

State Department permits Islamic terrorist conference in St. Louis

by Scott Thompson

Over Labor Day weekend Sept. 2-5, the newly formed Islamic Trend of North America sponsored an international gathering of Islamic fundamentalists and allied terrorist ideologues in St. Louis, Missouri. The participants discussed how to turn Jerusalem into the flashpoint for a *jihad* (holy war), that would mobilize the entire Arab world against Israel. U.S. intelligence sources report that it was the Khomeini regime of Iran that funded the conference, to the tune of \$500,000.

How could such a gathering occur? Who let the terrorists into the country?

The meeting signifies that certain sections of the U.S. intelligence community and the State Department are prepared to embark, for the second time in a decade, on a suicidal program of support for an "Islamic fundamentalism card." This was the policy of the Jimmy Carter administration, continued by Project Democracy's secret government apparatus through the "Irangate" deals with Ayatollah Khomeini.

When *EIR* queried the State Department's Office to Combat Terrorism about responsibility for the St. Louis meeting, we were told, "We cannot monitor every conference, and we are not in charge of visas." While U.S. consulates did deny visas to two of the most notorious terrorists invited to speak at the conference, the U.S. embassy in London reportedly functioned as a funnel for others to enter the United States. American intelligence sources report that the fact the conference took place with so little government interference is a sign of attempts by the State Department to "normalize" relations with Iran, following the Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

It was just such a policy under the Carter administration, when National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski sought to play the "fundamentalist card," that led officials of the National Security Council and State Department to become implicated in the fundamentalist plot to topple the Shah of Iran, then one of America's closest allies in the Middle East. The taking hostage of American embassy personnel in Tehran was only one of many acts of war committed by the Islamic fundamentalists, once they seized power with the Carter administration's covert support.

Historically, there have been close ties between the president of Islamic Trend, Mohammed Al-Asi, and the Washington, D.C. station chief of the Iranian intelligence service (Savama), Bahram Nahidian. Al-Asi and Nahidian have been linked to the terrorist activities of the pro-Khomeini Muslim Student Association—activities which included the forcible

takeover of the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C. in 1980-82 and the alleged role of Nahidian as the unindicted Savama field coordinator of the assassination on July 22, 1980 of Ali Akbar Tabatabai, head of the anti-Khomeini Islamic Freedom Foundation.

'Jerusalem will explode'

After the St. Louis conference, Islamic Trend President Al-Asi told a reporter, "Jerusalem is going to explode. It is not just the Israelis who can carry out violence around the holy sites there. They will be met with strong resistance."

Al-Asi was speaking in reference to the Temple Mount plot, first exposed in *EIR* (see "The Solomon's Temple project: pagan crusade against Israel," May 22, 1984). Jewish fundamentalists covertly tied to Israeli strongman Gen. Ariel Sharon, the current minister of trade and industry, have plotted to blow up the Al-Aqsa (Dome of the Rock) mosque, the third most holy site in Islam, located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. In its place, the Temple Mount crazies, in league with certain U.S. Protestant fundamentalist sects, have already drafted the plans for rebuilding Solomon's Temple, in fulfillment of a fundamentalist interpretation of biblical prophecy. Temple Mount terrorists include units of Jewish Defense League founder Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party, who have already been caught by Arab guards carrying explosives to Temple Mount.

Moderate Israeli leaders fear that should the Temple Mount fanatics succeed in carrying out this plot, it will indeed set Jerusalem on fire, as Mohammed Al-Asi predicts.

The Islamic Trend conference in St. Louis discussed precisely how to use this issue for proclaiming a *jihad* of all Muslim states against Israel. U.S. intelligence sources have identified how Jewish fundamentalists and their Islamic counterparts, who have sought to infiltrate and control the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, actually make strange bedfellows in a plot to turn Jerusalem into a flashpoint, blocking the peaceful solution sought by moderates on both sides of the conflict.

Who's who at St. Louis meeting

The speakers list at the Islamic Trend conference included the following notables:

- **Hoca Jamal Al-Din Kaplan:** As Mufti of Adana, Turkey, Kaplan was implicated in the terrorism which led to civil war in that country and forced a military takeover in

1980. Today he resides in exile in West Germany, where he is director of the terrorist-linked Islamic Center of Cologne.

- **Sheikh As'ad Al-Tamimi:** This former imam of the Dome of the Rock Mosque has been expelled from Jerusalem for his inflammatory sermons, and today resides in Amman, Jordan.

- **Roger Garaudy:** a former French Communist who converted to Islam.

- **Kalim Siddique:** a Pakistani fundamentalist who runs the Muslim Institute in London, which had several members at the conference.

- **Ibrahim Salah:** one of several members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt who attended the conference. The Muslim Brotherhood has been repeatedly outlawed in that country, because of its plots to destabilize the Egyptian government. Salah is believed to have KGB ties.

- **Husein Ashur:** publisher and editor of *al-Mukhtar al-Islami*, a monthly magazine affiliated with al-Jihad, the terrorist wing of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood that was implicated in the assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

- **Hamid Algar:** a British Sufi teaching at the University of California at Berkeley, who recently returned from an Aug. 8-10 conference in Teheran, where he sought to swing Iranian support for Gov. Michael Dukakis. (See *EIR*, Sept. 9, 1988, "Iran's 'Class of '79' boosts Mike Dukakis.")

- **Abdul Alim Musa:** a Black Muslim who is imam of the al-Islam Mosque in Oakland, California, and is known for his ties to the terrorist Muslim Student Association.

- **Al-Habib al-Mukni:** affiliated with the terrorist Islamic Tendency Movement in Tunisia, but he currently resides in France, because he is wanted for murder in his home country.

- **Kusay Fahmi:** This associate of the Iraqi Muslim Brotherhood currently resides in Sydney, Australia, because he was sentenced to death *in absentia* by the Iraqi government.

Return of Bahram Nahidian

EIR's investigations show that the creation of the "new" Islamic Trend of North America organization, is simply a resurfacing of the U.S.-based Islamic fundamentalist terrorist networks from the period of the Carter administration.

Islamic Trend President Al-Asi is the imam for Washington Savama station chief Bahram Nahidian. Together, they took over and occupied the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., which is run by a board of the ambassadors of 29 Muslim countries. They clashed with the Saudi ambassador to the United States in particular, because of his country's moderate, pro-Western orientation. While Al-Asi proclaimed himself imam "by consensus of the people" during the takeover of the Islamic Center, Nahidian was a member of the 10-person Council of Guidance behind Al-Asi. Nahidian was then not only Savama station chief, but also an official of the terrorist Muslim Student Association, which

was involved in violent clashes with police over the Islamic Center.

While both Al-Asi and Nahidian were convicted on charges of "unlawful entry" for their 1984 return to the Islamic Center, Nahidian has successfully eluded prosecution for his suspected role as the field coordinator in the assassination of anti-Khomeini Iranian exile leader Ali Akbar Tabatabai. The actual murder was carried out by Nahidian's personal bodyguard, David Belfield (a.k.a. Daoud Sallahuddin, an American Black Muslim recruited by Nahidian from D.C.

A conference of Islamic fundamentalist terrorists takes place in the United States, funded to the tune of \$500,000 by Ayatollah Khomeini. And the State Department looks the other way. What's going on?

jails), who shot Tabatabai three times in the chest at point-blank range.

The alleged money bags behind the Tabatabai assassination was Savama agent Cyrus Hashemi, who later emerged as a primary figure in a major Iranian arms deal after he unsuccessfully sued *EIR* in 1980 for charging that he was an arms merchant for Iran. Hashemi's activities further came to light during the Reagan administration's "Irangate" scandal, after his death, under mysterious circumstances, in July 1986. Well-informed sources reported that Hashemi was the pass-through for Iranian funds to Nahidian for his terrorist operations in Washington, D.C.

During Hashemi's lawsuit against *EIR*, investigators discovered through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) filings that Nahidian, though known to the CIA to be a Savama agent and terrorist, was under high-level protection of the Carter administration. This protection was nominally extended to Nahidian, who was thereby given a license to kill within the United States, so as not to endanger President Carter's secret deals with the Khomeini regime over the release of U.S. hostages. FOIA documents also showed that the man with specific responsibility for quashing *EIR's* investigation of Nahidian's terrorist links was then-Assistant FBI Director Oliver "Buck" Revell, who has since been promoted to the post of deputy director. The record shows that Revell not only covered up *EIR's* charges, but opened up a federal investigation of at least one *EIR* investigator involved in the case.