

As revealed in *Le Point* in early March, it is directly from Damascus that the violent “support committees” for the jailed members of the Red Army Faction have been steered. Under the leadership of a West Berlin lawyer who has been coordinating the pro-RAF support work in West Germany, as well as in France for the Direct Action terrorists, a major terror action is planned for West Germany, with the aim of forcing the release of the RAF members.

The kidnaping of a leading political personality, or a mass-terror operation aimed at forcing Bonn to back down to the RAF, could be on the agenda. These were talked about at the meeting this same lawyer held in Damascus with intelligence personnel and is known to have continued on his way back to West Berlin, in East Berlin, with representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine of Assad’s ally George Habash. As exposed by the daily *Die Welt*, it was a meeting of Syrian and PFLP intelligence officers held in East Berlin in early January which had decided on the January terror wave.

The role of the PFLP, an integral part of Syria’s intelligence apparatus, was also exposed at the end of last month in Paris during the trial of ASALA terrorists Waroujan Garbidian, Ohannes Semerci, and Soner Nayir, who were condemned to life imprisonment and 15 and 10 years in jail, respectively, for the July 1983 Orly terror bombing. Found in the Armenians’ apartment were numerous false passports as well as two actual passports given to them by the PFLP and Syrian intelligence. The last belonged to two members of the neo-Nazi terrorist group *Hoffmann Wehrsportgruppe*, Uwe Mainka and Udo Albrecht, who had been trained in 1980 in Lebanon by the PFLP. Udo Albrecht, as the weekly *l’Express* reported, is an internationally wanted terrorist who is known to live quietly in a city where such warrants have no effect—East Berlin.

Weapons bought in Austria in 1975 by the Bulgarian drugs-for-arms company, Kintex, were also found in the apartment of these same Armenians!

The very same combination was found in a more active operation recently as Luxembourg police arrested last Feb. 24 an Albanian intelligence service agent preparing a series of terror bombings against the NAMSA NATO firm in Luxembourg. Holder of a false Yugoslav passport, the Albanian worked together with some members of the European terror groups, Direct Action (France), the West German RAF, and the Belgium Communist Combatant Cells who succeeded in escaping after having stolen more than 347 kg of explosives from a nearby company.

The arrest of the Albanian proved the case of the direct involvement of East bloc intelligence services in European terrorism, but also brought to light the strange role played by Albania with East bloc intelligence as well as its longstanding relationship with Mideast terrorism. The flow of Iranian and Syrian delegates in recent years to Albania should remind us that Albania’s capital, Tirana, actually means “Little Teheran”—and was purposely named so.

France

Fight surfaces over beam-weapon defense

by Laurent Rosenfeld

In the Paris daily *Le Figaro* of Feb. 22, General Etienne Copel, former deputy chief of staff of the French Air Force, published a vigorous defense of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, taking open issue with the official stance of the French government.

Less than two weeks later, on March 6 *Le Monde*, the other major Paris daily, ran a front-page analysis over the pen name “Hoplites,” by a top-ranking active-duty general. He called for full mobilization of the nation’s resources for a French Strategic Defense Initiative.

Copel and “Hoplites” are only two of several voices in France, particularly among high-ranking military leaders and strategists, which have started publicly contesting the Mitterrand regime’s policy of parroting the Soviet line on “Star Wars.” Officially, the Mitterrand government claims that President Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative would trigger a new arms race in space—precisely the lying Moscow line.

This pathetic policy was put out early last month in Munich, at the same Wehrkunde (military strategy) meeting of Feb. 9-10 where West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had announced that his country was firmly on board with the SDI. There, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu announced, “France wants space to remain peaceful.” Many French political and military figures share his attitude: not so much out of concern for peace in space, as from fear of seeing France’s nuclear forces, its *force de frappe*, become obsolete—fear of seeing France unable to retain its traditional “strategic independence,” or keep up with the high rate of progress the SDI implies.

But two months ago, Jean-François Revel, a journalist connected to important political-strategic circles, wrote an article calling on Europe to keep up with the new military, scientific, and industrial challenges posed by the SDI. After Revel wrote, other articles began to appear which, if not always well informed, created intense debate on the subject.

The French government reacted with self-serving comments—“The SDI is not going to work before 20 or 30 years anyway; we have time to think about it”—and with, at least officially, a policy of “hardening” French missiles to try to preserve the kill capability of the *force de frappe*. But several

military spokesman warned against the "Maginot Line" obsolescence of rejecting changes in strategic doctrine which are inevitable.

Copel: Europe must not block SDI

In his Feb. 22 piece, Copel attacked the French specialists who try to "keep alive the outmoded dogma" of nuclear deterrence. Copel, who resigned last year over disagreements on defense policy, recalled how the same genre of specialist claimed, in 1940, that the Maginot Line would be invulnerable for decades; in 1945, that the U.S.S.R. would not be able to build nuclear weapons for 20 years; and, in the late 1950s, that, though it was possible to launch objects into outer space, to do so would be so costly that only America would ever be able to manage it—and that not before many years had passed.

General Copel wrote that although it is not yet possible to draw up a precise schedule for actual deployment of anti-missile defense systems, still, it is ridiculous to claim nothing will be done before the year 2010. "The U.S. program is launched, and well launched," said the General. "President Reagan's will to succeed is identical to Kennedy's will to send a man to the Moon within 10 years, and the difficulties are no greater."

Copel refuted the claim that the SDI might "decouple" Europe from an SDI-protected "Fortress America." He asserted, "The American will to defend Europe seems indisputable." If the United States feels itself to be protected, it can reinforce its determination to defend Europe.

He remarked that those who attack anti-missile weapons oppose only the U.S. program; they seem to forget Soviet efforts—which began much earlier and thus were the first program to "militarize space." He concluded, "Instead of trying to block the U.S., Europe should do its best to assist them."

A few days later, in a column in *Le Monde*, strategist and ambassador François de Rose warned the West against giving into Soviet propaganda aimed at the SDI. Rather than endlessly discuss the alleged risks of decoupling, Western Europeans "should discuss practical problems. . . . That is how at least a partial protection against missiles could apply to Europe. . . . Progress cannot be stopped. And if these technologies have a future, anti-missile technologies will be born, whether we like it or not. Instead of trying to [stop it], Europeans should study, among themselves and with the Americans, how their labs can participate in that research and their factories in that production."

Then, on March 2, Prof. Joseph Rovon, a prominent Paris-based specialist in German language and civilization, wrote a commentary in *Le Monde* which he titled "Star Peace," opposing that conception to the standard "Star Wars" propaganda against the SDI. Showing that the Europeans have no way to stop President Reagan's commitment to develop these technologies, Rovon amassed arguments in favor of European participation.

The "Hoplites" article, by a prominent active-duty general, followed four days later in *Le Monde*. "In the last three months," the general wrote, "the French have finally started to discover the implications of President Reagan's March 23, 1983 SDI. . . . In keeping with their habits, the Kremlin immediately resorted to the delaying maneuvers that had worked so well against the 'neutron bomb,' which was the best way of sending the Warsaw Pact's armor to the junk-heap before it could even move. Today, the aim is the same: Preserve the Soviet stockpile of strategic missiles. . . . But Reagan's SDI will result in a reduction of the threat against Western cities and military forces. . . ."

"Hoplites" continued: "In the last 20 years, nuclear deterrence had given us a convenient intellectual comfort. . . . Space war will compel us to review concepts, programs, and forces. We can already observe the damage provoked by a mixture of fear and intellectual myopia. . . ." Quoting a 1930s popular tune which symbolized the defeatism of pre-war France, the general added, "The Manhattan Project . . . demonstrated the American capacity to meet a challenge. So did Kennedy's decision to put a man on the Moon. . . . Any delay, any time-lag today will weigh heavily in the scales 20 years hence. . . ."

Disarmament will mean nothing, and "if we wait to see what comes out of future talks on space arms control, we will lose another five years and the door opening into the technologies of the future will irretrievably shut right on our nose. . . . Rather than risking a nuclear exchange, should we not have means to protect four or five of our major cities and mobilize our nuclear arsenal? As for any innovation, the first steps and the research are costly. It is now that we must mobilize our capabilities to think, to innovate, and our intelligence service, to keep up in the space war. Europe will follow, if France, Britain, West Germany do not give up. . . ."

"Hoplites" ended with a proposal: "The Atomic Energy Commission fulfilled its task. Today we need a Space Technology Commission. Tomorrow, power and autonomy will be based on our mastery of space technologies: telecommunications, intelligence, and defense. We have already been too tardy. Compared to the Russians and the Americans, we are but turtles: We must get moving today."

As for political circles, the only party that has endorsed the SDI is the Parti Ouvrier Européen (POE), which is based on the ideas of American economist Lyndon LaRouche. Indeed, the POE launched the debate on the SDI. LaRouche is known as an intellectual author of the program.

Recently, Marie-France Garaud, a politician of the Heritage Foundation stripe, has endorsed a strange mix of SDI and the absurd High Frontier program. Beyond that, only the RPR, the Gaullist party, is cautiously trying to evaluate the merits of the SDI. François Fillon, a young RPR deputy and defense specialist, has been assigned by the party to review French military doctrines, sorting out those which might turn out to be obsolete. Its military links eventually should push the RPR to endorse the SDI.