



Unfortunately, Arafat fell into this trap. In his efforts to prove the PLO's innocence, he blamed Libya and Syria for being behind the attacks, falling in line with Reagan's campaign. His statement was particularly glaring when contrasted with the fact that both the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization have expressed full support to Libya in the face of imperialist-Zionist threats. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have pledged support to Libya. Even western Europe has refused to implement most of the measures proposed by Reagan, due to their more sophisticated policies and greater economic interests in trade with Libya.

The campaign against Qaddafi is actually an attack on all nationalist and anti-imperialist forces in the area. It paralleled the US-Israeli effort to thwart the Syrian-sponsored peace plan in Lebanon.

In mid-December, the Israeli military command started complaining to the US that the presence of Syrian missile batteries near the Lebanese border seriously impaired the ability of Israeli jets to make reconnaissance flights over Lebanon. The arrogance of this is even more obvious when one knows that: (1) The missile batteries in question were stationed in Syrian territory (2) A month earlier, Israeli jets had shot down two Syrian planes over Syrian airspace near the Lebanese border. 'Israel' has repeated its complaint several times, and on January 7th, Peres threatened. «There is a real danger of war between Israel and Syria unless both countries behave properly.» 'Israel' and the US are looking for every excuse to pressure Syria, in order to isolate it and remove an

obstacle to separate Israeli-Jordanian negotiations. Two days after Peres' statement, the Reagan Administration threatened to extend the economic embargo to Syria.

## Expanding the US terrorist network

In the last analysis, Reagan's 'anti-terrorist' campaign is the other side of his efforts to militarize the world and outer space, American-style. By pointing an accusing finger at Libya, Syria, Palestinian 'extremists', etc., and producing trumped-up evidence, the Reagan Administration seeks to (1) convince the American taxpayer of the necessity of financing a gigantic military build-up; (2) convince NATO allies of the necessity of increased military spending and backing up US military initiatives; and (3) convince US allies around the world of the advantages of permitting US military facilities on their territory.

At the height of the anti-Qaddafi campaign, the Pentagon released statements that US special command units (like the Delta 'anti-terrorist' squad) are unfit for action due to lack of equipment (a plea for more funding) and not enough of them being stationed close to 'trouble spots' (a plea for more military facilities). Well before the Rome and Vienna attacks, the US had been planning to base a unit of the Delta forces in Europe to be close to the Mediterranean. On the pretext of being prepared for 'terrorism', hijackings and the like, the US is striving to extend and reinforce its international military network. This is the real terror network, state terrorism at its ultimate, used to threaten and blackmail, or actually attack, any force or country pursuing a truly independent policy which is deemed as a threat to US imperialist interests.

The immediate results of deploying US special units may resemble the joint US-Egyptian 'rescue' operation at Valletta airport in Malta on November 24th. There Egyptian commandos, 'advised' by three US officers, stormed a hijacked plane, firing in all directions. Fifty people were killed, including the vast majority of the passengers to be rescued. Most died from the indiscriminate shooting of their would-be rescuers, rather than from the hijackers' grenades. Schultz tried to justify the catastrophe by referring to the hijackers as follows: «These people are not people.» This was reminiscent of Begin's statements during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, claiming that 'Israel' was fighting «terrorists and two-leg-

ged beasts» in order to cover up the genocide pursued by the Israeli army.

## Star Wars - joint terrorist venture

The principal source of terrorism in the world today is none other than US imperialism itself. The US has furnished the massive political, military and financial support needed for 'Israel' to kill and maim thousands upon thousands of Palestinian, Lebanese and other Arab citizens over the years. It is the Reagan Administration that deliberately sabotaged the Contadora peace plan for Central America, and increased funding for the contras' war against the Nicaraguan people. It is the Reagan Administration that renewed support for the UNITA mercenaries' war of attrition on Angola, while failing to take any measures against the racist regime in South Africa which has been terrorizing the Black masses for the better part of a century. It is US imperialism and its CIA that installed dictatorships in a row of Latin American countries, in the Philippines, Indonesia, etc. The list of US terrorist campaigns is endless, from Vietnam to Grenada...

The most massive element of US imperialism's terrorism is its escalation of the nuclear arms race which threatens all mankind with destruction. 'Israel' is also a nuclear power and has recently officially decided to join in the US's Star Wars project for weapons in space. In late December, the Soviet news agency Novosti published information on recent Israeli underground nuclear tests in the Negev, the site of its largest nuclear reactor, Dimona. Novosti added that 'Israel' now possesses forty nuclear warheads.

Also in late December, just as Reagan was pointing the accusing finger at Qaddafi, the US conducted underground nuclear tests in Nevada, to perfect nuclear pumped X-ray lasers, needed for Star Wars, in an obvious attempt to sabotage the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests earlier declared by the Soviet Union.

The Israeli nuclear arsenal provides the US with added leverage in its attempt to blackmail the people of the strategic Middle East area into submitting to its hegemony. The joint participation of the US and 'Israel' in the Star Wars program adds a dangerous new element to the Middle East crisis, increasing its potential to erupt into a nuclear confrontation that would extend to other areas as well. ●