

Convoluting Morality

BRITAIN has broken diplomatic relations with Syria, alleging that the Syrians have been implicated in a case involving a planned attack on an Israeli airliner. The Syrians have denied the charge and stated that the whole thing is a plot by the CIA and Mossad.

Many questions about the whole episode remain unanswered. The British withdrew most of their staff from their Embassy in Beirut *before* the court delivered its verdict in the critical Nizar Hindawi case. The Americans followed up Britain's break in diplomatic relations with recalling their Ambassador in Damascus for consultations. At the same time it is becoming evident that Israeli secret service agents have kidnapped a nuclear scientist, last sighted in London, and transported him to Israel, where he is in custody. The British government has yet to react to this news.

This stance would be understandable if this was the first *documented* case of state involvement in terrorism. Observers of the British scene remember very well the detailed expose in *The Guardian* of official Iraqi complicity in the attempt on the life of the Israeli Ambassador in London, which Israel used as a pretext to invade Lebanon. The attacker was an Iraqi army colonel, and had full backing of the Iraqi embassy in London. Another case which came to light was that of Iraqi complicity in the occupation of Iran's London embassy in 1980. Again, the surviving terrorist told of arms and logistical help from the Iraqi embassy.

In Europe, the case of the Achille Lauro affair comes to mind. The alleged mastermind of this operation was Abul Abbass, holding an Iraqi diplomatic passport. Not only did the Italians let him go because of his diplomatic status, the US Secretary of State, George Shultz, when questioned about his presence in Iraq, and his promise to retaliate at identifiable targets, said effectively that friends are not punished for abetting terrorism! This was backed up by the blatant revelation that a CIA operative was captured alive when the Nicaraguans shot down a terrorist supply plane.

As to Mossad's operations in Europe, they are legion. The murder in Paris of a prominent Egyptian scientist working on the Iraqi nuclear programme was one amongst many such operations in Europe and Scandinavia. The latest case of the Israeli nuclear scientist serves to show how the media will dismiss it as speculation.

Thus Britain's move against Syria is to be seen not in terms of prevention of terrorism, but part of some more elaborate plan to achieve western strategic aims in the Middle East. However much one disagrees with the Ba'athist regime in Damascus, it cannot be denied that Syria is *the* major obstacle to the establishment of Zionist hegemony in the region. The frustration of Zionist and western designs in the Lebanon, and the looming problems in a post-Saddam Iraq, make Syria's role critical. Up to now every crisis in the region has tended to add to Syria's stature and the west is literally being booted out inch-by-inch from large parts of the Eastern Mediterranean. It would appear that concerted western action is planned to destabilise President Assad's regime in order to make it more amenable to accepting Israel's annexation of the whole of Palestine and major tracts of surrounding lands. It is also to be remembered that the Syrian-Libyan-Algerian-Iranian alliance is frustrating designs for collective Arab capitulation to the Zionist annexation of Palestine.

There was a time when pronouncements of moral indignation and righteousness from countries like Britain and the United States, were taken at face value. It is a measure of slippage in their moral postures that virtually everyone is looking for the *real* reasons behind the diplomatic break. Indeed, as we have shown above, their own double standards have contributed greatly to this scepticism on the part of the rest of the world.

If one were to probe deeper, one would find that the whole global order is constructed on these very countries' support for a multitude of dictators, and that in reality they only shed crocodile tears for human rights and freedoms.

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