

# Iran-Nicaragua axis plots terror spree

by Thierry Lalevée

President Reagan, speaking at the White House on Jan. 24, denounced the new Iranian-Nicaraguan relationship which recently emerged during the visit to Managua of Iran's Prime Minister Hussein Moussavi. Dismissed by the media as just another administration attack on the Sandinista regime, the real point was missed. Moussavi's visit had everything to do with the terror wave now hitting Europe and threatening to spill over into the United States.

The usually boastful Iranian media was itself quite mute on the visit, describing its purpose as the strengthening of commercial ties between the two countries—no word on why a prime minister would be dispatched for such a routine job. Even less was said about Moussavi's earlier stop in Havana. And when, upon Moussavi's return, the foreign ministers of Libya, Syria, and Iran conferred in Teheran on Jan. 27 to upgrade their "coordination in the fight against the United States," no connection was generally perceived.

Yet according to European-based intelligence sources who carefully monitored the course of these events, the conferences in Managua, Havana, and Teheran aimed at improving intelligence and terrorist coordination, so as to be able to strike in Europe and the Middle East as well as in the Western hemisphere.

Several regional and national conferences of the Iranian, Libyan, and Syrian intelligence services over recent months paved the way for this consolidation. As early as the last week of November, Syrian President Hafez al Assad had convened a security conference with intelligence head Gen. Ali Duba, Air Force intelligence chief Gen. Mohammed el Khouri, and Syria's "Gromyko," Abdelhalim Khaddam, giving them a six-months deadline to eliminate the "American agents" of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Yasser Arafat personally. At the same time, Libya's Muammar Qaddafi was presiding over a similar conference of Palestinian "rejectionists" of the PFLP-General Command of Ahmed Jibril. By late December, the Jibril group had assassinated PLO leader Fahd Qawasmeh in Amman, and by mid-January, Jibril's operations, under the leadership of Ali Duba, were upgraded by the creation of a 150-man-strong command squad.

But the terror squads sent to North Africa or, more recently, to Europe, have not had Palestinians loyal to Arafat as their sole targets. Syrian commandos entering Britain, France, or especially West Germany in recent weeks are reported to have played a key role in fostering the Direct Action and Red Army Faction terrorists. Meanwhile, reports from Libya indicate that Qaddafi is not satisfied with the use of Middle Eastern terrorists, and has begun to recruit former European mercenaries and members of extreme right-wing fascist groups with military experience for operations in Europe and the United States.

## Cuba, East Germany, and the Soviet Union

The terrorist deployments directly serve Moscow's current strategic demands. This is the key to Moussavi's Central American journey, which occurred while Iranian Foreign Minister Sheikh Hussein Islamzadeh was meeting in Damascus on Jan. 21 with Akal Valimov of the Supreme Soviet.

Iranian-Nicaraguan relations have been developing for some time; in 1975, Iranian Islamic guerrillas were being trained under the sponsorship of the Sandinistas. According to intelligence sources, Nicaragua today harbors several permanent intelligence and military bases of the Islamic Amal of Hussein Moussavi, as well of the Party of God (Hezbollahi) fanatics—organizations credited with organizing the numerous kamikaze operations against American forces in Lebanon. Khomeini's current moves in Nicaragua have nothing to do with his wish to convert the entire world to his version of Islam. Nicaragua is a key intelligence base from which to monitor the United States, and infiltrate commandos northward. Among the many Iranians to visit Nicaragua recently have been Mohsen Rezai, commander in chief of the Pasdarans (Revolutionary Guards), and Pasdarans Minister Rafiq-Dust.

It was following Moussavi's visit to Cuba that intelligence experts in Europe began noticing a more active role played by Cuban intelligence, the DGI, as well as some of the Cuban embassies in Europe, in directly supplying Syrian or European terrorists with sophisticated weapons. Between Havana, Moscow, and East Berlin, a new division of labor was worked out, to organize an explosion of European, Middle Eastern, and Islamic terrorism.

It may be that for the first time, Moscow and East Berlin have given the green light to the mullahs to hit Europe or the United States with kamikaze operations of the kind perpetrated in Lebanon. Reports have reached the West of new operational groups being formed within Iran and in Lebanon, under the command of Hussein Moussavi. Khomeini himself warned in a speech on Feb. 2 that "when the people throughout the world see that the Americans have built defense systems around the White House to protect it against terrorists actions which they say would be coming from Iran, then the people witness the real power and strength of Iran and of Islam!" He called on all "Muslim religious leaders to lead the fight against the great powers" and their junior partners.