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TERROR, INC.

THE seajacking of the Achille Lauro surely won't be the last act of terror directed at the West this year, warns Robert Moss, a recognized authority on terrorism and espionage, in this first of a 6-part series. Moss is the editor of "Early Warning," a confidential newsletter on intelligence. His latest spy novel, "Moscow Rules," is about to be published in paperback by Pocket Books.

By ROBERT MOSS

AT the time that the hijacking of the Achille Lauro was being planned by members of Yasser Arafat's PLO, one of Arafat's deadliest enemies, Abu Nidal, was boasting in Tripoli, Libya, that he had armed underground cells for a major terrorist operation in Cairo.

Egypt is likely to be one of the main targets in a wave of terrorist reprisals for the capture of the men who hijacked the Italian cruise ship and brutally murdered Leon Klinghoffer.

The stunning success of the U.S. operation served notice that the Reagan administration is determined not to let terrorists go unpunished. It was also a double humiliation for Arafat's PLO.

First, it now seems clear that Abu Abbas, chief of the Tunis-based faction of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and a close Arafat ally, was behind the hijacking. Together with the murder of two Israeli sailors in Barcelona by the PLO's elite "Force 17," the tragedy at sea has exploded Arafat's denials of responsibility and the efforts of his well-spoken, well-tailored academic spokesmen in the U.S. to present his PLO as a "moderate" force in the Middle East.

Second, the operation was hopelessly botched.

Western intelligence sources believe that rival terrorist warlords will now seize the chance to upstage Arafat by launching a wave of attacks on the U.S., Italy

and Egypt, as well as Israel. Arafat's PLO, in order to save face, may be drawn into a bout of competitive terrorism.

Egypt is especially at risk. It has long been a major terrorist target as a vital U.S. ally and as Israel's interlocutor in the Middle East. The late President Sadat's willingness to enter into the Camp David accords cost him his life at the hands of Muslim fanatics. Whatever the full truth of Egypt's role in the latest episode, President Hosni Mubarak now stands accused by the terrorists of striking a tacit deal with the U.S. that enabled the capture of the hijackers to take place.

Savri al-Banna, who uses the *nom de guerre* Abu Nidal, is a key man to watch. He is a highly-pro-

fessional killer, once employed by the Iraqis, now funded by Syria and Libya, who is given to touring the Middle East in the guise of a Catholic priest.

His organization, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, was responsible for the murder of an Israeli embassy attache and his wife in Cairo last August. In 1982, Abu Nidal's government seriously wounded Israel's ambassador to Britain in another assassination attempt.

The group has carried out a string of contract killings in European capitals, including the murder

of Iranian exile leader Gen. Oveisat in Paris. Abu Nidal brags that he has unleashed "World War III" in Western Europe.

In Libya last month, along with a small Who's Who of international terrorist chiefs including George Habash of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (who had just come from Moscow), Abu Nidal declared that his group had smuggled arms to the Organization of Egypt's Revolutionaries, a secret terrorist group dedicated to the overthrow of Camp David.

The extent to which he and his comrades can count on the backing of their host, Col. Khadafy, is indicated by an incredible speech the Libyan dictator delivered early last month to an audience of military cadets. Displaying a depth of blood-lust unusual even for him, Khadafy declared: "We must eat the kidneys of the enemies — the Zionists and the Americans and their reactionary supporters."

Western security analysts are now studying a number of worrying scenarios for possible terrorist reprisals against the U.S. and the Italians. These scenarios include:

● A rash of assaults on "soft targets," for example, airline and shipping offices and Jews in Western countries.

● A new hostage-taking in an attempt to bring pressure on Italy to free the hijackers. The Italians, however, have an impressive track record of resisting blackmail of this kind.

● Terrorist bombings of U.S. and NATO mili-

tary facilities in Western Europe. A loose network including the so-called Communist Combatant Cells in Belgium, Action Directe in France, the remnants of the Red Army Fraction in West Germany and the Italian Communist Organization for the Liberation of the Proletariat has been sharing information, explosives and manpower in anti-NATO operations and has radical Middle East links.

● Terrorist attacks in the Western Hemisphere. Both the PLO and the Libyans have set up important operational bases in Nicaragua, and there were intelligence reports several months ago that a possible terrorist strike against U.S. military facilities in Honduras was under discussion.

● Terrorism inside the United States. The U.S. has remained largely immune to the export of Middle East terrorism up till now. But there is an ominous precedent. In a largely unpublicized episode in 1973, a hit man from the PLO's Black September organization placed car bombs at three Manhattan locations, including Wall Street. Tragedy was averted thanks to good intelligence; the FBI has reportedly bugged a PLO information office in Houston.

● A return to kamikaze bombings. Impressed by the spectacular slaughter inflicted by suicide car bombers in Beirut and Kuwait, Syrian, Iranian and Libyan governments have all been training kamikaze squads for special missions. For instance, intelligence sources say that Syrian instructors have trained kamikaze pilots (some of them Palestinians)

this year at Minakh air force base, north of Aletto, and at Rayak in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

The seajack drama exposed some of the rifts within Terror, Inc. There are competing international networks — some run by Iranian Mullahs, some by drug lords — and a whole menagerie of fringe fanatics. Relations between them tend to be no more cordial than, say, between rival gang lords warring for turf in prohibition Chicago.

The fissures have widened and become more complex since Yasir Arafat lost his bases in Lebanon. Arafat's dilemma will be explored in the next article.

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ON PAGE 31

HIS POWER FADING, ARAFAT MUST BEG FOR CRUMBS

THE weakness of Yasser Arafat's PLO has forced the infamous terror leader to seek dangerous new alliances with old enemies, warns Robert Moss in this second of a six-part series. Moss, an authority on terrorism and espionage, is the editor of "Early Warning," a newsletter on intelligence, and the author of the novel "Moscow Rules" (coming soon in paperback by Pocket Books).

By ROBERT MOSS

IT'S OFTEN said that terrorism is a weapon of the weak.

That truism is not always a reliable guide in the Middle East, where radical governments use the same terrorist methods against their own populations as against enemies abroad.

Witness the case of Syria, a leading sponsor of international terrorism. In 1982, the Assad regime used long-range artillery on the people of Hama, the nation's fourth-largest city and a hub of Sunni Muslim opposition. By the end of this exercise, an estimated 10,000-20,000 Syrians had been killed and the city center reduced to a heap of ash and rubble.

Significantly, Col. Ghazi Kana'an, one of the architects of population control in Hama, is now Syria's procounsel in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, the home of the terrorist leaders responsible for the massacre of U.S. Marines in Beirut.

In a region of "one-bullet" regimes, terror and assassination are everyday methods of achieving political goals.

Today, Yasser Arafat's PLO is weak. The fear of new defections from within its ranks may account for its involvement in the latest spate of terrorist attacks — in Cyprus, Barcelona, and on the high seas.

Ironically, the weakness of the PLO also explains Arafat's efforts to present himself as a peacemaker, and to pur-

sue diplomacy in concert with his old enemy, Jordan's King Hussein. But this "two-track" approach — erecting a facade of moderation while licensing terrorist atrocities, usually under a "false flag" — has been the modus operandi for Arafat and the PLO for decades.

For instance, after Arafat's guerrillas were driven out of Jordan in 1970, the Black September organization was set up. Black September was responsible for the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Strenuous efforts were made to keep PLO involvement. But in his recent memoirs, Arafat's security chief (and current No. 2), Abu Iyad, described himself as the leader of Black September.

Consider Arafat's dilemma today. Since he was driven out of Tripoli in north Lebanon in 1983, he controls no territory of his own. In Tunis, he is dependent on the hospitality of the pro-Western Bourguiba government, which was less than enchanted when his hit men in Cyprus provoked Israeli retaliation in the form of an air strike against his headquarters.

Arafat's forces are widely scattered. The main base for his fighters is North Yemen, where the PLO has been permitted to set up camps around Sana, the capital, named after the Sabra and Shatila camps it once occupied in Lebanon.

Guerrillas from the

PLO's "Djermak" brigade were taken from North Yemen to Tripoli, in north Lebanon, late in August, in a failed attempt to recapture an old stomping-ground.

The hijack of the Italian ship, which was supposed to be used in an operation against the Israeli port of Ashdov, highlighted the PLO's biggest deficiency. It has no base in territory bordering Israel from which to mount attacks against its main enemy.

This — not any change of heart — is the motivation for Arafat's recent dealings with Jordan's King Hussein. As Khalid el Hassan, the head of the PLO's international department, has explained it, "The return of the PLO to Jordan is the only way to prevent the virtual suicide, and to revitalize the PLO's operations."

The PLO hopes to use Jordan as the springboard for new terror attacks on Israel. Under cover of the expanded PLO office in Amman, "Force 17" hit teams have already relocated to Jordan.

Syria, which is determined to run things in Lebanon, has engineered a major split in Arafat's movement. The Syrians directly control a number of extreme Palestinian factions outside the PLO, headed by Abu Musa, Abu Nidal and Abu Ahmad. They are all plotting against Arafat's life.

Arafat also has to contend with two major Palestinian organizations — the PFLP (George Habash's group) and the DFLP, a Marxist group closely aligned with the Soviets — that boycotted the last congress of the Palestine National

Counsel in Amman, and denounced Arafat as a traitor to the cause.

Once a favored subcontractor for the Soviets, who have long made use of the PLO to train and supervise terrorists for missions as far afield as Central America and Africa, Arafat now has to beg for crumbs. For the first time, he came close to open criticism of Moscow when, in a message of congratulations to Andrei Gromyko on the occasion of his elevation to the Soviet presidency, he complained that Syria was supplying Russian-made tanks to the Lebanese Amal organization.

Arafat knows, from bitter experience, that the Soviets value Syria — their main forward base in the Middle East, where they now have an estimated 8000 military personnel deployed — more than him. His old friend Alexander Soldatov, the veteran Soviet ambassador in Beirut, stood on the sidelines while Syrians made mincemeat of Arafat's loyalists in Lebanon.

Arafat can take comfort from the fat handouts he is still getting from Saudi Arabia. The Saudis reportedly gave one of his envoys a check for \$28.5 million in July. But Saudi checkbook diplomacy and appearances on U.S. TV talk shows are unlikely to bring a funda-

mental change in Arafat or the PLO.

The PLO has never backed away from its original objective: the destruction of the state of Israel. In this fundamental sense, the PLO, founded in June 1964, has never been — and will never be — a "moderate" influence.

The emblem of the PLO faction that hijacked the Italian cruise ship contains a map of Palestine within its pre-1947 borders. Arafat can never recognize Israel, because by so doing he would forfeit his claim to lead what is left of the PLO — and risk a bullet in his back.

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INSIDE THE MINDS OF THE MUSLIM KAMIKAZES



Flashback, Oct. 23, 1983: Suicide bomber attacks Beirut headquarters of U.S. Marine peacekeepers. The death toll reached 241.

AS you read this, kamikaze killers are being trained to attack more American targets, warns Robert Moss, in this third of a six-part series. Moss, an authority on espionage and terrorism, is the editor of "Early Warning," a newsletter on intelligence, and the author of the novel "Moscow Rules" (coming soon in paperback by Pocket Books).

By ROBERT MOSS

TODAY, the suicide bomber is the most ominous exponent of international terrorism.

Shiite fanatics loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini were responsible for the series of truck bombs in Lebanon in 1983-'84 that claimed hundreds of American, French and Israeli lives.

These kamikazes came from a group, Islamic Jihad, that is still holding U.S. hostages in Lebanon and boasts that it carried out the brutal slaying of American Embassy official William Buckley.

They are headquartered in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where they prepare for their operations under the protection of the Syrian Army and Iranian Revolutionary Guards. They have yet to be punished for their role in the TWA hijack, although the identities and whereabouts of their leaders and sponsors are known.

According to a reliable intelligence source, Iranian and Syrian instructors are preparing scores of kamikazes for a new terror offensive. Syrian intelligence, under President Assad's trusted aide, Gen. Muhammad al-Khouli, works hand in glove with the network of Iranian agencies, chaired by Ayatollah Montazeri, that planned the export of the "Islamic Revolution."

Assad has developed a strange personal fixation with the kamikaze.

In an extraordinary speech to the National Federation of Syrian Students last May, Syria's president declared: "I have believed

in the greatness of martyrdom (*shahadah*) and the importance of sacrifice since my youth." He glorified the kamikaze pilots who would "strike enemy ships, airports and other targets by turning himself, his planes and his bombs into one fireball."

Assad, who is suffering from an obscure blood disease that laid him up for two weeks in August, went on to say: "My conviction of martyrdom is neither incidental nor temporary . . . I hope that my own life will end only in martyrdom."

An old Arab proverb runs: "You don't have to pay tax on words." But Assad's bizarre rhetoric was more than hot air. He proceeded to order Gen. al-Khouli to arrange for the training of suicide flyers at Syria's Minakh airbase, near the border with Turkey, and in the Bekaa Valley.

At the same time, the Iranians have stepped up the training of *awteharis*, or suicide squads.

What goes on in the mind of a suicide-bomber?

Shiite kamikazes are isolated in special camps and put through a lengthy brainwashing process under the tutelage of *welma*, religious teachers. They are taught that martyrdom in the cause of the *jihad*, the holy war against the infidel, is the supreme achievement of the true believer. Self-sacrifice, they are led to believe, will open the gates of paradise.

These teachings may sound wildly implausible in the West. But it must be understood that Shia Islam was born in blood, with the murder of the Caliph Ali, the Prophet's son-in-law. The millennial tradition of the sect glorifies martyrdom for the cause. It also insists on absolute, unwavering obedience to a theocratic despot.

A terrorist imbued with these beliefs makes a formidable antagonist. How do you deter a killer who's willing — even eager — to give up his life, in the conviction that the hours of Paradise are waiting to greet him?

But a close investigation of recent suicide bombings suggest that not all the kamikazes are religious fanatics. For example, a leftist Lebanese terror group controlled by Syria recruits psychologically disturbed individuals for kamikaze attacks.

The group, the Progressive Socialist Party (PPS), is based in the Druze community. Its suicide bombers appear to be motivated by a "death wish" syndrome, not an Islamic vision of martyrdom.

Lebanon's fanatical Shiite terrorists — Islamic Jihad and the various factions of the Hezbollah or Party of God — tend to hug the shadows. But the Syrian-inspired PPS seeks maximum media exposure for its "martyrs" among its target audience.

Some of its terror operations might have been staged by a producer of X-rated movies. Two teenagers, a boy called Wadi Fadlallah Shair and a girl,

Shana Mahidli, blew themselves up along with their car bomb in Lebanon last spring, gunning for the Israelis. TV viewers in Damascus were promptly treated to videotapes showing them getting ready for their mission, with the seal of the PPS and an official portrait of Assad in the background.

Neither fits the profile of an Islamic fanatic. Rather, they were two sad, disoriented kids ready to self-destruct. Their personal hangups made them ripe for exploitation by ruthless terrorist controllers.

The boy, Wadi, 19, was a rootless orphan who joined up with a Palestinian faction in south Lebanon before he was in his teens — for much the same reason that a ghetto kid might try to join the toughest gang in the neighborhood.

At 16, he became a member of the PPS. But according to friends, he was prone to deep depressions and unlucky with girls: an adolescent with a death wish.

The girl, Shana, 17, who died when her car bomb blew up at Batar af-Shuf on April 9, had only joined the PPS. Hers was an especially tragic case. According to a reliable source, she had run away from her family after she had become pregnant and been abandoned by her boyfriend. In her distress, she was looking for self-immolation.

The PPS has active cells in New York, Chicago and Oregon, but has not been implicated in political violence here.

Another kamikaze incident involving the

Shiite Amal suggests that, even among the Ayatollah's adherents, the Islamic vision of *shahadah* may not be the primary motive for a suicide bomber.

Israeli soldiers captured a 16-year-old Shiite, Muhammed Biro, in January before he could carry out a kamikaze mission. He told his captors that he had agreed to perform a suicide mission after his father had been badly injured in a car accident. He claimed that his family was starving and had no money to pay for brain surgery urgently required by his father. By his account, his recruiters promised that his family would be provided for and that his father would receive the medical treatment he deserved.

The boy seems to have agreed to offer himself up in the same spirit that a man beset by crushing financial problems might think of doing away with himself so his family can collect the insurance.

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The men behind the mad bombers

AMONG those who always find reasons why the U.S. should not take reprisals for terrorist acts, it is often said that you can't deter a suicide bomber. This may be true, whether the kamikaze is a religious fanatic or a pathetic, brainwashed kid.

But you can both punish and deter the controllers.

Who are the men behind the suicide bombers?

A recent refugee from Tehran has given us some new insights. She is Mrs. Badri Khamenei, the sister of Iran's recently re-elected president. She fled to Baghdad earlier this year to join her husband, Sheik Ali Tehrani.

She described how Ayatollah Montazeri, the head of the Ministry of Islamic Revolution, chairs a powerful coordinating council that aims to export Khomeini's ideas throughout the Muslim world.

The immediate goal is to turn Lebanon (where Shiites are the largest community, with 25 per-

cent of the population) into a Khomeini-controlled terrorist state. Longer term, Montazeri's council is working for the overthrow of the conservative Gulf monarchies.

Pro-Khomeini Islamic Revolutionary Organizations are active in Bahrain (where more than half the population is Shiite), Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (where there is a high concentration of Shiites in the eastern oil fields).

Montazeri's council includes two graduates of Lomonosov University in Moscow, used by the KGB as a Third World recruitment office. Other alumni include "Carlos," the notorious Venezuelan-born terrorist.

Another member of the council is Abasali Zamani, better known as "Abu Sharif," he was the original chief of Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards. According to one intelligence source, he showed up in Beirut three days before the TWA hijack and gave the order to the terrorists to go ahead

with the operation. The ground had been prepared at meetings between

Hojatolefiam Khalegi, Khomeini's chief advisor on Arabic affairs, and Shiite terrorist leaders in Lebanon.

"Abu Sharif" has attended training courses in the Soviet Union and East Germany.

This opens up the question: Are the Soviets also working behind the scenes in a bid to cripple the Reagan administration through a new hostage crisis?



AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI
Powerful council head.

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THE SOVIET STAKE IN WORLD TERROR



ALTHOUGH the Soviets recently fell prey to Muslim bandits in Beirut, Moscow still controls world terrorism, warns Robert Moss in this fourth of a six-part series. Moss, an authority on terrorism and espionage, is the editor of "Early Warning," a newsletter on intelligence, and the author of "Moscow Rules" (soon in paperback from Pocket Books).

**By ROBERT
MOSS**

WHEN terrorists kidnaped four Soviet diplomats in Beirut last month, a lot of Americans said to themselves: it's about time.

While U.S. and West European envoys in Lebanon lived with the daily threat of the bullet and the car bomb, the Soviets seemed to lead charmed lives. Some thought the terrorist left the Russians alone because they were scared that Moscow would exact rapid and ruthless revenge.

In fact, the reason the most active terrorist groups don't gun for the Russians is simple: why bite the hand that feeds you? The Soviet Bloc, both directly and via subcontractors like Libya, Syria and North Korea, provides money, weapons and training for terrorists from all over the world.

In Beirut, the Soviets at last fell victim to Lebanon's immensely complicated communal vendettas. Forces loyal to Moscow's ally, Syria, had laid siege to the northern town of Tripoli, ruled since 1983 by

Sunni fundamentalist chieftain Sheik Sayid Shaaban. Hit men from a little know Sunni group grabbed the Soviet diplomats to force Moscow to put pressure on Syria's President Assad to call off the siege. It's not clear whether any of the Russians — some of whom are believed to be KGB officers — had been in contact with their abductors before the kidnap.

Now one of them, Arkadiy Katakov, is dead, shot at point blank range, his body dumped near the shelled out soccer stadium. And the kidnapers are threatening to bomb the Soviet Embassy.

For once, the Soviets came up against terrorists they couldn't control or intimidate. But it would be wildly optimistic to imagine that this episode is going to change Moscow's long-term relationship with the international terror network. The Soviets have too much at stake.

Marxist-Leninist ideology consecrates the use of political violence, and Moscow has been engaged in international terrorism since the earliest days of the Soviet state. In 1922, Soviet agents met in Rome with the leader of Nasrat al-Hakh ("Victory of Right"), an Egyptian ter-

rorist group, to plot the assassination of Lord Allenby and other British officials.

Today, when the Soviets

are embarked on a "peace offensive" to undermine U.S. efforts to rebuild NATO defenses, they don't want to be seen to be involved in terrorism. Hence their panicky propaganda efforts to cover up one smoking gun: the proven involvement of the Bulgarian secret service, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Soviet KGB in the plot to murder Pope John Paul II.

There are two ultra-secret departments in Moscow that are charged with planning and executing "wet operation" (*mokrie dela*) including assassinations. One is Department 8 of the KGB's Directorate responsible for running illegal agents. According to a recent KGB defector, it relies on the Bulgarians, more than any other satellite service, to supply hit men.

The other department is the so-called "Second Direction" of Soviet Military Intelligence, the GRU, which arranges for training for Third World terrorists, some of whom are

maintained as "sleepers" to be mobilized in time of need for joint operations with the GRU-directed Spetsnaz forces, Russia's answer to the Green Berets or Britains SAS.

The Spetsnaz units muster a total of about 30,000 men. Some are sent to scout targets in the West in the guise of visiting athletes.

The proficiency of these Soviet professional killers was demonstrated in Kabul, Afghanistan, in December 1979, when a hit team was sent in ahead of the tanks to assassinate Afghan President Hafizollah Amin. They stormed Amin's palace,

and cut him in half with machine-gun fire.

More than 1000 Palestinian terrorists have been trained at camps inside the USSR, like the ones at Odessa and at Simferopol in the Crimea. The notorious Venezuelan-born "Carlos" attended the Patricia Lumumba University in Moscow, whose faculty includes a high proportion of KGB tail-shed spotters. So did key radicals in the present Iranian regime who are involved in sponsoring international terrorism.

Many more terrorists receive training under Soviet Bloc instructors at camps in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Cuba, Nicaragua, Lebanon, Libya and South Yemen.

But in their dealings with Terror Inc., the Soviets prefer — wherever feasible — to conceal their hand by working through middle men, or cut-outs.

In the Western Hemisphere, the Soviets principal subcontractors are Cuba and Nicaragua, both profitably engaged

in the drug-for-guns barter trade between cocaine traffickers and "narcoterrorists" in Colombia, Bolivia and, most recently, Venezuela.

In the Middle East, where rival clans and Islamic sects use terror against each other as

well as against Western and "Zionist" targets, the Soviets spread their bets. They have used the PLO as a proxy to train and arm 10,000 terrorists from as far afield as Sri Lanka and Argentina and to provide access to the conservative

Gulf monarchies.

The Soviets don't "own" any Middle East government, with the possible exception of the orthodox Marxist-Leninist regime in South Yemen.

The three most aggressive terror states in the region are Syria, Libya and Iran. None of them is a Soviet satellite. Syria's Assad is an astute political poker player, preoccupied with the survival of his own extended family, through *hamula*.

Libya's Khadafy is erratic, prone to messianic delusions. And Iran's Ayatollah thinks that the Soviet Union, though perhaps not a

"Great Satan" on the order of the U.S., is at least somewhat devilish; Khomeini has executed large numbers of Tudeh (Communists) Party members and alleged KGB agents and backs the guerrillas fighting the Soviet invaders in Afghanistan.

However, the Soviets exercise effective control over Syria and Libya through their massive arms shipments, their thousands of advisors on the ground, and the recruitment of hundreds of KGB and GRU agents inside the local armed forces and intelligence services. They're using the same techniques to ensure that the Iranian mullahs continue to

focus their wrath on the U.S. and its allies.

The dividends can be enormous. Remember how the Beirut hostage crisis completely paralyzed the Carter Administration for most of its last year? The Soviets remember too. It's of more than passing interest that the man behind the seizure of the U.S. Embassy, Ayatollah Khomeini, was recently made Iran's Attorney General.

Today, Khomeini is responsible for the SAVAMA, Iran's security and intelligence organization, and is a key figure on the coordinating council, headed by Ayatollah Montazeri, that plots terrorism acts abroad.

The Soviets would love to see the Reagan administration hamstrung and exhausted by a rerun of the Tehran hostage crisis. Hence the value of "non-attributable" friends in Terror Inc.



JOHN PAUL II
Survived KGB-backed death plot.



HAFIZOLLAH AMIN
Afghan big gunned down by Soviets.

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 49



DRUGS & BLOOD: THE CUBAN CONNECTION

Terrorists don't live on bread alone. To feed and arm their guerrilla bands, some Red nations have resorted to another deadly practice: drug smuggling. In part five of this six-part Post series, Robert Moss, an authority on espionage and terrorism, details the dangers of the "narco-terrorists."

By **ROBERT
MOSS**

OFF the northern coast of Cuba is a tiny island, Cayo Piedra, that has been fortified and is teeming with security guards armed with automatic weapons.

It is a regular port of call for Cuban warships and for President Fidel Castro and his brother Raul, the armed forces *supremo*.

According to U.S. investigators, it is also a base for drug racketeers operating under Cuban protection.

Former Colombian deputy Pablo Escobar Gaviria, on his country's most wanted list because of his alleged involvement in a major cocaine ring, and fugitive U.S. financier Robert Vesco have both found safe haven in Cuba. They are both said to be active in arranging drug deals that net the Castro regime a minimum of \$10 million a month.

The Colombian is said to travel to Nicaragua frequently on Cuban military planes. Last Christmas, he reportedly made a flamboyant gift to a Colombian guerrilla movement that controls cocaine laboratories and marijuana plantations in the Guajira peninsula: 1000 Czech-manufactured pistols, engraved with his own initials.

There is a mounting body of evidence that the Castro government and several other pro-Soviet regimes — notably Bulgaria, Syria and Nicaragua — are skimming the profits of the drug traffic to finance international terrorism and other covert activities.

Four top Havana officials, including the head of Castro's navy, have been indicted by a federal court in South Florida on charges of direct involvement with a Colombian ring smuggling cocaine into the U.S.

Colombia is the source of 75 percent of the cocaine and more than half the marijuana that is smuggled into the U.S. each year. The government, with U.S. encouragement, has been trying to crack down on the druglords, but they have been fighting back.

Last year, Colombia's Justice Minister, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, was murdered and since then more than a hundred Colombian policemen have died in shoot-outs. Mob bosses are offering a bounty \$300,000 for the lives of U.S. drug enforcement agents assisting the anti-drug campaign.

The unholy alliance that has been spawned between organized crime and Marxist regimes and the revolutionary groups they sponsor poses a serious threat to the stability of U.S. allies in the Western Hemisphere. It also

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provides unlimited funds for terror operations against U.S. targets.

The major terrorist groups in Colombia are all profiting from the drug trade. The largest and oldest of them is the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) which was founded as a military wing of the Communist Party in 1964. Its chief, Manuel Marulanda Velez, is known by his nickname Tirofijo, or "Sureshot."

The FARC levies a war tax (gramaje) of 30 percent of the estimated profits of drug traffickers in the regions it controls.

Another group, the April 19th Movement ("M-19") pioneered "narco-terrorism" with the help of Cuban officials in Bogota and Panama. M-19 has close ties to Libya as well as Cuba. Some of its leaders, including Hector Pineda, the M-19 chief in the Cali district, have been trained in the Middle East.

M-19 kidnaped and held the then U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, Diego Asencio, and 17 other diplomats for more than two months in 1981. It staged a Castro-backed mass invasion attempt that same year, with 200 commandos trained in Cuba, that inspired the Colombian government to break off diplomatic relations with Havana.

Flush with funds from its drug connections, the M-19 now plays a leading role in coordinating terror groups from other Latin American countries. It is believed to have played midwife to a new terrorist movement, the Alfaro Lives organization, that is trying to undermine Ecuador's fledgling democracy. It also has close contacts with the "Shining Path" guerrillas in Peru and Chile's MIR.

According to intelligence sources, some 1400 terrorists from both the M-19 and the FARC are now receiving guerrilla training in Nicaragua. The Colombian government is alarmed that the Sandinistas' enthusiasm for exporting Marxist

revolution seems to have spread beyond El Salvador and Central America.

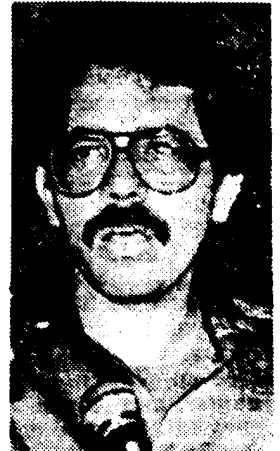
Amongst documents captured by the Colombian army during a raid on a guerrilla arms cache was a letter allegedly signed by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. It contained details of a revolutionary offensive planned for next year, involving the landing of hundreds of guerrillas from Cuba and Nicaragua.

Colombia's narco-terrorists pose a fast-growing threat to neighboring Venezuela too. As a result of the crackdown in Colombia, some of the major druglords and their terrorist friends have moved their bases over the border, into the state of Zulia and the thinly populated Amazon territory.

Venezuelan Justice Minister Jose Manzo Gonzales narrowly escaped the same fate as his Colombian counterpart in 1984. He has accused a Colombian druglord with friends and business partners in M-19 of having plotted his assassination.



ROBERT VESCO
Fugitive financier said to aid Castro with drug deals.



DANIEL ORTEGA
Nicaragua chief joins Fidel in training guerrillas.



RODRIGO BONILLA
Slain after ordering drug crackdown.



DIEGO ASENSIO
U.S. diplomat kidnaped in 1981.

Continued

Secret plans of the Tripoli-Moscow axis

WHEN Libya's Col. Khadafy threatens to "eat the kidneys" of his enemies — the Americans and the "Zionists" — there's a tendency in the West to write him off as a crackpot.

The Soviets see him rather differently. They treat him as a precious ally — which he is.

According to a reliable intelligence source, Libya recently became the second Middle Eastern country to receive Soviet SA-5 missiles. They are being deployed at two bases on the Mediterranean coast, threatening NATO bases in Sicily, and around the al-Kufrah oasis, within striking distance of Sudan and southern Egypt.

A top Czech intelligence officer, Major Cervinka, who is said to handle liaison with terrorist groups, recently flew to Libya. It was agreed that his service, the StB, will post about 40 additional intelligence officers to Tripoli, including a large contingent of communications specialists. Some of these Czech spies will use the cover of trade organizations like KOVO and FERROMET.

They will complement the estimated 5000 Soviet military personnel and thousands more East Europeans now in Libya. These experts include the big delegation from East Germany's Ministry of State Security that supervises Khadafy's intelligence services.

The Soviets have created huge arms dumps in Libya, pre-



MOAMMAR KHADAFY
Soviets' best pal.

positioning weapons for a future conflict. They have a chain of air and naval bases. Soviet engineers have been working on a big new naval facility at the Libyan port of al-Bardiyah. They have built a roof over half a mile of dry docks to conceal what is



LOUIS FARRAKHAN
Libya beneficiary.

going on from U.S. satellite surveillance.

This isn't the way you treat a madman.

In fact, Khadafy is a prize asset for the Soviets. This isn't just because of

the strategic value of the real estate he holds at gunpoint. It is also because he can load up the most dubious friends with cash and Soviet-made weapons and leave the Russians free to say they don't know a thing about it.

The long list of the beneficiaries of Khadafy's largesse includes Central American guerrillas; the IRA; Muslim fanatics in Indonesia, the Philippines and southern Thailand; Egyptians fundamentalists; and America's own Louis Farrakhan.

Khadafy's agents have been implicated in assassination plots against Egypt's late President Sadat and against President Reagan.

The Libyan dictator has been notably active of late in trying to install pro-Soviet revolutionaries in power in strategic islands like Mauritius and French-owned Reunion, in the Indian Ocean, and New Caledonia, in the Pacific.

Khadafy's recent expulsion of foreign workers, including 30,000 Tunisians, provided perfect cover for the infiltration of Libyan agents. It's in the cards that some of those Tunisian expellees will now be used in a Libyan plot to punish President Bourguiba for refusing landing rights to that Egyptian plane with the hijackers on board.

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19 October 1985**LAST PART: An incisive look at the scourge of sadistic violence aimed at destabilizing the West**

FIGHTING BACK WHEN TERROR HITS AT HOME

ALTHOUGH past episodes have been few, U.S. soil is not immune to attacks by violent radicals, warns terrorism and espionage authority Robert Moss in his final installment of this special Post series.

By **ROBERT
MOSS**



TERROR, INC.

THERE'S an ugly rumor about Yasser Arafat circulating inside the PLO itself. It may help to explain why he authorized the hijacking of the Achille Lauro, and why he is likely to license a new wave of terror attacks.

According to intelligence sources, Arafat received a tip-off that the Israelis were about to strike half an hour before the Israeli air force attacked his headquarters in Tunis at the start of this month. This explains why Arafat and key lieutenants like Abu Iyad and Abu al-Mutasam (PLO operations chief) fled the scene before the Israeli warplanes arrived.

What is being said is that Arafat didn't bother to warn second-echelon leaders to evacuate the headquarters. Lesser PLO chiefs, including Jamal Hamami and Ali al-Zabek of the "Force 17" terror command, were left to perish in the rubble.

Whether or not the rumor is true, the episode has left a residue of bitterness among the PLO contingent in Lebanon.

From Arafat's point of view, it's a highly combustible situation. His PLO fighters are frustrated, lacking a land-base of their own from which to strike at Israel. Some have been approached by Syrian and Libyan agents seeking to oust Arafat as PLO supremo or, failing that, to stage a new split in the PLO.

Only by a new terror offensive abroad can Arafat hope to divert the energies of his restive followers and defuse the threat to his own leadership. Since the seajack ended in disaster — despite the Italians' release of Abul Abbas, Arafat's confidant and the mastermind in the hijack — Arafat's supporters will be driven to try again.

The U.S. could be the main target.

In the past, many more Americans have died at the hands of terrorists abroad than inside the U.S. This doesn't mean that the U.S. is somehow magically immune to the orgy of violence taking place in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

The support networks are already in place here for a terror campaign by extremists bent on punishing the U.S. for its perceived policies in the Middle East and Central America.

Here's the kind of scenario that has been preoccupying security experts since the capture of the PLO hijackers:

- A PLO hit team is sent to the U.S. to exact reprisals. It selects a high-profile target, say, the headquarters of a well-known Jewish organization in New York.

The terrorists, new to the U.S. find their target too well-guarded. But they see, in the phone book, that the next entry is for an organization with an almost identical name. It happens to be a Jewish nursery school.

Bingo: they have a defenseless target for a mass-hostage taking. (And remember that these people have no compunction about taking children's lives.)

I've suppressed real names here because the scenario is only too plausible. It's an example of the arbitrary logic by which terrorists select "targets of opportunity." It's a reminder of how many easy targets an open, democratic society offers for terrorist attack.

Here's another scenario that security analysts have been studying:

- The Reagan Administration, either by direct action or through subcontractors (like the anti-communist governments in Guatemala and Honduras) deals a body-blow to the Marxist regime in Nicaragua.

The Sandinistas, some of whose chiefs were trained in PLO camps, provide a base for the Cubans, the PLO and terrorists from all over the region.

The so-called "emergency response network," a grouping of pro-Sandinista organizations in more than 60 U.S. towns and cities, springs into action. Offices are closed, roads and bridges are blockaded, military bases picketed by demonstrators.

Terrorist cells, organized and infiltrated into the U.S. by Cuban intelligence, are sent into action, taking advantage of the chaos. One available unit is the Castro-based Puerto Rican FALN, which has carried out bombings in the New York area. One of its leaders was caught in possession of detailed blueprints of the power system of lower Manhattan —

presumably not because he was pursuing advanced studies in electrical engineering.

The FALN's sister group, the Macheteros wiped out most of the fighter planes of the Air National Guard in Puerto Rico and used an advanced LAW ground-to-ground missile against the FBI headquarters in San Juan, narrowly missing its target.

The second scenario, according to the professionals, is no less realistic than the first.

The masters of international terrorism have friends in America.

There is Colonel Khadafy's friend Louis Farrakhan, whose gospel of race hate and vulgar anti-semitism are creating a climate of violence. Farrakhan boasts of a \$5 million "loan" Khadafy gave his Nation of Islam organization.

Khadafy has been cultivating U.S. radicals since the early 1970s. In recent years, the accent has been on militant black organizations like Farrakhan's group, the Republic of New Africa, and a shadowy California-based outfit called Black Argus.

Khadafy's intelligence service is closely allied to one of the deadliest Palestinian terror groups, George Habash's PFLP, which pioneered aircraft hijackings and has integrated non-Arabs — notably Germans, Japanese and Latin Americans — into its own ranks. The PFLP has active cells in the U.S., in southern California, Chicago, New York and other areas with significant Arab communities.

Another Khadafy ally, Syria, exercises effective control over another secret terror group that is well-established in the U.S. This is ASALA — the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia. ASALA hit men gunned down a Turkish diplomat in Los Angeles.

The Iranian network is bigger still. It includes a

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Washington-based group, the Islamic Guerrillas in America (IGA), some of whose members were implicated in the 1980 murder off an anti-Khomeini Iranian at his home in suburban Maryland. IGA members, who are mostly black ex-convicts, have been employed as security guards at the "Iranian Interests Section" at the Algerian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

And then there are Fidel Castro's friends. A huge support apparatus for Latin American revolutionaries has been created in the U.S., under the supervision of the twin Cuban spy agencies: the DGI and the *Departamento de America*, which specializes in subversion and terrorism in the Western Hemisphere.

Let's prevent it from happening here!

AS CAN be seen from this Post series, the men behind Terror Inc. have abundant resources in the U.S. They may now have the motive to bring their dirty wars here.

What can be done to reduce the risk?

Tightening up security around possible targets can never be a sufficient answer. There are just too many targets on offer. If not a cruise ship, then a tour bus. If not a Jewish organization, then a nursery school.

An effective answer to terrorism depends on

three things: penetration, pre-emption and punishment.

• Penetration means recruiting informers and infiltrating intelligence agents inside terrorist organizations. I have already reported the 1973 incident when a Black September terrorist planted three car-bombs in New York, outside the Israeli consulate, the El Al office and on Wall Street. He was foiled because of good intelligence — not an agent in this case, but an FBI wiretap.

• With foreknowledge of the terrorists' plans, the authorities can move to preempt them. The Israelis, with multiple sources inside Arab terror groups, have been able to tip off the U.S. and allied governments in advance of terrorist strikes.

Alerted by the Israelis, for example, the West German authorities were able to intercept a PFLP hit team en route to blow up oil dumps in West Berlin — a target selected by East German intelligence.

• Negotiations can't

always be ruled out. But the message can and must be sent out loud and clear that, every time terrorism is committed, those responsible with illegal acts must be made to pay.

The Israelis sent that message when they dispatched their warplanes to Tunis. To date, the U.S. has failed to send it to the men responsible for the Beirut bombings and the TWA hijack and, for that matter, to the people who arranged the long agony at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.