

The TWA hijacking: Can Reagan break the syndrome?

by Paul Goldstein

The hijacking of Trans World Airlines Flight 847 by the members of the Islamic Amal militia and the murder of four U.S. Marines in El Salvador are part of a well-orchestrated global terrorist campaign launched by the Soviet secret intelligence service, the KGB, the Khomeini regime, and the Soviets' chief Middle East surrogate and ally, Hafez Assad's Syria.

The primary strategic objective of this operation is the breaking of the political will and popular mandate of President Reagan and the demoralization of the American population in the face of evident impotence. It is Moscow's conscious intent to "Carterize" President Reagan into accepting a "political deal" with Moscow, based upon the back-channel negotiating positions developed by NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. These positions include "negotiating away" the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI).

Testing the U.S. command

Ever since the Korean Airliner 007 incident on Sept. 1, 1982, Soviet intelligence has been creating crises, and then monitoring the political and psychological profile of the United States command under crisis conditions. Each time the Soviets have tested the U.S. command, including the Major Nicholson shooting in East Germany, Moscow's conclusions have led them to initiate another action, escalating their psychological warfare and provocations, which in turn increases the pressure upon President Reagan.

As long as the State Department "appeaser" faction has the upper-hand, along with National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane, in directing the President's actions, the Soviets believe that they can continue to escalate without incurring

much risk that the United States will actually retaliate in appropriate fashion—with strikes at Moscow's key flanks.

Each time, of course, the situation eventually "calms down." But if the Reagan administration continues to act on such a profile—believing that "waiting it out" will solve the crisis, it will be accepting a very dangerous situation.

In fact, the only way to stop Soviet escalations is as *EIR* Contributing Editor Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. has recommended: The President must call a national defense emergency, and use his powers as Commander-in-Chief for national security purposes, including the creation of a top-down counter-terror apparatus that includes the military, intelligence community, and law-enforcement agencies.

Although the President has directed Vice-President Bush to set up a new study to prepare for such an option, the critical problem remains: Immediate response capabilities and pre-emptive actions are "only an option."

As LaRouche has pointed out the Soviet economic mobilization for war and their global campaign against the United States will force the crisis upon the United States over the coming weeks. Unless the United States's means for handling these attacks are formally established now, Moscow will be able to maximize the advantage they gain, using terrorist operations to the fullest.

According to high-level U.S. intelligence sources, the next series of moves by Moscow, should the United States not act decisively, will include not only escalating their Syrian intelligence-controlled Shi'ite murderers' conduct of surrogate terrorist warfare, but will move to a confrontation with the West over West Berlin, by as early as September.

Moscow's calculations for this confrontation are based upon the fact that the U.S. intelligence community and mil-

itary are in a weakened position. With the aid of the British and the Sharon faction of Israeli intelligence, Moscow believes it can shift "the correlation of forces" against the United States.

Sharon's invasion

The Israeli position in the whole hostage matter, and Israel's decision, at this point, not to release the Shi'ite Al Amal prisoners as demanded by the hijackers for the release of the Americans on the TWA flight, can only be understood in the context of former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's June 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Sharon's strategic madness, of course, was based upon a deal between the Syrian dictator Hafez Assad and Israel, to partition Lebanon into Syrian and Israeli camps.

But this, in turn, is based upon a broader Israeli deal with the Soviet Union, which the Sharon group views as the increasingly dominant factor in the Middle East.

According to Israeli sources, Sharon is reportedly pleased with the predicament of the United States, stating that it completely justifies his invasion of Lebanon in the first place.

However, according to a leak appearing in a nationally syndicated column by Evans and Novak, Israel is worried that a U.S. counter-strike could upset their deal with the Shi'ite Amal. The column, entitled, "Big Talk, Little Clout," states:

"Retaliation by the United States might also damage Israel's scheme for an allinace with (Nabih) Berri's Amal as the safest way to seal its northern borders against hostile attack froms Palestinian and Shi'ite extremists. When they entered Lebanon, Israeli troops were greeted with flowers by a passive Shi'ite population terrified by the marauding guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organization."

The shift by the Amal against the Israeli invaders, which was due to a deliberate Israeli policy of radicalizing the more moderate Amal, coupled with well planned and coordinated Iranian and Syrian operations against U.S. intelligence capabilities in Lebanon, made possible the establishment of terrorist operations in the Baalbeck/Bekaa Valley area of Lebanon.

According to a U.S. intelligence source, 10 years ago, U.S. intelligence had at least 200 agents on the ground reporting on each faction and militia organization operating in Lebanon. By June 1982, at the time of the Israeli invasion, U.S. intelligence had approximately 60 operatives. After the Israeli invasion, the blowing up of the U.S. embassy in which the CIA director for Mideast affairs was killed, and the killing of 241 Marines in October 1983, U.S. intelligence capabilities were practically reduced to nil.

This dismal state of affairs is one of the primary reasons that terrorist operations against the United States have been successful in the region, and that Israel has not been forthcoming in aiding the United States in the hostage crisis.

The KGB, Syria, and Greece

The immediate operational team which carried out the hijacking in Athens, Greece was under the control of a split-off faction of the Lebanon-based Shi'ite militias of Al Amal, the "Islamic Amal," under the direction of pro-Iranian Shi'ite, Hussein Mousavi.

According, to high-level U.S. intelligence sources, one of the terrorists from this group spoke German, indicating a potential East German link.

Moreover, the operation at the airport in Athens was under the control of the ministry of the interior, headed by a man who is a known collaborator of the KGB.

The weapons for the operation were placed on board the plane before the terrorists boarded. They knew in advance which passengers were U.S. military personnel. The hijackers took off for Beirut where Nabih Berri's group, along with other Shi'ite militias, commandeered the airport and took over the hijacking. Once in Beirut, Robert Stethem, from the elite Navy Seals commando unit, was beaten, shot between the eyes, and dumped out on the tarmac.

During the unfolding drama, the elite U.S. counter-terror unit, Delta Force, was dispatched to the region, but its whereabouts were reported prior to its landing in the Middle East.

The blowing of the cover of Delta Force was carried out by the U.S. news media.

More importantly, the KGB and GRU were conducting regular intercepts of U.S. communications traffic and then tipping off the terrorists to each and every move the United States was undertaking. The conduit for the intelligence was the Syrians.

The result is now upon us: a crisis reminiscent of the hostage crisis in Iran during the Carter administration.

The next phase

From all indications, the immediate next phase of Moscow's terrorist gameplan is to target the United States itself. As *EIR* has been reporting, there exists in the United States a terrorist infrastructure which can be activated at a moment's notice. This apparatus of Shi'ite, Libyan, and anti-Arafat Palestinians are in place for assassination operations as well as operations designed to produce chaos. Nearly 300 Shi'ite terrorists are presently in the United States, and are now under the direction of Ayatollah Mahalati, a newly arrived Ayatollah who was deployed into the United States by Khomeini.

With the blind terrorist bombing at Frankfurt International Airport on June 19, the enemies of Western civilization have embarked on a campaign ultimately analogous to Ghengis Khan's invasion of Europe. The White House is absolutely correct to call the terrorism wave an attack on Western civilization by barbarians. But unless the President makes a dramatic move against the barbarian tide, Ronald Reagan may be "the last President of these United States."