Meinhof gang) held in West German prisons. The strike has provided the ideological justification for all the major incidents since mid-December, which in Germany alone number over 50—more than 20 against American targets—committed in "solidarity" with the hunger strike.

On Jan. 31, two German papers received an RAF letter warning of the "execution" of 10 West German personalities as soon the first RAF hunger striker dies in jail. The RAF hit list includes: Chancellor Helmut Kohl, ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, as well as a former federal attorney, a former interior minister, a judge, leaders of political parties, and intelligence and law enforcement figures. The RAF letter also threatens the interior ministers of the states where the prisons are located.

Confidential German sources report the situation of one of the RAF leaders, Christian Klar, as extremely critical and "irreversible." His and others' deaths can be expected any day.

Meanwhile, the Paris offices of the French and West German press agencies received a document written in perfect German and flawed French claiming responsibility for the Audran murder, signed by the RAF and France's Direct Action. The document expresses a "criticism" of past terrorist activities, saying the terrorists were too "Third Worldist," and stating that now the primary target is NATO, the French-German axis in particular—breaking up which is the stated aim of Soviet policy.

Target: Bonn-Paris cooperation

General Audran, the director of the weapons department in the French Defense Ministry and a personal friend of Defense Minister Charles Hernu, was in Bonn the day before his death for talks with his German counterparts and his subordinates at the "technical mission for armaments," attached to the French Embassy. This mission in Bonn was bombed on Dec. 31, 1984, just one month ago, and the hit was claimed by the RAF.

According to press reports, Audran's assassination, the first committed by Direct Action which, "might spread to other military targets" following the Italian Red Brigades' or German RAF's *modus operandi*. The French secret services fear possible attacks on "pilots of the [nuclear] Mirage IV bombers, officers of the five nuclear submarines, and men on duty at the Plateau d'Albion, where France has its base for the atomic missiles."

On Jan. 29, the German daily *Die Welt* reported that in "France people pay a lot of attention to the fact that allegedly a list was found in West Germany with 91 personalities, including French ones, who at the death of one of the hunger strikers will be 'executed.'" The next day, West German papers reported on threatening letters sent by the "RAF Commando Knut Volkert" (one of the hunger strikers) against the Christian Democratic prime minister and interior minister of the state of Lower Saxony.

The Islamic Threat

Working in tandem with the European terrorist groups, Islamic fanatics have reiterated their threats against various Western governments. On Jan. 27 the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Fraction (FARL), which has a history of joint ventures with Direct Action, warned of reprisals against the French and Italian government if three of its members recently arrested in France and Italy were not immediately released. The same day, Belgian Interior Minister Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb confirmed to the press that the previous week a document had been found in Beirut, listing some 20 targets in Brussels, including the American, British, French, Israeli, and Iraqi embassies. It was signed by the Islamic Jihad—the group responsible for the massacres of American and French troops in Lebanon.

U.S. and other intelligence sources have reported that the Iranians are involved directly with European groups. The Iranian embassy in Brussels, a key center for Iranian terrorism, saw its influence increase last year when French security expelled or put under tight surveillance several of the Iranian "diplomatic corps" in Paris.

The Italian daily *La Repubblica* wrote on Jan. 29 that "many of the pistols and submachineguns found in the past in Direct Action safehouses originate from the same British merchant who supplies Libyan embassies in Europe."

Mitterrand government complicit?

As several commentators have noted, Audran's murder puts in a very dubious light the government and presidency of François Mitterrand, who has maintained a shocking silence after the death of this top military officer. The appeasement and even complicity of the regime on the terrorist question, transforming Paris into a sanctuary for international terrorists, is becoming the final element in discrediting the Socialist government.

Returning from an official U.S. visit, Italian Defense

Minister Giovanni Spadolini said on Jan. 28 that "the terrorism multinational has its base in Paris and is in a position to launch attempts against both personalities and institutions of the Atlantic alliance in Europe." Protesting the French government's refusal to extradite hundreds of wanted Italian terrorists living in Paris, Spadolini blasted the false concept of the "right to asylum, anachronistic as well as self-destructive, which ignores the huge suffering endured by Italy" from terrorism.

The Soviet hand

One of the most significant comments in Europe on the possible international "stringpullers" of the current terror wave came from the Italian Christian Democracy's daily, *Il Popolo*, which on Jan. 29 wrote that "Europe is at the center of a destabilization chain. Here there is the design of the Moscow rulers aimed at making Europe, if not neutral, at least less bound to the solidarity links with the American ally. . . . From left to right, terrorism is once again used in a political function as a master key to break democracy from some of its fundamental roots in the Western world. . . . Direct Action and the RAF probably are not simple tools of the KGB, but the documents speak clearly and state that the red thread between Moscow and all subversive movements in the West . . . was always present. Similarly for our Red Brigades, who often found refuge and 'comfort' in the countries of 'real socialism.'"

Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, in Brussels at the end of January to meet with Interior Minister Nothomb, asserted the same: "The new terrorism has an international center. The question 'cui bono?' has a very clear answer. Who would profit from the assassination of the Pope? Surely the interests behind terrorism belong to one camp rather than another. This is a modern way of conducting a war." Scalfaro and Nothomb discussed a European-wide coordination against "the international war of terrorism."

Soviet involvement in the recent wave of anti-American terror attempts in Europe was also indicated on Jan. 31 by Stefano Silvestri, head of the Italian Institute for International Affairs, who wrote in the economic daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* that the recent terrorist acts "brought to light a network of contacts between left-wing and right-wing groups, normal criminals and, probably, some secret services of the East."

The new terror movement, he explains, does not attack both imperialisms, but "has made a choice" and has recruited the "most violent factions of the peace movement." This is proven not only by the targets they chose in Belgium, West Germany, France, and Italy, but also by the fact that the joint document signed by the terrorists of the RAF in Germany and of Direct Action in France states that NATO is involved "in preparing a war against the East bloc countries." The present terrorist movement is "de-ideologized, well trained, well funded, and unscrupulous in choosing its allies," Silvestri wrote.