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Amin and Arafat: An Unholy Alliance

One of the most infamous partnerships since the Axis days of Hitler and Mussolini is today threatening the peace of the world. Idi Amin, the bizarre president of Uganda, and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), have struck up an unholy alliance.

Amin is responsible for the barbaric murder of an estimated 150,000 to 300,000 of his fellow countrymen. Arafat's PLO followers have killed thousands of Israeli civilians and conducted terrorist attacks in almost every sector of the world.

Their quid pro quo works this way: Amin provides a special diplomatic shelter for a core of Arafat's henchmen and a training base for the PLO in Uganda. Arafat's men have helped Amin set up a cadre of security police to crack the whip over his own people.

For weeks, we have been investigating secret information from Ugandan government files that the Ugandan dictator has granted diplomatic passports to at least 11 extremist members of the PLO. Under this special status, the PLO agents are permitted to pass through international customs with no baggage checks and few questions asked. Intelligence sources fear that the Palestinians are using their diplomatic immunity to smuggle weapons and explosives to terrorist groups around the globe.

We turned the list of names over to Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) recently and this week CIA director Stanfield Turner verified the information as authentic.

One of the Palestinians who has been given a diplomatic passport by Amin is Khaled Mohamimed El-Shekh. Our sources have identified him as the head of the PLO office in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

Khaled is also granted the unusual privilege of attending meetings of Amin's cabinet. The minutes of a March 27 meeting, for instance, disclose that among those present were Khaled, the ambassadors from Somali and Libya, and "two representatives from PLO headquarters in Beirut who were state guests."

Amin informed his cabinet and guests that the PLO was helping him organize a new State Research Bureau to carry out police and intelligence operations.

"They are even better trained than the CIA or congressmen," the rotund ruler inanely boasted.

"Their work will be very important and if they are needed by other countries, I will lend them. This group is going to be headed by me directly. It will be known as the SSS-Amin Operation."

The Amin-Arafat alliance began in 1972 when the Ugandan dictator publicly praised the murder of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic games and announced he was going to build a shrine to Hitler. More than 300 Palestinians now live in Uganda; many of them hold civil service jobs.

Amin is now being protected at his palace by a phalanx of PLO bodyguards, whom he trusts more than his fellow Ugandans. He also recently re-

ceived a gift for his children from Arafat: a set of commando uniforms.

Such pampering of the prodigious potentate pays off handsomely for the PLO. In January 1978 Amin provided three Palestinian terrorists with a Soviet-built Sam 7 missile and permitted them to slip across the border into neighboring Kenya, where they planned to shoot down an Israeli airliner landing at Nairobi airport. Tipped off by Israeli intelligence, the Kenyans arrested the terrorists before they could complete their diabolical mission.

Later, two German terrorists, also with Amin's backing, attempted the same trick. They, too, were caught and imprisoned.

The man who ordered the arrests was a Kenyan cabinet officer named Bruce McKenzie. In late May this year, McKenzie visited Uganda. As his plane approached Nairobi on the return trip, it exploded, killing McKenzie and three companions.

Kenyan government officials privately believe that the bomb was planted by Amin's men or by the Palestinians as revenge against McKenzie. "Evidence shows," they cabled Amin, that a "bomb had been planted on the aircraft while parked at Entebbe" in Uganda.

The Ugandan government denied any role in the killing. Intelligence sources told our reporter Murray Waas, however, that tight security at Entebbe would have prevented access to the plane by anyone except Amin's men or their Palestinian cohorts.