

Report from Madrid by Leonardo Servadio

Libyan terror opens election season

It will be hard to stop the drug traffic and terrorism without defeating a certain Libya-linked financial nexus.

A powerful 20-kilo bomb, placed in a car parked on Principe de Vergara street in downtown Madrid, went off as a bus carrying police of the Civil Guard passed by on Friday morning, April 25. On board were nine Civil Guards, who had been picked up at the U.S. and Italian embassies after their night patrol. Five died at once, and three were hospitalized in critical condition. As in the Dec. 20, 1973, assassination of Adm. Carrero Blanco, the bomb was triggered with a remote-control mechanism.

The newspapers reported that a few days before the massacre, the police secret service had reported that the Basque separatist gang ETA was planning a terrorist hit in that area of Madrid against military targets. Hence, accepted wisdom here is that the bombing was a purely internal affair, long in the planning, and probably linked to the upcoming election—as per ETA's tradition of making its electoral statements with bombs. But the fact that the Civil Guard bus took the same route every day at the same hour, raises questions on the credibility of the alleged warning.

In reality, there is a Libyan-supported terror wave throughout Europe against American targets, and those Civil Guards were coming from duty at the U.S. embassy. Credit for the bomb was claimed by an anonymous caller to the daily ABC, the night of the attack. A male voice with Arab accent said: "All means, of communication as well as of other kinds, which support the assassin campaign of Reagan in Central America, Libya,

etc., will bear the consequences of their stand. This morning we took an action. We are watching various Americans who hide in the center of Madrid. They will suffer the same consequences." The executors of the terror attack may be ETA members, but the actions of ETA are run from outside Spain, by the strategic command allegedly hiding in France, a member of ETA arrested late in April confessed.

On April 27, Ilturbe Abasolo "Txomin," described as ETA's top leader, was arrested in Hendaye, on the French side of the Basque region. Amazingly, the Spanish government has not demanded Abasolo's extradition, even though ETA had claimed responsibility for murdering five Civil Guards.

The day of the attack, the foreign ministry had announced the decision to expel 11 Libyans: 1 diplomat, 2 embassy employees, 3 students, and 5 professors. Foreign Minister Barionuevo declared that there is proof of the connections between Spanish terrorists and Libya. Among those expelled, the "diplomat," Ramadam Mohamed Ruheim, had been implicated in attempts to disrupt an EIR-sponsored public conference in Madrid, together with elements of the ultra-left-wing party PASOC, a party which sources describe as Libyan-funded. It is likely that the PASOC is not the only "leftist" party financed by Libya, which seems to have had a role in favoring the whole coalition, which at the time of the referendum on Spain's participation in NATO, fought

to take Spain out of NATO.

The parties of the anti-NATO coalition have now created an electoral pact for the political elections next June 22. The bloc will include the Spanish Communist Party, which the ultra-pro-Russian elements around Gen. Enrique Lister joined in late April; the PASOC; the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain; the Progressive Federation, and others. The Progressive Federation is the equivalent of the Green Party in West Germany.

The tight links between these parties and the Libyans are underlined by the fact that writer Gala, who headed the anti-NATO coalition in the referendum, is president of the Hispano-Arab Friendship Association, where Libyan money plays an important role. Libya's investments in Spain are massive. Seventy percent of the Banco Atlantico, one of the biggest in Spain, and once of the big Rumasa holding company, was sold cheap by the Spanish government to the Arab Banking Corporation, while 5% went to the Banco Arabe Español, controlled by the Libyan-Arab Foreign Bank. On the board of Banco Atlantico and the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank sit Abdullah Saudi, Qaddafi's renowned financial *factotum*, and Salem Zenaty, director of Aresbank in Spain. Aresbank helps fund Gala's Hispano-Arabic group.

In 1982, Rumasa was declared bankrupt by Finance Minister Boyer, a member of the Socialist Party and the Trilateral Commission, and, with a swift and very unusual operation, nationalized and re-sold in a few months to other private interests. Some say that the sale of Banco Atlantico and Galerías Preciadas, two of Rumasa's many subsidiaries, to Libyan and drug-related interests, has something to do with the financial operations that are behind the ruling Socialist Party of Premier Felipe González.