

the heels of the June celebrations of the Millennium of the Russian Church, marked a new high point in the rising tide of Russian nationalism.

Crucial passages of Ligachov's speech dealing with this matter were never reported in the West, even though they could be read in the pages of *Pravda*. Using the language of Stalin, Ligachov denounced the liberals, such as ousted Moscow party chief Boris Yeltsin, for giving aid "to the enemy abroad," denounced the *glasnost* campaign in the Soviet media for portraying only the negative features of the Stalin era, telling the delegates that in the 1930s and 1940s "what heroic things our people did, despite the cult of personality." Most significant of all, Ligachov announced his endorsement of the conference speech given by Yuri Bondarev, head of the Russian Republic Writers Union, and an ultra-chauvinist.

Bondarev's speech, reprinted in *Pravda*, was a harangue against the *glasnost* euphoria in the Soviet press, which is "demolishing, destroying, and tearing down into latrine holes everything that lived before, the past, our national things that are sacred; the country's sacrifices for the Fatherland War, our cultural traditions, effacing from consciousness the people's memory, faith, and hope. This press is erecting an ugly monument to our ignorance . . . which is going to be remembered in shame and damnation. . . . What had been called 'Fatherland' and 'Patriotism' now call forth invective, and today are called 'chauvinism' and 'the Black Hundreds.'" This was followed by a litany of examples of what one hears today from Soviet media representatives, whom, using the same term as the Russian chauvinist Pamyat Society, he denounced as "extremists."

"When I read in our press that the Russians never had any territory of their own, that veterans of labor and the war are emerging as 'potential enemies of *perestroika*.' . . . When I hear that such magazines as *Nash Sovremenik* and *Molodaya Gvardiya* [two Russian chauvinist and anti-Semitic monthlies] are promoting hatred . . . that stability is the 'worst thing that can exist (so, they mean that the healthy thing is to break down the economy and culture into chaos). . . . When I read that 'fascism appeared first in Russia at the beginning of this century' and not in Italy, and when I hear that [Nazi collaborator] General Vlasov 'fought against Stalin' and not against the Soviet people, [this signifies] emptying the souls of our youth with anarchy and empty sensations, foreign fashions, and cheap demagogical games." *Pravda* reported that these remarks were received with "thunderous applause."

Bondarev praised as shining examples for the youth the "village prose" Russian nationalist writers, naming Valentin Rasputin, and also *Molodaya Gvardiya's* chief editor, Anatoli Ivanov, and the Pamyat-member icon painter, Ilya Glazunov. This trend-setting speech, which stopped just short of endorsing Pamyat by name, never made it into the Western media's censorship of the Soviet media's censorship of the closed conference.

Eastern Mediterranean region on fire

by Thierry Lalevée

The July 11 terrorist bloodbath aboard the Greek *City of Poros* cruiser, which killed nine and left dozens badly wounded, is a very serious warning that not only Greece, but the entire Eastern Mediterranean region, has been targeted for immediate destabilization.

The atrocity followed a June 18 assassination attempt against Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Özal, and the June 28 assassination of the local representative of the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, Capt. William Nordeen, in Athens by the "November 17" organization.

Since the beginning of the year, Greece has witnessed dozens of violent terrorist actions, starting with a failed Jan. 21 attempt to assassinate the representative of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, George Caros, also claimed by "November 17." This was followed on March 1 by the assassination of a leading industrialist, Alexandros Aphanassiatis, a series of bombings of U.S. servicemen's night clubs, and the sabotage of Turkish diplomatic cars, among others.

As of this writing, the terrorist spree has been claimed by a variety of organizations, from the ubiquitous "Islamic Jihad," which promised "more to come," to the shadowy "Organization of Palestinian Martyrs," which claimed to have hit U.S. servicemen and "Zionist spies." The situation became even more confused when Washington said it thought that "any Iranian connection was unlikely." Clearly, Washington doesn't want anything to spoil its negotiations with Teheran. Instead, the State Department suggested that the terrorists may have wanted to take some hostages to secure the release of one Muhammad Rashid, arrested in Athens on May 30, who went on trial on July 13. Then, it was said that Washington considered the Abu Nidal track plausible, or even blamed the shadowy "Colonel Hawary."

Hence, so far there is neither a clearly defined claim, nor any serious explanation of the aim of the atrocity. More mysterious still is the fact that two accomplices of the terrorists died a few hours before, when their car blew up. Was it an accident, or were they killed preemptively? By whom?

Pending further clarification, the Greek authorities should concentrate on the obvious, that the operation had no other aim than to provoke a bloodbath for its own sake. They can also concentrate on the networks that are known to be active within Greece as logistical support. This especially includes the Libyan's People's Bureau.

A few days before the attack, *EIR's Middle East Insider*

newsletter had published the names of Libyan intelligence officers known to have arrived in Athens on July 1 to link up with "November 17." *MEI*'s revelations made the front page of many Greek daily newspapers on July 13 and July 14, but drew a terse "no comment" from Greek authorities. The reason may be that to mention and investigate such links lies at the crux of Greece's current political quandary.

In exchange for the support given by the Libyans to Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou's PASOK party, then called PAK, against the ruling military junta in the 1970s, Libya was given *carte blanche* inside Greece as soon as PASOK came to power in 1981. Since then, the Libyans have been able to develop a large local infrastructures and have penetrated many government institutions. Though there is no evidence that Libyan agents participated in the terrorist action, they undoubtedly supplied the terrorists with money and explosives.

Though seemingly preponderant, the Middle Eastern connection to the *City of Poros* terror action, is actually secondary. If the action had no other purpose than to provoke a bloodbath, it thus served to send a political warning to the Greek leadership. From whom, and why?

Part of the explanation is to be found in the recent reconciliation between Greece and Turkey, a reconciliation which is largely a result of the personalities of Papandreou and Özal

and their influence on each other. They have come a long way from the spring of 1987 when, after a few incidents in the Aegean sea, the two countries seemed set on a military confrontation. Several initiatives by Özal defused the situation. In January of this year came the first meeting between the two, under the auspices of the Davos Economic Forum in Switzerland. In May, the Turkish foreign minister visited Greece, and Özal himself visited on June 13, the first visit by a Turkish prime minister in 36 years.

From the beginning, many saw in this reconciliation a trend whereby Turkey would follow Greece toward greater strategic neutrality—that the Eastern Mediterranean would be sliding out of the NATO alliance. Moscow and the Warsaw Pact countries could not but encourage such a trend. But in the final event, Özal's loyalty to the West won the day. Turkey's commitment to regional defense has not been weakened, and Greece, too, is still within NATO.

Even the July 13 official notification to Washington that it has 17 months to evacuate its Greek bases after next January, cannot be considered a Greek break from NATO. The American-Greek Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA) expires on Dec. 31, and both sides had agreed that if no new agreement were reached by July 31, 1988, the agreement should formally be declared null and void.

In fact, Athens' official notification to Washington also stipulated that a new agreement still may be negotiated by the end of July, and that even after Dec. 31, Athens will be willing to go on negotiating.

What this posture indicates, is the complex political position of Papandreou, who has to face parliamentary elections next year. In both 1981 and 1985, he was elected on a program which called for an American withdrawal. He has to keep that position. But at the same time, he has realized that to win next year's elections, he will have to adopt a more conservative profile. Özal's influence has been important in that context. Papandreou also considers an agreement with Turkey over Cyprus definitely more important than the U.S. bases:

Hence, while no fundamental change in the U.S. status in Greece will be occurring, formally, the negotiations will be suspended for now to satisfy the voting base of the PASOK. But new negotiations can be expected after the election.

This does not please either the the Soviet Union or the Soviets' friends in Greece, with whom Papandreou has been trying to break. Even long-standing opponents of Papandreou have recently stressed that the reconciliation with Turkey has had a positive effect on him, and that they consider his new anti-terrorism as "genuinely serious."

In the same way that Turgut Özal almost paid for his successes in Greece with his life on June 18, Papandreou has become a target of networks which, using the Middle East connection, and even closer to Greece, the Bulgarian connection, are clearly deployed by Moscow.

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