

## Chronology of the new 'strategy of tension'

*The terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City on Feb. 26 appears to have launched a new "strategy of tension" against the United States, Lyndon LaRouche has warned (see article, page 70). What follows is a chronology of some other terrorist incidents since January, which may possibly be related.*

**Jan. 24:** Investigative journalist Ugur Mumcu of the newspaper *Cumhuriyet* is killed by a car-bomb in Ankara, Turkey. The killing is claimed by at least two previously unknown Islamic groups. Some 500,000 people at funeral blame Iran for killing, but Turkish sources say it was done by the U.S., acting through Iran, with Israeli help. Mumcu was a specialist on Mehmet Ali Agca's assassination attempt on the pope in 1981, which he claimed was a joint U.S.-Soviet operation. At the time of his death, Mumcu was investigating ties between the terrorist PKK (Kurdish Workers Party) and the CIA.

**Jan. 25:** Apparently random killings outside the entrance of the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The FBI later names Mir Aimal Kansi, and he is charged with capital murder. Kansi was a legal Pakistani immigrant whom the FBI claimed had ties neither with the CIA nor with any terrorist group, although he worked for a courier service which was exclusively responsible for deliveries to the CIA. Kansi, who reportedly fled to Pakistan, has not been located. According to a Virginia prosecutor, Kansi told his roommate the week before that he was going to "make a big statement" by shooting up the CIA, the White House, or the Israeli embassy, in protest against the treatment of Muslims in Bosnia.

**Feb. 13:** Algerian Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar narrowly escapes assassination in a suburb of Algiers, when a bomb hidden in a van exploded as his convoy passed by. No one is hurt by the blast, but the bomb destroys several cars parked nearby. Nezzar is often depicted as the most powerful figure in Algeria; the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), while not claiming credit for the attempt, says the attempt reflected popular will.

**Feb. 17:** Gen. Esret Bitlis, commander of the Turkish Interior Ministry's 120,000-strong paramilitary gendarmerie, dies

in an air crash, which the military later claims is not sabotage. Bitlis was the mastermind of the effort to wipe out the terrorist PKK; his gendarmerie formally oversees all armed actions against the PKK. In what may be a related development, 18 PKK and Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) tunneled their way out of the maximum security Nevsehir prison that week. One of the escapees is Mursel Goleli, the head of Dev-Sol.

**Feb. 23:** U.S. Army helicopter crashes at Wiesbaden Air Base in Germany, killing four soldiers, including deputy commander of the Fifth Corps based in Frankfurt, Maj. Gen. Jarret J. Robertson; Assistant Fifth Corps Chief of Staff G-3 for Operations Coliam J. Densberger; and Fifth Corps Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 for Intelligence Col. Robert J. Kelly. The group was returning from Stuttgart, where they were attending a meeting at the headquarters of the U.S. European Command.

The Fifth Corps is the operational command for the largest body of American troops in Germany and would most likely be involved in any military operations in the Balkans. Although the U.S. Army press spokesman called the meeting in Stuttgart "routine," any military planning involving the Fifth Corps would take place at the U.S. European Command and would involve at least the deputy commander and his operations and intelligence officers.

**Feb. 24:** Michael Bernard Shields of Virginia Beach, Virginia is arrested by federal agents, after he tells Secret Service agents that he intends to assassinate President Clinton and other prominent figures. Shields is the president of Firearms International, Inc., in Norfolk, Va. He was a weapons supplier for Joseph Dougherty, an associate of the National Alliance, a white supremacist group. The case against Shields emerged in the course of an investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms into gun running.

**Feb. 26:** World Trade Center in New York City is bombed.

**Feb. 26:** An explosion rips through a crowded coffee shop in central Cairo, Egypt, and kills two foreigners. Police report the bomb was made out of TNT packed in a bottle. The bombing is the most serious terrorist attack in Cairo for many years. Police and hospital sources say 20 people are injured: 12 Egyptians, two Americans, two Somalis, a Canadian, a Saudi, a Turk, and a Frenchman. The Interior Ministry later claims, without providing evidence, that the bombing was done by the El Gama el Islamiya, the "Islamic Group."

**Feb. 28:** Unidentified attackers set off bombs against Education Ministry offices in France. Explosion in Toulouse destroys three offices, damages cars, and shatters windows not far from the headquarters of an Army paratroop division specializing in overseas missions. In Aix-en-Provence, bomb causes slight damage.