

Eco-terrorist murder spree marked 1977

by Jeffrey Steinberg

The prominent role of Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund) in the recent deadly threats against U.S. President William Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac, is nothing new. On at least one other occasion in recent history (after the early 1960s murders of John F. Kennedy and Enrico Mattei, and the attempts on the life of Charles de Gaulle), a wave of radical environmentalist "direct action" served as the cover for assassinations directed against leading international political figures who were challenging the then-Anglo-American oligarchic alliance.

In 1977, leading spokesmen for Friends of the Earth, in both the United States and France, came out with the ID-format line that "nuclear energy equals fascism," and vowed to conduct "nuclear terrorism" to block its spread. Hordes of eco-fascists, in a replay of the Jacobin mobs, stormed construction sites where nuclear power plants were nearing completion. And, under the cover of this well-financed mobilization of environmentalist-Maoist rabble, professional assassins under the control of the British Crown and its Secret Intelligence Service, assassinated a number of key international figures, and would have undoubtedly killed others had it not been for this journal's efforts to expose the authors of the attacks.

The Creys-Malville riots

On July 29-30, 1977, in one of the earliest and bloodiest "Green" protests ever, antinuclear rioters battled police at the site of France's Super-Phénix fast breeder reactor at Creys-Malville. The bloody confrontation had been preceded by warnings from Jim Harding, a top official of Friends of the Earth (FOE). In April 1977, at the Salzburg Conference on a Non-Nuclear Future, he said, "There will be nuclear terrorism . . . unless the European leaders come to terms with the demands of those insisting on a non-nuclear future. Unless they support alternative energies, there will definitely be nuclear terrorism in Europe." Brice LaLonde, then the head of FOE France and a key organizer of the Creys-Malville riot, repeated Harding's warnings. LaLonde would later serve as minister of the environment in the cabinet of President François Mitterrand.

Although Harding's threats of "nuclear terrorism" were

not carried out, other actions did follow—rapidly.

On July 30, as police and demonstrators were still battling at the Creys-Malville site, several members of the Baader-Meinhof Gang (RAF) assassinated West Germany's most prominent banker, Jürgen Ponto. Ponto was not only a key adviser to then-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, but he was the leading force behind Germany's \$4 billion nuclear energy deal with Brazil. He was about to leave on a mission to Brazil when he was murdered.

Several weeks after the Ponto assassination, the Swedish magazine *VI* published an interview with Baader-Meinhof Gang leader Norbert Krocher, in which he, too, used the ID-formula "nuclear energy equals fascism." "I am no terrorist," he told the magazine in an interview conducted in a safe house at an undisclosed location. "My friends are not terrorists. We regard ourselves as fighters against terrorism. . . . The real terror against many individuals comes from industry. . . . Other forms of terror are environmental pollution, especially from the nuclear industry."

Just one hour after the Ponto assassination, West German terrorist attorney Klaus Croissant spoke at a press conference in Paris, where he denounced West Germany as a "fascist state" and praised the RAF as "West Germany's national liberation army." Croissant's words were not significantly different from those of Social Democratic Party Chairman Willy Brandt, who had written a letter to Chancellor Schmidt a week before Ponto's assassination, warning that the Bonn government should abandon its repression of the radical left.

Broader assassination drive

The targeting of West Germany for a heavy dose of "wet works" began on April 7, 1977, when the nation's Attorney General, Siegfried Buback, was assassinated by the same Baader-Meinhof Gang. And on Sept. 7, 1977, Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the head of the Industrial Association, was kidnapped by the RAF near Cologne. He was later found dead.

Within days of the Ponto assassination, American political-economist Lyndon LaRouche was warned by high-level American and West German security officials that his name, along with that of Chancellor Schmidt and Schleswig-Holstein Minister President Gerhard Stoltenberg, had surfaced on the same RAF hit-list that featured both Ponto and Schleyer.

Although the Baader-Meinhof Gang took credit for the wave of killings, LaRouche and researchers for *EIR* pointed out at the time that the so-called "second generation RAF" had been created by British intelligence through its control over such entities as the Heidelberg Mental Patients Collective.

Further investigations by *EIR* revealed that the original formulation, "nuclear energy equals fascism," had been cooked up at a Paris radical institute patronized by the London branch of the Rothschild family, leading figures in the Prince Philip-led Club of the Isles and WWF.