

World waits for US task force strike on Libyans

From correspondents in Washington

TWO US Navy battle groups moved towards Libya yesterday, waiting for anticipated orders to attack the country as world capitals grew tense with the prospect of widening conflict.

The shift towards the central Mediterranean by the forces, totalling 21 ships, was not viewed as a prelude to an attack — but it did bring the ships closer to Libya. The battle groups, led by the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and America, steamed separately as they edged nearer their potential target. The carriers carry nearly 170 fighter, attack and electronic warfare jets. "They will link up if a decision is made to do something, but not now," one official in Washington said.

Blame

He and others said the Reagan administration had decided to "retaliate" against Libya for the terrorist attack in West Berlin a week ago which killed an American soldier and a Turkish woman, but that no decision had been made about when or how to attack.

Mr Reagan has stopped short of pinning blame on the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, for the bombing of the Berlin discotheque, saying only that the administration was gathering evidence about those responsible.

"It would be a mistake to say that the West German Government repeated that there was no definite proof to hold Colonel Gaddafi responsible — although Bonn has intercepted messages between the Libyan People's Bureau in East

To stop terrorists, first understand them



The face of terror... a masked petrol bomber prepares to deliver his homemade weapon of hate in Northern Ireland

A LONG-HAIRED German construction worker, a sociology professor from Florence, a Belgian priest, a half-Jewish Yugoslav factory hand. Each took "her sprung" — the leap — as the Germans call it, going underground to shed bomb and hit the radical hands waging terror wars across Europe. Social scientists are trying to discover why.

"If we want to stop terrorism, we must understand terrorists," said a University of Rome psychiatrist, Dr Franco Ferracuti.

He and other investigators studying the terrorist mind have found common traits: they are loners, have lost parents while young, were failing professionally or educationally. They are usually middle-class with above-average schooling. Guilt feelings often burden them.

"Although frightened citizens may consider them dangerous, the studies have shown they are usually large majority of terrorists are not psychotic," says a Washington-based behavioural scientist, Mr Stanley, who has studied terrorists for the United States Government.

Law-enforcement officials agree.

"Even if you have to blow up half a continent, have no qualms," the German radical Karl Heinsohn assured his followers. A century later, experts have only begun to map the terrorist mind. CHARLES HANLEY reports from Rome

"Their fanaticism is extremely overrated," said the chief of the Interpol police network, who is trying to recruit members.

"They prepare their operations carefully. If I were a professional criminal going to rob a bank, I would behave in the same way. It is a criminal approach."

The range of personalities and political causes makes generalisations difficult. But Mr Post places terrorists in categories according to their feelings towards parents.

"Anarchic ideologues, such as West Germany's Red Army Faction and Italy's Red Brigades, are disloyal to parents who are loyal to the existing system," he said.

"Nationalist separatists, such as the Palestinian guerrillas and Irish Republican Army, are loyal to families, disloyal to the regime."

With the support of family and ethnic community, the nationalists are usually better adjusted and may operate relatively openly.

was a way to express political involvement. "By devoting their lives to an ideology — usually Marxist — they may have filled an existential vacuum that drove others into the drug culture or simple drifting."

"These people are misfits with poor family lives. A member of the family is usually missing, but I can find no psychopathology."

More darkly, some psychologists also detect an urge to "wound patriarchy — or, if not to kill, at least to outdo a father who, in many cases, is blamed by the son for taking no action against fascism in the 1940s."

The psychologists and security officials who know terrorists well agree that the conversion process is slow, step-by-step. But occasionally a critical event occurs.

A former Red Army Faction member, Michael Baumann, wrote that when West Berlin police shot and killed a friend during a 1967 demonstration, he had a tremendous flash that eventually convinced him that "we must now fight without mercy."

Many other terrorists also feel they are on the defensive against a powerful aggressor State.

Associated Press

Bomb sniffing device to outwit terrorists

ATHENS: Western governments are accelerating research into equipment that can outsmart terrorists by detecting metal-free explosives.

It is believed such explosives were used in last week's blast that killed four passengers on a TWA jetliner over Greece.

The chief of security for the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Mr Rodney Wallis, said yesterday he did not believe that terrorists had used any new invention in the TWA airliner attack.

Diplomats in Bonn said West Germany was urgently seeking fresh talks on the Middle East to calm the situation and was seriously concerned about the risk of further clashes between the US and Libya. The West German Foreign Minister, 70, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, is expected to seek information on any action planned by Washington in talks with President Reagan and his Secretary of State Mr George Shultz, next week.

United Press International, Reuters, Associated Press

Reagan's misplaced ire blames Gaddafi

From ROBERT FISK of The Times in Beirut

TWO Libyan diplomats have already been expelled by the West German government.

But those who planted the bomb that exploded on the TWA airliner over Greece last week are thought to be in Lebanon.

Claims of responsibility for this attack — which are believed to have originated with Abu Nidal's movement — were made to a number of Western news agencies in Beirut.

In fact, in the immediate aftermath of the Libyan-US confrontation, the most disturbing threats against the Americans were made in Damascus by Abu Nidal's group.

In a statement which was largely ignored at the time, Abu Nidal's office denounced on May 26 what it called "abominable American aggression" against Libya, and warned that "anything American has from now on become a target for our revolutionaries."

The same statement also ordered Arab "revolutionary regimes" to support Libya.

In West Beirut, 40 foreigners have been kidnapped in the past 20 months by different groups, many of whom have links to Iran, Syria and Abu Nidal.

More than 500 US military personnel died in the bombing of the US Marines base in Beirut in October 1983, but the Americans left the country four months later, without averting the deaths.

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IS AUSTRALIA PROTECTING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS?



In the years immediately following World War II, Australia welcomed thousands of decent, skilled, enthusiastic immigrants from all over the world.

But among them, came hundreds of Nazi collaborators, some escaping punishment for crimes against humanity.

Successive governments from the 40s to the 70s have denied their existence, but the facts are irrefutable.

Today, Nazis hold positions of influence and authority in Australia.

In some cases we know who they are