

Arab-Jewish network is funding terrorism

by Dean Andromidas

In the week of Feb. 20, the Jerusalem police broke the largest money-laundering ring since the founding of Israel, comprising both "ultra-orthodox" Jews and Palestinians in East Jerusalem. The ring smuggled over \$1 billion in cash and gold out of Israel, depositing it in Swiss and German banks. According to police spokesman Shmulik Ben Ruby, the police are investigating money transfers between the network and Palestinian terrorist groups. Among those arrested were several yeshiva students in their 30s and 40s, one of whom was Tov Tarabelo, of Jerusalem. Also arrested were two Palestinian money changers, Shamir and Talil Asila, well-known in Jerusalem.

Although Ben Ruby could not name the banks involved, *EIR* is investigating possible links to Geopol's Union Bancaire Privée (UBP), which is a target of both South African and U.S. Justice Department officials for money laundering and illegal gold smuggling.

Mideast sources see the development as related to President Clinton's executive order to seize the bank accounts of Jewish and Arab terrorist groups operating in the United States. It is said to demonstrate growing U.S.-Israeli cooperation in an effort to foil terrorist operations aimed at sabotaging the peace process. In a related development, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin named a new head of Israel's General Security Service, or Shin Bet. Codenamed "KAF," he is reported to be an expert on right-wing extremist Jewish groups. His appointment led to protests and legal action by rightist groups, all of which failed to block his appointment.

This case is the latest in a series which points to possible coordination among U.S., Israeli, and South African intelligence networks which are targeting UBP and allied networks. UBP Chairman Edgar De Picciotto is on the board of directors of George Soros's Quantum Fund and, according to Swiss banking sources, his banking career is based on the support of the British and the Rothschild banking empire. *EIR* has documented how these networks intersect in Switzerland through a small company called Geopol SA, whose directors include Pierre Hafner, a director of CBI Holding, the mother company of UBP; Elisabeth Kopp, former Swiss justice minister and wife of Hans Kopp, who is a convicted felon and lawyer representing corporations reputedly linked to organized crime; Helmut Raiser, top arms dealer and mastermind of the Condor missile project; and Laurent Murawiec, a former associate of *EIR* who now works with the enemies of

Lyndon LaRouche. UBP is British in pedigree and has worked with the Iran-Contra crowd of Oliver North and Anti-Defamation League of Edgar Bronfman's B'nai B'rith.

A pattern of arrests

The following law enforcement operations culminated in arrests and indictments in the last weeks:

- On Nov. 27, 1994, U.S. federal agents arrested Jean Jacques Handali, account manager at UBP in Geneva, and several others tied to a multimillion-dollar money-laundering ring between the United States, Switzerland, and Israel. Mayer Balass of Tel Aviv was one of those indicted. The network was comprised predominantly of Jewish businessmen and criminals.

- In the same week, South African authorities broke that country's largest gold-smuggling ring, which was accused of smuggling no less than eight tons of gold a year to Switzerland. The proceeds were deposited in accounts at UBP in Geneva and at the Banque Multi Commerciale, a subsidiary of Banque Nationale de Paris.

- The same week, French police arrested Anthony Gabriel Tannourri, based on a complaint by Prince Constantine of Liechtenstein, who charged that Tannourri defrauded him in a \$3 million deal involving gold. Tannourri is a Maronite Lebanese who has played the bagman, deal-maker, and swindler over the last two decades. His name has appeared in the investigations of Licio Gelli's P-2 lodge in Italy, the Bulgarian drug connection of the early 1980s, the arms deals to Iran and Iraq, and the financial scandals of the late 1980s. Despite his lowly origins from the streets of Beirut, he mysteriously acquired a 2% shareholding of Assicurazioni Generali, which he used as collateral for various arms deals and financial manipulations. Generali is the Trieste-based Italian reinsurance company which functions as a manager of the *fondi* of the leading families of the Club of the Isles. Among its board of directors are representatives of the British and Dutch royal families, Carlo Torre e Tasso, and leading financial interests, several of whom, such as Carlo De Benedetti and Claude Bebear of France's AXA insurance, are personal friends of Edgar De Picciotto of UBP. Despite Generali's official denial of any relationship with Tannourri, his 2% holding represented one of the company's largest single shareholdings.

Among his most recent escapades was a business relationship with Florio Fiorini, who is sitting in a Swiss jail accused of fraud in the SF 3.5 billion collapse of the Geneva-based SASEA Holding. According to sources, he left Switzerland under suspicion of involvement in money laundering and gun running. He is considered a frontman for Libya, and he played a role in the privatization of the Libyan Tamoil.

- According to the Jerusalem police spokesman, in December they made their first arrest in the Jerusalem case. The man arrested had 25 kilos of gold he was preparing to illegally transfer out of the country.