Europe's terror hunt leads to Britain

It's not exactly a continent-wide sweep yet, but new breaks in the hunt for terrorists in Western Europe show that senior levels of West German, Italian, and French security agencies are no longer being guided by disinformation and misdirection offered by British and Israeli sources.

The revelation that for at least the past four years London has served as a major hideout for West German terrorists is only the most public hint that the cited European agencies are beginning to crack the top-down British control and deployment of terrorist capabilities. Baader-Meinhof and Red Brigade terrorists are being arrested all over Europe, their logistical support bases are getting blown, and selected exposé material is being handed over to European news media.

The Paris newspaper Le Figaro and other media have reported a super-secret meeting held in Vienna during the weekend of Sept. 9 between Interior Ministers from every major West Europan country, excepting Great Britain. The meeting was held to achieve "more perfect coordination" between the special antiterror divisions of each country's police service.

The participants — Ministers Virginio (Italy), Baum (West Germany), Huerlimann (Switzerland),

Bonnet (France), and Lanc (Austria) — reportedly focused almost exclusively on the question of how terrorists are able to pass across international borders with astonishing ease. The last such meeting, held in Bern five months ago, had been devoted to airborne hijackings, and resulted in the international treaty on terrorist hijackings proposed at the Bonn summit meeting in July.

Britain's Home Secretary Merlyn Rees reportedly did not attend the Vienna meeting, even though only a few days before he had met in Bonn with his West German counterpart, Gerhart Baum. His absence is particularly noteworthy in light of the fact that over the past weeks every section of British intelligence has bombarded European and other intelligence channels with predictions of an "autumn offensive" of terrorism, which would particularly be directed against the government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Although no details of the meeting were released, information from West German sources indicates the nature of the problem discussed. It is by now well known that the Baader-Meinhof terrorist Jürgen Klein (involved in the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972) is an agent of the Israeli Massad and is currently in Israel, from where he has granted interviews to the

Three leading terrorists captured

As the immediate result of the reorientation of the European terrorist hunt, three leading terrorists have been turned up over the past two weeks.

Willy Peter Stoll: Baader-Meinhof member wanted for involvement in the murders of Jürgen Ponto and Hanns Martin Schleyer. One of three terrorists who made a number of helicopter journeys in southern Germany during July and August while under police surveillance, but managed to escape at the last minute. Accosted at a restaurant in Düsseldorf; died of wounds suffered when he tried to pull a gun on his captors.

On Stoll's body was found a forged British passport and British working papers.

Astrid Proll: Long-time Baader-Meinhof criminal.

Arrested in London, where she had been working for the British government as a trainer of young mechanics. Has been living in Britain for four years under an assumed name. Some reports have traced the discovery of her whereabouts to papers found on Stoll's body, but the existence of a number of conflicting stories indicates a broader range of information was utilized.

Now in detention pending a British court decision on a West German extradition request. Proll's lawyer, however, planning to block extradition by pleading that she has "gone straight" since her arrival in Britain — a tactic already being used by other terrorists such as Jürgen Klein in Israel.

Corrado Alunni: Psychopathic killer sought in connection with the Moro kidnapping.

Arrested at his Rome apartment Sept. 14 by Italian police; next day, an associate Maria Zoni was captured at the same location.

Alunni likely the leader of the Red Brigades ever since the arrest and imprisonment of Renato Curcio earlier this year. Inside Alunni's apartment, police found a large cache of arms, including 14 hand guns, two machine guns, and thousands of rounds of ammunition and assorted grenades.

West German magazine Der Spiegel, among other activities. But although this fact is known to the West German authorities, these authorities admit they are afraid to apply to the Israeli government for Klein's extradition for fear that the Israelis would make reprisals, either by cutting off supplies of information or by other, more violent, means.

The situation is complicated by the fact that, according to French sources, West Germany's antiterror police rely heavily on the Israelis for intelligence on the activities of international terrorist networks.

"Above suspicion"

The Vienna meeting is a hint that the West Germans, French, and Italians have put two and two together and will hence forth regard information from Israeli and allied British sources as highly tainted, while they pursue their own investigation along the lines pointed by General Dalla Chiesa of the Italian Carabinieri, currently the special investigator assigned to the kidnapping of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

Gen. Dalla Chiesa's investigation has already delved even further into the higher-level networks of terrorist control. Last week several employees of the Italian Interior Ministry who up to now had been considered "above suspicion" were arrested in connection with the Moro case. The trail in the Moro murder is therefore leading in the direction of Francesco Cossiga, the former Interior Minister, who was closely allied with British intelligence circles and who last May was forced out of office over the Moro affair, a few days after the discovery of Moro's body, by Prime Minister Andreotti.

In addition to this, several terrorist bases of operation have been found in Rome, Düsseldorf and Wiesbaden. The Düsseldorf location has been described by Federal Criminal Office head Horst Herold as one of the two major coordination bases in the region.

These, however, are only the initial successes, events which serve as a warning to everyone acquainted with terrorist networks in Europe. The real task is to wipe out or paralyze the institutions which maintain the terrorist capability. This is the meaning of an arti-

cle published in the Italian newsweekly Panorama on Switzerland. That country is identified as "the doorway for terrorism into Europe," the prime location from which deranged European youth can be conduited into the Middle East and elsewhere for further brainwashing before they are returned to Switzerland for deployment into France, Italy, or West Germany. In particular the city of Zurich is identified as the major bridge between German and Italian terrorists. Literally every single investigation of terrorist networks, says the magazine, both in West Germany and Italy has led directly into Zurich.

From the Swiss mountains

The case of the weapons used in the murder of Moro and of the West German industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer is cited as supportive evidence. Although it has been known for some time that precisely the same weapons were used in both murders, it has now been established that these and other arms found with terrorists all come from the same stockpile located at a Swiss army base.

Even without such evidence, Switzerland's central role in international terrorism was never a secret. Switzerland, not really a country, is a collection of cities controlled by various branches of Europe's "black nobility" and monetarist elite. Ever since the oligarchy gained control of the British throne following 1688, the British monarchy and the City of London used Switzerland as its major jumping-off place for continental subversion. The activities range from banking operations and dissemination of British empiricism to drugs and terrorism.

The Jura mountains have long harbored terrorists to be used against leaders displeasing to London in surrounding countries. It is hardly accidental that on Sept. 24 a referendum will be held in the "Canton" of Berne in order to decide on whether the Jura region should be split off into a separate Canton. European media are relaying unconfirmed reports that the Jura separatist movement has been using terrorist acts to underline its demands.

- John Sigerson