

The Syrian terror wave in Europe

by Judith Wyer

A bomb went off on a busy Paris street during the morning rush hour of April 22, claiming one life and injuring 62. The explosion, the worst terrorist incident in a decade in France, demolished the building that housed the Arab newspaper *Al Watan al Arabi* and qualified the regime of Syrian President **Hafez al Assad** as a leading force in international terrorism.

Within hours of the blast, the French government ordered the expulsion of both the cultural and military attachés of the Syrian embassy, who are accused by the French Interior Ministry of orchestrating the bloody affair. The French press has since revealed the scope of the Damascus regime's increasing involvement in plotting assassinations and terrorist attacks throughout Europe.

Al Watan al Arabi, one of the more influential of the numerous Arabic language newspapers in Europe, had conducted an outspoken campaign against the Assad regime for its open alliance with the Ayatollah Khomeini against Iraq and the latter's moderate allies, particularly Saudi Arabia. *Al Watan* had interviewed both *EIR* founder Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. and his wife Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Chairman of the European Labor Party, and had reprinted numerous articles from the *EIR*.

Al Watan al Arabi had also exposed Syria's cooperation with Libyan dictator **Muammar Qaddafi** and the **Austrian government** in plotting future terror in Europe and revealed that the international terrorist kingpin **Carlos** had relocated from Libya to Syria.

French exposés

It can hardly be called coincidental that the bomb exploded when a French trial was beginning of two of Carlos's terrorist colleagues, **Bruno Breguet** and **Magdalena Kaupp**. Carlos had issued warnings that unless the two were released, Paris would undergo a wave of terror in retribution.

Days before the bombing incident French television ran a documentary on the 1981 murder of the French ambassador to Lebanon, Louis de Lamare, accusing Syria—which maintains 30,000 troops there as a peace-keeping force—of the killing, a charge echoed by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson days later. Since that incident Lebanese sources report that French intelligence has been investigating the covert operations

of the notorious Syrian secret police headed by one **General Chanem** and Syrian intelligence head **Rifaat Assad**, the Syrian President's gangster brother.

Syria had previously attempted to bomb *Al Watan*. In one case the Syrian military attaché, **Hassan Ali**, was identified as directly involved in the plot. Ali works directly under Ghanem and Assad, as did two other named in the bombing, **Abdel Massaoui** and **Mohammed Yacine**. Massaoui is a pseudonym for an Iranian with the last name of Isfahani who works with the crack commando unit, the **Red Knights**, the Lebanon-based gестапо force of Rifaat Assad. Armed and trained by Bulgarians involved in massive black-marketing of weapons, the Red Knights are a vehicle for training and deploying terrorists. Hassan Ali was in charge of recruiting radical pro-Khomeini Muslim students in France into Rifaat Assad's mafia.

In a series of exposés on Syria's role in fostering terrorism, the French weekly *Liberation* questioned the link between the Assad brothers and the bombings which hit the French embassy and Air France offices in Vienna that same week, in which a group called the **Committee to Safeguard the Islamic Revolution**, a front for Khomeini's notorious secret police, SAVAMA, claimed responsibility.

Rifaat Assad was in France at one of his frequent stopovers, Bordeaux, when the April 22 incident occurred. Both Rifaat and Hafez Assad have cultivated ties with the French Mafia through Marseilles and Monte Carlo. Reliable Arab sources confirm that the Assad brothers have ambitions to carve out their own empire in global crime though their growing drug-running enterprises. The Syrian troops in Lebanon provide the pretext for the Assads to share in the lucrative hashish and opium cultivation which is now estimated to comprise 30 percent of Lebanon's gross national product. The Assads have been fingered by drug-enforcement authorities in moving opium into Europe by way of Cyprus, Sicily, and southern France and into North America.

Earlier this year the Italian authorities investigating the Red Brigades kidnapping of General Dozier attempted to extradite a Syrian drug runner named **Salah al Din Bakash** for his "business dealings" with the arrested Italian terrorist **Rafaello Reggio**.

The Assads have also established strongholds in Bonn and Hamburg for future terrorist operations via a newly created group calling itself **Europe and the Arab**. Investigators of the Paris bombing say that they have identified the two organizers of the new group as having played a role in the Paris bombing. A Lebanese source observed that the "vehicle" by which Assad and his Iranian and Libyan allies intend to "consolidate" their position in organized crime in the coming months will be through escalated terror such as the Paris attack.