

Editorial

Watching your back

The murder of Herr Alfred Herrhausen of Deutsche Bank on Nov. 29, 1989 was attributed to the terrorist Red Army Faction—a group believed to be Syrian-trained and -controlled. The assassination has even been linked through the explosives used, to the Syrian arms dealer Monzer Al-Kassar, otherwise under suspicion for complicity in the Pan American 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Twelve years ago another German banker, Jürgen Ponto was similarly assassinated, as was the head of the West German Employers' Association, Hanns-Martin Schleyer. Both Ponto and Herrhausen were far-seeing proponents of world economic development; indeed, Herr Herrhausen was working closely with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in planning for the new German miracle which should follow upon reunification of the east zone with the Federal Republic.

These were bankers in the classical sense, who used their function to promote progress in less-developed countries; they were investment rather than speculative bankers. They practiced a kind of "moral banking" not generally found in New York City or in London over recent decades.

Ponto was murdered by the Baader-Meinhof terrorists in the summer of 1977, as part of a Soviet-directed terrorist targeting of key figures associated with nuclear energy. This targeting had been announced from France, and was directed against West Germany, where Ponto was a leading banking figure associated with the promotion of the export of nuclear energy.

Herrhausen of Deutsche Bank was committed to excellent ideas and was a powerful influence for them, in the same stripe, the same general direction, as Ponto, the martyr of 1977. Herrhausen was also ostensibly murdered by the same general networks.

But there's another aspect to it. Just as the Lockerbie bombing has pointed to the role of CIA networks in sanctioning the operation which was carried out by Syrian networks, so, too, there is the possibility of Western complicity in the Herrhausen murder.

In the case of the Baader-Meinhof gang, there has

always been a link not only of Soviet, but of Anglo-American connections—high-level connections. This link pertains to the roots and aftermath of the old Communist International, and to interests involved with Nikolai Bukharin, for example, back in the 1920s, in what was called the Anglo-Soviet Trust.

This is the crowd with which the vicious malthusian Bertrand Russell was identified, along with his Pugwash sidekick Leo Szilard. This is Henry Kissinger's gang today. They oppose everything which Ponto and Herrhausen represented, just as they are violently opposed to the kind of economic miracle which is potentially embedded in German reunification allied to French and Japanese economic potential.

This is what is known today as the Soviet and Anglo-American condominium between Thatcher and Bush on the one hand, and Gorbachov on the other. It is highly credible that the authors of these condominium policies also agree upon the need to use terrorism in order to enforce them—the kind of terrorism which killed Ponto, Schleyer, and Herrhausen.

The Bush administration would have us believe that the Soviets are no longer U.S. adversaries. They prefer to consider a *victory* in Panama as the model for enemies of the future. This is, of course, nonsense. The only truth in the matter, is that it is a mistake to single the Soviets out as the enemy of Western civilization. That adversary is, in fact, the oligarchical tendency represented by the condominium today known as the Trust.

This force is best called oligarchism. It doesn't care too much whether the form of society it represents is simple barbarism, or the communist form of barbarism, or Adam Smith kinds of barbarism as we have in the Anglo-American sector. This is an old oligarchical tradition which we can trace back to pre-Christian Greece, at the time of Lycurgus's rule in Sparta, and to the worst features of the empires of Mesopotamia of ancient times. This oligarchism is characterized by the dominance of a ruling class, ruling families who consider themselves to be a law unto themselves.