

Strategy of tension escalates with capture of PKK's Ocalan

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Just 72 hours after President Clinton was acquitted on two impeachment counts by the U.S. Senate, on Feb. 12, a renewed "strategy of tension" has been unleashed by the President's enemies in the "British-American-Commonwealth" (BAC) club, aimed, ultimately, at destroying the Clinton Presidency by other means, possibly including assassination. Pentagon and White House sources have confirmed to *EIR* that there is growing concern about a near-term terrorist atrocity on an unheard-of scale, possibly involving the use of biological or chemical weapons; and there is also mounting concern that the President himself is now a prime target for violent attack.

Indeed, just moments after the U.S. Senate failed to reach even a simple majority in favor of impeachment of the President, the U.S. Capitol building had to be evacuated, because of a bomb threat. In the days following the vote, several members of the Clinton administration, including Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, received packages, purporting to contain anthrax and other deadly biological agents. According to official accounts, none of the packages actually contained biological agents. But in the past year, the FBI has acknowledged that there have been hundreds of biological and chemical weapon scares, all over the United States, placing U.S. security agencies at every level of government on a near-continuous alert.

Even though competent security professionals agree that terrorists would be hard-pressed to deploy biological or chemical "weapons of mass destruction," still, the psychological fallout of a terrorist group killing even several hundred people with such weapons would be devastating.

The capture of Ocalan

On Feb. 15, a team of six Turkish Army commandos captured the head of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), Abdullah

Ocalan, as he was leaving the Greek Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Immediately, credible accusations surfaced, that the Turkish commandos were abetted by Israel and the United States. Within days, three members of the Greek government—the Foreign Minister, the Interior Minister, and the Security Minister—were forced to resign over Greece's alleged complicity in the capture. The Greek government had provided Ocalan with safe passage to Kenya, and had safe-housed him at a diplomatic facility. And it was on the basis of Greek assurances that he was being escorted to a flight to the Netherlands, that Ocalan left the Greek Embassy, accompanied by Kenyan police, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 15. The Turkish commandos were waiting along the route to the Nairobi airport to make the grab.

Within hours of his capture, Ocalan was incarcerated at a military base in Turkey. While his capture delivers a potentially deadly blow to an organization that has waged a 26-year terror war to create a separatist Kurdish state, and that has been on the U.S. State Department's terrorist list for years, the circumstances of his capture have created the danger of a major international terrorist upsurge, and the possibility of a new war in the Persian Gulf, with grave consequences for United States foreign policy.

Ocalan's capture occurred just hours after Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit rejected a face-to-face request, from Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, that Turkey cut off American use of the Incirlik air base for bombing raids against Iraq. This has raised questions about whether the United States or Britain reached a broader *quid pro quo* with Ankara for deeper Turkish involvement in a plan to get rid of Saddam Hussein in the near term.

Within hours of the announcement of Ocalan's capture, PKK supporters in western Europe staged violent attacks

against at least 20 Greek and Kenyan embassies and consulates, and a dozen other targets, including Turkish government and commercial offices, and the Hamburg headquarters of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD).

When several hundred PKK supporters tried to storm the grounds of the Israeli consulate in Berlin, on Feb. 17, they were fired upon by Israeli security guards. Three demonstrators were killed and dozens of people were injured. While details of the incident are still sketchy, the Israeli government's brutal approach has greatly increased the likelihood of an escalation of terrorist attacks by the PKK and their international network of supporters.

London protects the PKK

As *EIR* reported on Nov. 17, 1995, the PKK is part of an international narco-terrorist apparatus, which has been protected by the British for decades. The PKK is an adjunct of the London-based Revolutionary International Movement (RIM), a Maoist narco-terrorist umbrella, which also includes Peru's Shining Path, the Sri Lankan Tamil Tigers, the Zapatistas of Mexico, the Revolutionary Communist Party of the U.S.A., and the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

The Feb. 5, 1999 edition of *EIR* provided a further profile of the pivotal role that the PKK plays in the heroin trade between the "Golden Crescent" (Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran) and western Europe. An estimated 80% of all the heroin reaching western Europe, in recent years, has been smuggled through Turkey; and the PKK and allied Kurdish mafias handle the lion's share of that traffic, generating hundreds of millions of dollars a year in weapons and other matériel for the PKK's narco-insurgency.

British protection of the PKK has become so flagrant in recent years, that the Turkish government, in 1996, demanded that Britain be expelled from any role in "Operation Provide Comfort," the Western aid operation into northern Iraq. Indeed, in October 1994, the chief European operative of the PKK, Kani Yilmaz, was arrested by British authorities, on the demand of Germany, as he was travelling to meet Lord Avebury (Eric Lubbock), the head of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Group. Avebury is an unabashed supporter of an independent "Kurdistan," to be carved out of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. More recently, the Turkish government has filed a formal diplomatic protest with London, over the fact that the British government gave the PKK a satellite television station, MEDITV, through which it transmits marching orders to its terrorist legions in Europe and in eastern Turkey.

Turks invade northern Iraq

Within hours of Ocalan's capture, the Turkish military launched a "hot pursuit" invasion of northern Iraq, ostensibly to take out PKK bases in the mountainous border region. By Feb. 17, more than 4,000 Turkish soldiers, backed up by a

pro-Ankara Kurdish militia of 1,000 troops, had moved 15 miles into Iraqi territory. There is widespread speculation that the Turkish action is part of a British and American plan to launch a full-scale effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein. According to several sources in Washington and western Europe, there is a possibility that American and British forces may move into the southern Iraq no-fly zone, to deter PKK guerrillas from infiltrating Jordan and Israel to carry out terrorist attacks, in revenge for Israel's role in the capture of Ocalan, and the killings in Berlin.

While some administration officials have emphasized that the United States is wary of any ill-conceived effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein in the short term, by means of a Special Forces operation, there are some senior members of President Clinton's "Principals Committee" of senior national security advisers, who could be just crazy enough to argue for such a stunt. These would be the same people who gulled the President into authorizing the December 1998 "Operation Desert Fox" bombing attacks against Iraq, which accomplished little from a military standpoint, but greatly damaged President Clinton's diplomatic standing with Beijing, Moscow, and with many leaders of the Islamic world.

Chief among the Principals Committee members who could play an "inside" role in setting up President Clinton for a Persian Gulf disaster, or worse, are:

- Vice President Al Gore, one of the few Senate Democrats to have openly supported George Bush and Margaret Thatcher's "Operation Desert Storm," and the closest administration figure to Israel's warmongering Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Leon Fuerth, Gore's national security adviser, and a voting member of the Principals Committee, who has been pushing for a showdown with Saddam since no later than January 1998, and who was credited with convincing the President to authorize the December 1998 "Desert Fox" bombing campaign. Fuerth has been accused by some State Department officials of being the source of leaks of secret administration national security policies to Netanyahu, a charge Fuerth denies;
- Richard Clarke, appointed in May 1998 as the administration's counter-terrorism czar, and the man who orchestrated the August 1998 "terror against terror" missile attacks against Osama Bin Laden's bases in southern Afghanistan and against the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, Sudan. In 1992, according to the *New York Times*, Clarke had to leave a top post at the State Department, when the Inspector General found that he had covered up illegal Israeli sales of U.S. technology. He was immediately hired onto the Bush administration National Security Council staff, and was held over at the NSC when the Clinton administration came in. Since May, Clarke has been a voting member of the Principals Committee on all matters relating to national security.

With this combination of "BAC" assets, with links to the Israeli right wing, inside his senior White House team, President Clinton is, indeed, in jeopardy.