

South America's Iguazú park: a training site for terrorists?

by Cynthia R. Rush

In response to questions asked him in the Israeli Knesset on Nov. 23, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur affirmed that members of the pro-Iranian Lebanese group Hezbollah have training camps in the trinational region on the borders of Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. The territory on the Brazilian and Argentine sides of the border encompasses national parks associated with the internationally renowned Iguazú Falls. Officially there is no park on the Paraguayan side, although a number of smaller reserves and protected areas are located there.

When parliamentarians asked Gur about several reports that had appeared in the Israeli press on this subject, Gur responded, "We know there are Hezbollah elements who train in using weapons and raise funds in that region." Gur, a member of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's Labor Party who served previously as a leader in the Peace Now movement, also reported that just a week earlier, Argentine President Carlos Saúl Menem had placed security forces on alert after receiving intelligence reports on the presence of Hezbollah forces on the Paraguayan-Brazilian border.

This was the second time since August that Argentine security forces had been placed on alert, following the July 18 bombing of the Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) in Buenos Aires, in which 100 people were killed. Numerous foreign intelligence analysts pinned the blame for that attack on Hezbollah and identified the Paraguay-Brazil-Argentine border region as the operational base from which the terrorists were deployed. Subsequently, reports appeared in the international media referring to the trinational region as a possible staging ground for terrorist activity.

Many have attempted to use this situation to bring grist to their particular mill. For example, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) used the AMIA bombing to intensify its destabilization of Argentina and to cover up the controlling hand of foreign intelligence behind the bombing and its aftermath. Their specific goal was to paint Islam and "Islamic fundamentalism" as the enemy image, and to further their efforts to sabotage the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process. In the months following the bombing, one ADL agent after another descended on Buenos Aires to attack the Menem government for inaction, suggest that it had Nazis ensconced

in positions of power, and demand that it allow foreign intelligence services to run the investigation into the bombing.

The hand of British perfidy

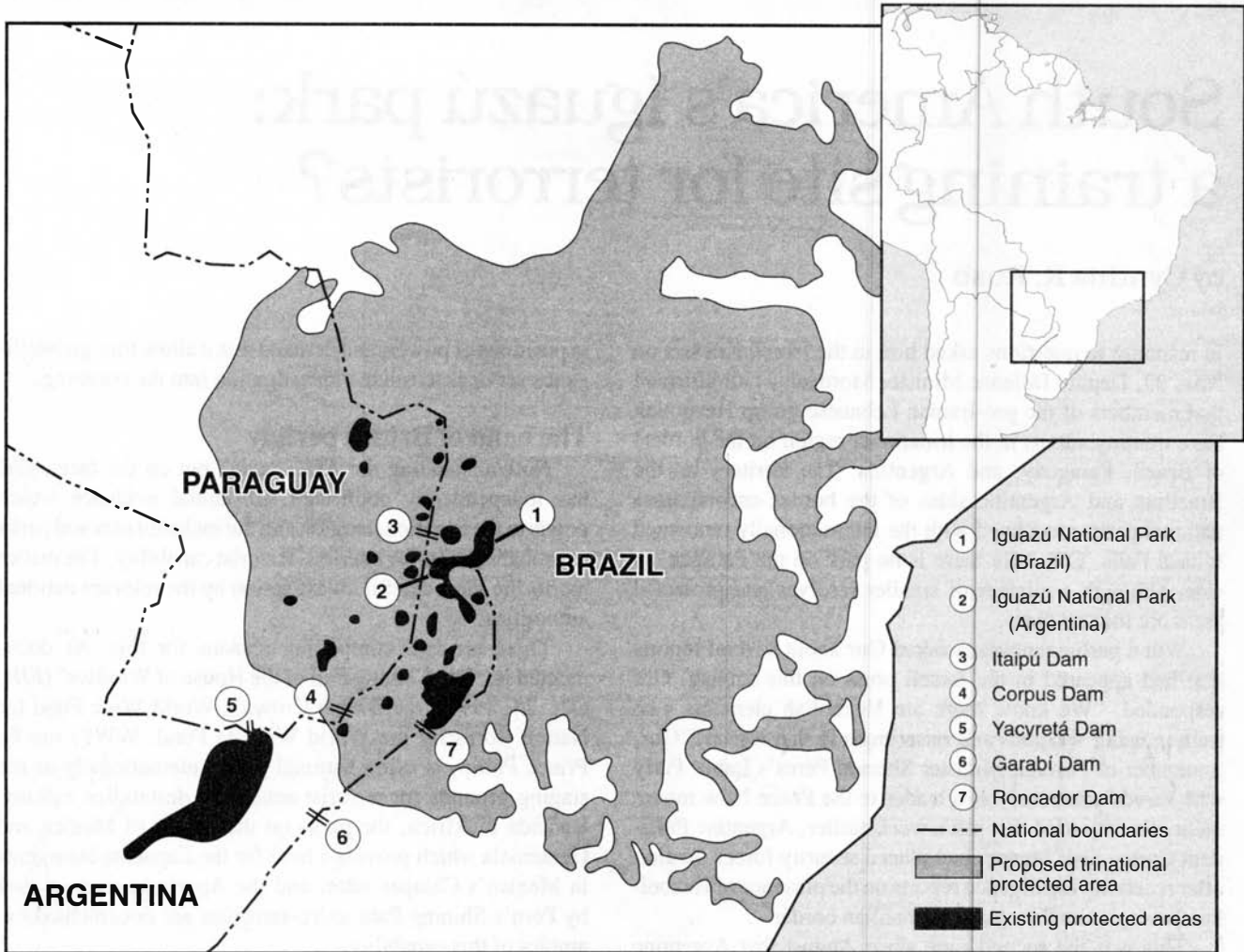
Notwithstanding the ADL "spin" put on the facts, *EIR* has independently confirmed substantial evidence which points to the trinational region and the included national parks as probable bases for a serious terrorist capability. The matter merits the most careful investigation by the relevant national authorities.

There are two compelling reasons for this. As documented in "The Coming Fall of the House of Windsor" (*EIR*, Oct. 28, 1994), the British Crown's World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly the World Wildlife Fund, WWF) run by Prince Philip, is using national parks internationally as the staging grounds for terrorist actions to destabilize nations. Rwanda in Africa, the parks on the border of Mexico and Guatemala which provide a base for the Zapatista insurgents in Mexico's Chiapas state, and the Apurimac reserve used by Peru's Shining Path narco-terrorists are documented examples of this capability.

Second, British intelligence has this year strengthened its foothold in Argentina, with ominous implications for the rest of the region. In March, Hugo Anzorreguy, director of Argentina's state intelligence service SIDE, signed an agreement in London which states that agents of the British intelligence agencies MI-5 and MI-6 will train SIDE agents in "intelligence analysis." Military sources have told *EIR* that unless they receive this training, SIDE agents will not even be promoted. In London, Anzorreguy met with MI-5 director Colin McCall and MI-6 director Stella Remington; shortly afterwards, David Spedding, MI-6's new director, traveled to Buenos Aires for a three-day visit. Spedding, an Arabist who spent several years in the Mideast, had also been stationed in Chile in the early 1970s.

Nor should the role of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence service, be overlooked. Shortly after the AMIA bombing, President Menem succumbed to international pressure and gave the Mossad carte blanche in running the investigation. This eliminated any role for Argentina's Armed Forces or other security forces, in complete violation of national

Iguazú trinational protected areas



sovereignty. Mossad agents swarmed over the bombing site in the days following July 18, and in an act deemed particularly offensive to Argentines, hoisted the Israeli flag over it.

A no man's land

Protected areas and established national parks in the trinational region are indicated on the accompanying map. However, the WWF and affiliated ecological groups and non-governmental organizations are demanding that the entire area of what is known as the Paraná jungle in all three countries, the shaded area on the map, be designated a protected area. This is a region of more than 1 million square kilometers, larger than the nation of Venezuela and almost the size of Bolivia. It is largely uninhabited, already a kind of no man's land characterized by the absence of any state regulation, as well as huge contraband and other

illicit activities—precisely the conditions attractive to terrorists.

If the WWF gets its way and this expanded protected area is established, it will be the largest in the world, by far.

Several eyewitnesses have reported to *EIR* that the immediate border region encompassing the Brazilian city of Foz do Iguazú, Paraguay's Ciudad del Este, and Argentina's Puerto Iguazú (indicated with black dots on the map) is something like the "Wild West." One experienced observer noted that the area is so completely uncontrolled and the site of every conceivable kind of illegal activity, that its use as a base for terrorist operations cannot be ruled out, and would pass largely undetected.

For example, trucks enter Ciudad del Este illegally from Brazil, carrying goods which are then sold by Korean, Chinese, and Arab merchants to whoever will buy them. Virtual-

ly any kind of sophisticated weaponry can be purchased in the city. Nor is there any control over the flow of people into the region. On Nov. 25, the Argentine daily *La Nación* reported that sales revenues in Ciudad del Este alone are in the millions, and that robbery, murder, weapons and drug trafficking, prostitution, and illegal gambling are the order of the day. Local police don't even try to halt these activities.

On the Argentine side of the border, there is also a large flow of people and goods. According to *La Nación*, two Paraguayan congressmen recently charged that a large quantity of containers travel by railroad between the Paraguayan city of Encarnación and the Argentine city of Posadas; the containers are "pre-packaged in the country of origin" with weapons intended for the Southern Cone's black market. *La Nación's* investigative reporter asserted that this weapons business is run by mafia groups inside Paraguay with connections into both Brazil and Argentina. Most recently, he said, the Bulgarian mafia has also been working the route between Encarnación and Ciudad del Este.

In the middle of this frenetic contraband of every sort, sits one of the world's most famous tourist attractions: the gigantic Iguazú Falls on the river of the same name, which at that point forms the border between Argentina and Brazil. Tens of thousands of tourists visit the falls year-round; there are regular flights in and out of a local airport, and foreigners are commonplace in the area.

It's not surprising that in July of this year, a large casino, partially owned by the British firm Universal Casino Consultants, was set up in Iguazú on the trinational border. The other owners are the Malaysian firm Berjaya, involved in real estate operations, casinos, and hotels internationally, and the U.S. firm Mirage Resorts, whose owner, Stephen Wynn, is the boyfriend of Duchess Sarah of York, estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew. Casinos are a notorious vehicle for laundering large sums of money, and the Iguazú area has been additionally targeted by many dubious Arab "businessmen" seeking to build hotels, casinos, and other tourist attractions in the region.

What is Steve Emerson doing in Buenos Aires?

Steve Emerson, a former congressional staffer who later went to work for *U.S. News and World Report* and Cable News Network (CNN), is now a "freelance" writer and TV documentary producer, who has carved out a public image as an expert on Islamic terrorism. As we go to press, he is in Buenos Aires, Argentina, along with the FBI's former deputy director Oliver "Buck" Revell, organizing a Dec. 12-14 conference that will accuse the Menem government of allowing Islamic terrorists to build a base of operations and failing to take adequate measures to catch the terrorists who blew up the Argentine-Israelite Mutual Association in July.

Recently, public television in the United States aired a documentary written, produced, and directed by Emerson, charging that the United States has been harboring Islamic terrorists. That documentary, like most of Emerson's work, relied heavily on Revell.

Argentines should be wary. During the U.S. congressional investigations in the 1970s into illegal activities by the CIA and FBI, one of the most alarming crimes to come to light was the two agencies' widespread use of journalists as covert propagandists. Emerson and Revell speak for the intelligence community faction that wishes

to tar all Muslims with the image of anti-western fanatics and killers.

According to several of Emerson's colleagues, there have been persistent rumors that Emerson was spying for the Likud regime in Israel during the 1980s. "There, but for fortune, goes Jonathan Jay Pollard," remarked one former colleague, when asked to describe Emerson's rise. A second investigative writer went so far as to claim that Emerson had been caught stealing classified documents while working on Capitol Hill, and had been given the choice between a long jail term or collusion with the FBI.

One sure sign that Emerson is not to be trusted is his intimate link to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, a group that was exposed in 1993 for running a nationwide spy operation targeting tens of thousands of American political activists. Among the priority targets of the ADL spy operation were Arab-Americans, American Jews backing the Middle East peace process, civil rights activists, and associates of political economist Lyndon LaRouche. Some of the police and FBI documents that the ADL illegally obtained were sold or passed on to South African and Israeli intelligence, and from there to the KGB.

In October 1993, Emerson was a featured speaker at a conference in New York City sponsored by the ADL's Klinghoffer Foundation. His speech on the growing threat of "Islamic terrorism" concluded with a call for a change in U.S. law to permit a revival of Cointelpro and similar programs, which enabled the FBI (and its surrogates in the ADL) to conduct "dirty tricks" against American citizens on an unprecedented scale.

Infrastructure a target

As indicated on the map, the other feature of the trinational region is the existence of several crucial infrastructure projects, most of them multinational dams. Among the major existing projects are:

- Itaipú Dam, built by Paraguay and Brazil on the border between them on the Paraná River, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world;
- Corpus Dam, also on the Paraná where it divides Argentina and Paraguay;
- Yacyretá Dam, downriver from Corpus, also on the Argentine-Paraguayan border; and
- Garabí and Roncador dams on the Uruguay River on the Argentine-Brazilian border.

These projects are prime targets for sabotage by terrorists. The Buenos Aires daily *Clarín* on Nov. 21 reported that the Argentine government had recommended to the Paraguayan government that the two sign an agreement to prevent sabotage or terrorist attacks on the Yacyretá hydroelectric project. Within two years, the 20 turbines of the project will be fully operational, and it will generate over 40% of Argentina's electricity. A high-level official of the Argentine Foreign Ministry told *Clarín* that since there are Hezbollah forces reportedly in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay and Foz do Iguazú, Brazil, "without stationing troops or affecting sovereignty, we seek greater guarantees," as both cities are close to Yacyretá. In response to this report, the Lebanese ambassador in Asunción, Nazir Ahmad Chamass, denied that any Lebanese group was planning terrorist attacks on the hydroelectric dam.

Given the character of the trinational region, the WWF's efforts to transform the entire Paraná jungle into a protected area, as outlined in the 1993 report by the WWF's Argentine branch, Fundación Vida Silvestre, should be a red flag for serious investigators. Under the guise of promoting "integrationist policies" to protect flora and fauna, the WWF's designation of several potential multinational protected zones is minimally a pretext for chopping up existing nation-states and eliminating sovereignty.

That same point was made by Juan Carlos Chebes, formerly an adviser to the Argentine presidency from the National System of Protected Areas. In an interview published in the December 1993 supplement of *Sos Vida* magazine, Chebes explained that the creation of Argentina's national parks in the last century "was seen as a means of defending sovereignty in remote areas of our national territory." However, today, he said, the opportunity exists to create "a network of twin reserves which integrate different nations on behalf of a single conservationist objective." Chebes recommended that the Argentine Armed Forces, which now control several of the country's parks, hand the parks over to the National Park Service and function only as environmental custodians of the parks. This would suit any terrorists just fine.

Britain's 'Islamic' wave of terrorism

by Joseph Brewda

The British government is dead-set against the peace process unleashed by the September 1993 signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization peace accords. Britain has blocked economic development credits to the Occupied Territories, and is trying to provoke a civil war between the PLO and Hamas. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are currently high on a British hit-list.

This is the context in which to situate Israeli Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur's remarks on the Hezbollah (Party of God) base in the tri-border Iguazú park region in South America. Although it might also be used to destabilize the region itself, the base is part of a British-directed international capability.

Who runs Mideast terrorism?

In early 1982, the British government and its collaborators within the Reagan administration had decided that a new Mideast war was necessary. Then-Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon was detailed to Washington at that time to meet with Secretary of State Alexander Haig, to finalize plans for an Israeli invasion of Lebanon. But a pretext had to be found.

On June 3, assassins of Abu Nidal's Palestinian terrorist organization shot Israeli diplomat Shlomo Argov in London. The next day, Sharon led the invasion of Lebanon that had been formally agreed to six months earlier. Through the years, Abu Nidal, whose father had been a close collaborator of the British and Zionists, has killed more PLO officials than the Israelis have. In 1983, his network killed Issam Sartawi, a top PLO official who was advocating a peace agreement with Israel along the lines negotiated in 1993.

The Hezbollah of Lebanon has the same profile as Abu Nidal's organization. Its militarily senseless shelling of northern Israel from positions in southern Lebanon has provided the convenient pretext for numerous Israeli strikes into Lebanon, and Israel's continuing occupation of a "security strip," within Lebanon's borders. Yet while Hezbollah bases are occasionally bombed by Israeli planes, Israel never stops Hezbollah ships carrying hashish and opium from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley to customers in Europe.

Hezbollah, like Hamas, is funded and armed by Iran, the supposed great enemy of the West. But as the Iran-