

Terror 'experts' run cover for KGB plans

by Kathleen Klenetsky

While Soviet-backed terrorists are mounting a bloody proxy war against the United States and its allies, participants at a Washington, D.C. conference June 24-25 claimed that unless the United States is prepared to "cooperate" with Moscow in "fighting terrorism," an escalation to nuclear terrorism is inevitable.

The blood-curdling scenario which these self-styled experts on terrorism painted in such lurid detail, was hardly the sober evaluation of counterintelligence specialists; it was intended by the international networks of the Pugwash Conferences to open the door for political concessions to Moscow and for KGB penetration of Western intelligence agencies. The Pugwash Conferences are the principal "back-channel" vehicle for "East-West dialogue"—bypassing the institutions of sovereign governments.

The "Conference on International Terrorism: The Nuclear Dimension" was sponsored jointly by the Nuclear Control Institute—a Pugwash spinoff—and the State University of New York's Institute for Studies in International Terrorism.

The presentations were all the more astonishing, given that at least a few of the key speakers have long pointed to the Soviet Union as the driving force behind nuclear terrorism. The widely-publicized meeting drew such "experts" on both conventional and nuclear terrorism as Theodore Taylor, Brian Jenkins, and Yonah Alexander, as well as Israeli physicist Yuval Ne'emann, Jimmy Carter's arms control czar Paul Warnke, Bernard Feld (of Pugwash and *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*), and Jacques Meurant (of the International Red Cross).

Although there was some quibbling over which particular scenario was most likely to occur, the participants were reported to have agreed that, on a scale of 1 to 10, the possibility of a major nuclear terrorist act in the next three to five years is a "5"—and escalating fast. Such an event, participants said, was more likely than a Soviet nuclear attack or an invasion of Western Europe.

Speaker after speaker talked about the "inevitability" of nuclear terrorism, spinning out one horrifying prediction after another of the devastation that would ensue should terrorists get their hands on a nuclear device or sabotage a nuclear power plant.

"I have concluded that we will see a major nuclear terrorist incident before the end of the decade," carried out most

likely by "religious fundamentalists," Dr. Bertram Brown, the former director of the National Institute of Mental Health, declared. His point was seconded by Ne'emann, who told *EIR* that Libya's Qaddafi not only "has the money and the will to indulge in nuclear terrorism," but groups such as the radical Shi'ites and the Red Brigades to carry out his bidding.

Bernard O'Keefe, who has long been involved in nuclear weapons design and manufacture, was of the same opinion: "There is very little that can be done to prevent a skilled, determined, well-organized terrorist organization from setting off a nuclear detonation on United States territory," he averred, adding that "the greatest threat to civilization today is the prospect of a terrorist-implemented nuclear explosion." MIT physicist Feld concurred: "I believe this possibility is bound to become a certainty."

To stop terrorism: Surrender!

The specter of nuclear terrorism was raised for two major purposes: to frighten the United States and the West into making accommodations to Moscow, under the guise of collaborating to prevent a nuclear terror disaster, and to curb the expansion of civilian nuclear power, especially to the developing sector.

Principal speaker Bernard J. O'Keefe told the conference that "the key to international cooperation [against nuclear terrorism] is the Soviet Union," and called for entering into "cooperative agreements" with Moscow on counterterrorist moves, even though such an agreement "will certainly imply some loss of sovereignty."

O'Keefe also urged the United States to "put our intelligence on nuclear terrorist matters together with that of the KGB"—in other words, hand over Western intelligence on terrorism to the agency which controls and deploys terrorism. Numerous other speakers asserted that the only way to curb terrorism is to improve relations with the Kremlin, by concessions to Moscow in key strategic areas.

Perhaps the most egregious recommendation came from Louis Rene Beres of Purdue University, who claimed that "preventing nuclear terrorism . . . suggests that the superpowers must restructure their central strategic relationship." Such restructuring "must be oriented toward a return to strategies of 'minimum deterrence,' a comprehensive nuclear test ban; a joint renunciation of first-use of nuclear weapons; and a joint effort toward creating additional nuclear-weapon-free zones."

Beres also called on the United States to withdraw its Pershing and cruise missiles from Europe, since the missile deployments anger the terrorists and give them a reason to attack U.S. targets.

Many speakers also insisted that U.S.-Soviet cooperation could also be the key to stopping the spread of nuclear materials, noting that the Soviets have taken a far stronger stand against Third World countries obtaining nuclear power than the West.