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Qaddafi advocates 'suicide' terrorism

By Gus Constantine
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Libya's Col. Muammar Qaddafi, the world's staunchest advocate of state-sponsored terror, has called on guerrilla groups in the Middle East to launch organized "suicide operations" in an effort to bring down moderate governments in the region, according to reports from Tripoli yesterday.

There is "no way out but confrontation" and the "adoption and practicing of revolutionary violence," the colonel told a newly established "command" of revolutionary groups in the region Sunday night, the official Libyan news agency, JANA, reported.

The new organization, the National Command for the Arab Revolutionary Forces, was established last month to unify guerrillas from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and radical factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Only last year, on the 14th anniversary of the closing down of the old U.S. Air Force base at Wheelus Field outside Tripoli, Col. Qaddafi boasted: "We are now in a position to export terrorism, arson and liquidation to the heart of America — and shall do so if necessary."

Col. Qaddafi's kamikaze call was the shrillest and most sweeping yet in a 16-year career built on preaching and practicing radical upheaval as the answer to the Middle East's problems.

In the process, he has bought huge amounts of weapons from the Soviet Union, acted as patron of terrorist groups throughout the world and openly interfered in the affairs of neighboring nations.

Yesterday in Cairo, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported that police arrested five men and accused them of being part of a Libyan-backed group planning terrorist attacks in Egypt. MENA reported Egyptian intelligence

sources had been trailing the group members for months.

MENA's report on the arrests of the five suspected terrorists said Egyptian police agents had been

monitoring the group's activities, including contacts with Libyan intelligence sources, for seven months and recorded their actions "in voice and picture."

It said the suspects had received training in the use of arms and explosives, and received instructions from Libyan agents at meetings in Greece, Turkey and Libya.

Since he toppled the monarchy of King Mohammed Idris al-Senussi in 1969, at age 27, Col. Qaddafi has interfered in the internal affairs of no fewer than 45 nations.

In the past year alone, there have been reports of Libyan-orchestrated plots to mine the Red Sea, sink a ship in the Suez Canal, bomb the Aswan

Dam as a way to cripple Egypt's agriculture, seize Mecca by dispatching terrorists disguised as pilgrims to Islam's holy city and assassinate moderate Arab leaders.

Col. Qaddafi has displayed a capacity for sharp tactical shifts in pursuit of his grand design for the Arab world. Just last year, after supporting for a long time the Polisario guerrillas battling Morocco for control of the Western Sahara, he announced a union with Morocco. The deal involved abandonment of the Polisario in exchange for a free hand for Col. Qaddafi in his attempt to install a government beholden to him in Chad.

The sweep of Col. Qaddafi's meddling in the affairs of foreign countries was illustrated by published reports in London that linked the leaders in Britain's long miners strike with one of Col. Qaddafi's intelligence paymasters in Paris. The Libyan's chief's connection to the Soviet bloc goes beyond arms supplies from Moscow. Libya's Mukhabarat, or secret service, has been under East German management since 1974. While East German intelligence does not direct operations, it has been known to offer suggestions to Col. Qaddafi's secret service chief who then, in turn, passes them on to the colonel as his own.

At home, the Qaddafi regime is a blend of puritanic Islamic behavior codes and Arab nationalism, or Arab

socialism in the tradition of Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser.

JANA said yesterday the Tripoli meeting included guerrillas from Syria, Iraq and Lebanon as well as from factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization opposed to PLO leader Yasser Arafat. Libyan-backed rebels from Sudan and Chad have also joined the Qaddafi group, JANA said.

"Our mission in this command is to turn the individual suicidal operations and the aspirations of the Arab citizens in liberation and sacrifice into an organized civilized act," Col. Qaddafi said Sunday night, according to JANA.

"It does not matter how big or small is the number of the party or front," he said. "The question is to launch a battle in an individual or suicidal action.

"There is no escape and no way out but confrontation. That is to say to confront violence with violence," he said while urging the "adoption and practicing of revolutionary violence for the liberation and unification" of all Arab lands.

The colonel accused Israel of trying to destroy Arab nations and said that "covered by the American umbrella, the Zionist enemy is working with great ease."

The Libyan leader said his mission can only be accomplished by revolutionary groups because "formal regimes and governments are by their very nature incapable of meeting the demands of this stage."

The National Command also said it planned "to resist imperialism, specifically American imperialism, and to work to liquidate its military and to foil its designs."

In Cairo, MENA reported there were seven members in the group planning terrorist attacks. Two are still being sought, according to the agency.

It identified the five arrested as Abdel-Samad Al-Sharkawi, Khaled Abdel-Meguid, Abdel-Aziz Mouwafi, Mohamed Hassabo and Rifaat Sayed Ahmed.

MENA said Mr. Ahmed was a journalist and worked for Al-Shaab, the newspaper of the left-wing opposition Labor Party, but gave no details about the others.