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WASHINGTON TIMES  
3 October 1986

# Palestinian terrorist linked to massacres

FROM COMBINED DISPATCHES

Intelligence agencies have linked Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal to the Sept. 5 hijack of a Pan Am jumbo jet in Pakistan and the massacre a day later of 21 worshippers at a Turkish synagogue, NBC television reported last night.

Correspondent Art Kent reported on "NBC Nightly News" intelligence sources told him six terrorists were involved in the synagogue massacre and seven in the Karachi hijacking, and that seven of the 13 are still at large. Mr. Kent said his sources told him both attacks had been planned well in advance and close together to confuse anti-terrorist organizations.

Abu Nidal is known to plan his attacks in pairs — as evidenced by the Rome and Vienna airport massacres last December and the April 2 explosion aboard a TWA jetliner near Athens, which was followed three days later by the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque.

Mr. Kent quoted the sources as saying Abu Nidal, on the move from one Arab capital to another since Col. Muammar Qaddafi asked him to leave Libya following a retaliatory U.S. air raid on that country April 15, has sent four more agents in the past two weeks against Western targets "known only to themselves."

The sources said until last year, the "master terrorist" made Damascus his headquarters and the United States has contingency plans to attack Syria in retaliation if it finds solid evidence that

country is linked to Abu Nidal's activities.

Western intelligence organizations have said strong circumstantial evidence shows links between Abu Nidal and Col. Qaddafi's government, though it has not been shown that Libya directs Abu Nidal's activities, and they are certain Abu Nidal's 200-strong terrorist group depends on Syrian support as well.

The U.S. State Department describes the group led by Abu Nidal — a Palestinian whose real name is Sabry al-Banna — as "the most experienced, lethal arm of Palestinian terrorism."

By Western estimates it has been responsible for more than 60 terrorist

attacks on three continents over the past eight years.

Britain, meanwhile, announced that Libya's national airline would not be allowed to operate in that country as of the end of this month because it supports and participates in international terrorism.

The measure was decided at a 45-minute Cabinet meeting a week after a suspected Palestinian terrorist was given 25 years in prison for plotting an attack in Britain.

Banning of the flights to London leaves Rome and Athens as the only Western European cities accepting Libyan planes. The airline also flies to the Mediterranean island of Malta.

Last Friday, a Palestinian doctor was convicted on charges of participating in a plot allegedly backed by Libya to bring grenades into London for terror attacks. An informant said the grenades were delivered by a man in the uniform of the airline.

"The involvement of Libyan Arab Airlines in support of terrorist activity makes it inappropriate in the government's view for air services between the two countries to continue," Transport Minister John Moore said.

He said the airline's operating permit would expire Oct. 31 and, until then, "further security measures will be applied to LAA flights at Heathrow" airport in London.

Christopher Meyer, head of the Foreign Office news department, said yesterday's action was "a necessary response to a security threat," and that the decision should not be viewed as political.

Troops moved into Heathrow yesterday in a security exercise. The soldiers,

in full battle dress and carrying automatic weapons, stood guard with light tanks and armored cars. The next Libyan flight is due today.

Libyan Arab Airlines operates three flights a week into Heathrow under a 1972 air services agreement that never was formally ratified by Col. Muammar Qaddafi's government but has been applied "administratively."

British Caledonian Airlines had flown to Libya but suspended those flights in July.

Mr. Moore said Libya was being informed of the British action through Saudi Arabia, Libya's diplomatic representative here since Britain broke relations in April 1984.

Ramsi Awad, 43, a Palestinian of dual Jordanian-Spanish nationality, was arrested in September 1985. A Jordanian medical doctor, he was said by the prosecution to be a member of the radical Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal.

Police said they were unable to determine what Awad's possible target was, but believed he might have been setting up an attack at Heathrow similar to last winter's Vienna and Rome airport massacres in which 16 were killed.

A former Libyan student who testified at Awad's trial last week said he received instructions from Libya to pick up four grenades at Heathrow from a man in a Libyan Arab Airlines uniform.

He did so and informed Scotland Yard. Police substituted dummy grenades for the real ones and arrested Awad when he took delivery of them.

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM NBC Nightly News STATION WRC TV  
NBC Network  
DATE October 27, 1986 7:00 PM CITY Washington, DC  
SUBJECT CIA Recruitment

J TOM BROKAW: In this country, to help fight terrorists around the world, the CIA now has decided to call for the cops. J As NBC's Art Kent reports tonight, it is looking to hire police officers off the streets of America's big cities.

POLICE OFFICER: The color of the day today is yellow.

ART KENT: Street cops in New York City getting ready to make a drug bust, and now they're the target of a major recruiting effort by the Central Intelligence Agency.

A At a July seminar on terrorism at the CIA's Langley, Virginia headquarters, CIA Director William Casey asked civilian police officials to help in the CIA's effort to recruit cops with "street smarts." Intelligence officials say the fight against international terrorism and the war on drugs have forced a change in the traditional role of clandestine intelligence gathering and a change in the kinds of people the CIA wants.

A RAY S. CLINE: You may well want to hire someone who is familiar with the cocaine climate rather than, say, the technology transfer climate.

KENT: The CIA has stepped up its recruiting recently, taking out ads in newspapers and visiting college campuses. But its efforts to recruit working cops away from their departments is not meeting with universal acceptance. In Los Angeles, the police department says it needs all its people at home. New York's mayor says his city is happy to contribute.

MAYOR ED KOCH: But I don't think that the numbers that

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they're talking about have any impact at all upon our police department.

KENT: Police officers who have taken the CIA's employment test say the agency prefers single people, warns them they will have to pass drug and lie detector tests and serve overseas.

A CIA spokesman said these are not temporary jobs, but permanent staff positions. And unlike the well-known Marine Corps' recruiting pitch, the CIA wants a lot of good men and women.

Art Kent, NBC News, Washington.

7 August 1986

**FILE ONLY**

✓ 7:00 P.M.

Former CIA Agent Defects

**CONNIE CHUNG:** Former CIA agent Edward Lee Howard, accused of selling secrets that devastated U.S. intelligence in Moscow, has been granted political asylum in the Soviet Union. He is believed to be the first known CIA agent to defect to the Soviet Union. Today his whereabouts emerged in the Soviet press.

Art Kent reports.

**ART KENT:** The item that moved on the Tass news wire in Moscow this morning confirmed what American intelligence had feared for almost a year. Edward Lee Howard, a fugitive former CIA agent, did go to the Soviet Union when he escaped FBI agents last September and has now been granted asylum there.

Former CIA Deputy Director George Carver says Howard's defection gives the Russians a lot of knowledge about the CIA's operations.

**GEORGE CARVER:** This is a loss of major magnitude, and it is a very, very serious compromise indeed.

**KENT:** According to intelligence sources, Howard had been trained for a junior agent's posting to Moscow and knew enough about CIA sources and methods that his defection enabled the Russians to almost wipe out CIA operations in Moscow and likely cause the death of at least one major Soviet CIA contact.

How did Howard get away? The CIA had fired him in 1983 when a lie detector test revealed drug abuse and mental instability. Then, last year, KGB defector Vitaly Yurchenko told the CIA that Howard had been working for the Russians since at least 1984, traveling from his New Mexico home to meetings with the KGB. But by

the time the CIA told the FBI, and the FBI started to close in, Howard was gone.

Administration sources confirm that Howard crossed into Mexico, flew to Finland, and from there crossed the border into the Soviet Union.

Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy has been critical of CIA and FBI handling of the case.

**SEN. LEAHY:** I think that it has caused a very intensive, and really needed, review of their own internal procedures.

**KENT:** The FBI disciplined two agents for mishandling the Howard case. The CIA would only say that its security staff was always looking for ways to improve its procedures.

**CHUNG:** Howard's father, who lives in Garland, Texas, told a local newspaper there that his son called him from Moscow Tuesday morning. He said Howard wants his wife and son to visit him in the Soviet Union, and that he promised to write when he finds a place to live.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS  
19 June 1986

FILE ONLY

7:00 P.M.

High-Ranking KGB Defector

UTLEY: A Soviet spy has defected to the United States. According to Art Kent, our national security correspondent, he is important and he brought with him Soviet information stamped top secret.

ART KENT: A Soviet connection to Palestinian guerrillas training and operating in Northern Africa has been broken. According to intelligence sources, Oleg Agranients (?) was a KGB liaison officer to the Palestinians until he defected last month. The defection, analysts say, is a major setback to Soviet intelligence operations in that area.

Agranients, who was stationed at the Soviet Embassy in Tunis, was also responsible for KGB operations in Northern Africa. Intelligence sources say he has provided the names of KGB agents in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Libya. That would be a significant blow to the KGB, which will now have to replace all those agents and possibly the networks of which they were a part.

In addition, according to former CIA Deputy Director George Carver, a defector of Agranients' rank would have other valuable information.

GEORGE CARVER: He would not have been posted to this senior assignment overseas without having held previous assignments of almost equivalent seniority, and he could have told us a lot about what he had derived from those assignments.

KENT: Agranients is just the latest Soviet intelligence official to defect. Best known is Vitaly Yurchenko, the KGB colonel who redefected. There was also Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB station chief in London; Sergei Boka, a military intelligence agent in Greece, Viktor Gudorev, a KGB agent in that same country; and another high-ranking KGB agent who has never been identified.

The CIA will not confirm Agranients' defection, nor reports from intelligence sources that he had been a CIA double agent for as long as three years before he defected.