

Primary Source Documentation

“Special” Communiqué Issued by the Belgian Marxist Terrorist Group, “Communist Combatant Cells” (CCC)

Edited and with commentary by

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This section of Studies in Conflict & Terrorism is dedicated to the reprinting of selected, translated terrorist communiqués that provide insights into the mindset, worldview, or operational thinking of a group. In terms of communiqués, this section employs the following typology of terrorist communiqués. There are three types of terrorist communiqués: attack, strategic, and special. Attack communiqués are issued to claim responsibility for an attack, explain the target selected, and provide the political rationale for attacking the target. A strategic communiqué is a longer document that is issued to provide strategic direction or commentary on political events, issues, and developments relevant to the group’s cause and constituency. It can be used to explain changes of strategy or reinforce the strategic direction of the group. The special communiqué is similar to the attack communiqué in that it is event-driven but addresses non-attack events like anniversary dates, hunger strikes, elections, deaths of leaders, ceasefires, issuing threats or warnings, annual progress reports, issuing apologies, and so on. All three communiqués are issued publicly and intended to influence various audiences.

The following “special” communiqué was issued by the Belgian Marxist terrorist group “Communist Combatant Cells” (CCC). The CCC was composed of five members and operated in Belgium from 1983–1986. The group was responsible for 19 bombings of property, including five aimed at U.S. business targets. When the last group members

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were arrested in early 1986, they were in the process of planning attacks on persons. The CCC has contacts with the French left-wing terrorist group “Direct Action” and the German “Red Army Faction.” The CCC issued unique attack communiqués. First, the attack communiqués usually contained a picture of the target. Second, the attack communiqué contained a stamped-on date of the attack to allow flexibility in the timing of the attack (Figure 1). Third, CCC communiqués were easy to read and lacked the Marxist ideological walkabouts found in most European Marxist terrorist communiqués.

The most unusual CCC “special” communiqué was issued in late April 1985 and was titled “Concrete Answers to Concrete Questions.” In this 11-page communiqué, the CCC refers to the following attacks:

- 8 October 1984—Bombing of Honeywell headquarters in Evere.
- 15 October 1984—Bombing of the Jean Rey (JR) Foundation, Centre Paul Hymans, Elsene.
- 17 October 1984—Bombing of the Christian Democratic and Flemish (CVP) party bureau in Ghent (arrondissement de Wilfried Martens).
- 6 October 1985—Bombing of the telecommunications tower at the Belgian military base in Bierset.
- 11 December 1984—Bombings of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) pipelines in Estival, Gages, Gastuche, Glaaien and Itter.

This communiqué is unique because it contained many elements of CCC operational techniques. The following are key excerpts of this communiqué. The entire English language translation of this communiqué as well as five additional CCC “attack” communiqués can be found in Dennis Pluchinsky and Yonah Alexander, *Europe’s Red Terrorists* (pp. 151–193):

“This document is the one we are tempted to call the least important. Our decision to write it and to publish it is based on the need we felt, following numerous ‘public’ discussions, to illustrate what our armed struggle is about, in response to a number of persistent questions . . .

. . . We start with the specific to illustrate the general. In its 12 December 1984 edition, the newspaper Le Soir carried the headline ‘NATO PIPELINES SABOTAGED—MILITARY SECRETS IN THE HANDS OF THE CCC?’ In our communique on these actions, we felt it was more important to explain Belgium’s role in NATO and how NATO is the instrument of military and political imperialism than to describe how we located and destroyed the pipelines.

The media, of course, are not interested in such things, being a tool of ideological and imperialistic domination. This explains why the newspapers are adorned with headlines as stupid as this. . .

. . . How did we choose our targets for the first anti-imperialist campaign, and how did we gain access to them?

The choice of the targets we attacked was basically dictated by the political purpose of our campaign. The problem was one of making our attack one against that part of the economic sector linked directly with the war machine, against the political power of the bourgeois state, and against the domination and military organization of the imperialist apparatus. . .

. . . Since mobility is one of the tactical foundations of guerrilla warfare, we decided to attack ‘sector by sector.’ We decided, in other words, that we would ‘never look back’



Après nos attaques contre les sociétés LITTON BUSINESS et M.A.N., nous, Cellules Communistes Combattantes, avons attaqué ce matin du **08 OCT. 1984** le quartier général pour l'Europe de la multinationale US HONEYWELL, 14 avenue Henri Matisse à Evere, à quelques centaines de mètres du siège de l'OTAN... C'est donc à tous les niveaux que nous nous rapprochons du coeur de la bête! L'attaque du QG d'HONEYWELL EUROPE, sis à coté de l'immeuble HONEYWELL SA qui limite ses activités à la Belgique, a été réalisée au moyen d'une forte charge que notre Cellule y a placée malgré le dispositif policier et les mesures de sécurité prises par HONEYWELL (caméras, vigiles etc.).

Cette action s'inscrit exactement dans l'esprit de la "Campagne anti-impérialiste d'octobre" que nous avons débuté le deux de ce mois, car en effet le trust HONEYWELL multinationale bien connue de l'électronique et de l'informatique, collabore activement au programme de construction des missiles Cruise en fournissant, entre autres, l'électronique du système de direction.

HONEYWELL, c'est aussi le principal fournisseur dans la fabrication des missiles intercontinentaux de type "MX Peacekeeper", le fabricant des systèmes de navigation du bombardier géant B-52 (actuellement équipé de la version air-sol des missiles Cruise -type AGM85-), et le producteur d'une gamme d'armements allant des torpilles aux rochers, des ordinateurs militaires aux bombes à fragmentation... ce qui place HONEYWELL parmi les 20 principaux collaborateurs militaires des USA.

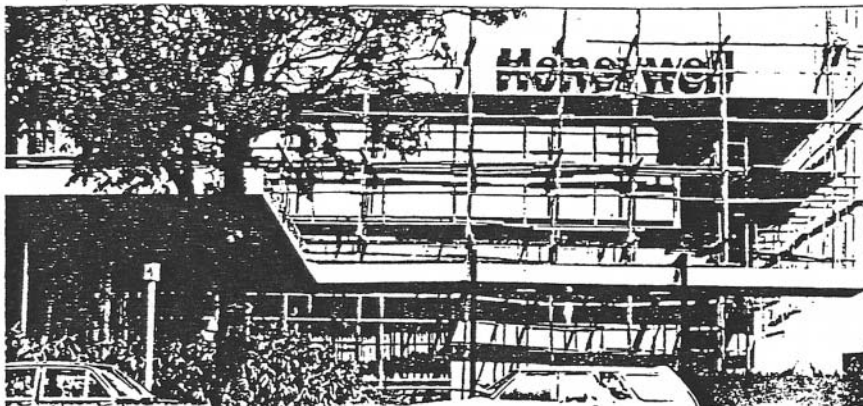


Figure 1. Attack communiqué claiming credit for bombing of Honeywell office in Evere, Belgium on October 8, 1984. Note photo of building and rubber stamp date of attack.

during our campaign. We undertook three actions against the economic sector, two against the political sector, and then three against the military sector. When we blew up the headquarters of the PRL/PVV, the cops expected us to be at SABCA, and when we hit NATO in Bierset, they thought we would be at the PSC headquarters.

The attacks on Litton, M.A.N., and Honeywell arose out of the same imperatives as for the American, Canadian, and German revolutionaries who launched their own. All serious studies on the military industry or the issue of missiles point the finger at these multinationals, whose addresses can be found in the phone book.

We then went to examine these buildings, selected their 'weak points,' analyzed the police aspect of the problem (location of stations, frequency of patrols, etc.) and organized an operation taking all these details into account.

A little story will illustrate the stupidity of the questioning and intrigues of certain so-called journalists. In June, we had sized up the Honeywell building and observed that it enjoyed no special protection. At night, a team of watchmen was on duty in the east wing, which was perfect because our target was the international headquarters in the west wing. Thus, there would be no risk of either confronting the guards or injuring them in the explosion.

A few days before the attack, comrades who had gone back to the building to make sure nothing had changed were terribly upset when they discovered that hidden cameras had been installed just where we had decided to hide our explosive.

Self-styled 'journalists' has said in this respect that we should have known that the cameras were not yet operating, and have written idiocies as 'the CCC are financed by Honeywell, which wants to get a new building for itself out of the insurance money.'

When we saw the cameras, we went out and bought identical hoods, jackets, pants, and shoes for all our comrades involved in the operation so that they could all pass anonymously in front of the cameras. One other militant monitored the night watchman, so that when the order was given to begin, it was certain that no one would be hurt.

The attack on the JR foundation and on the Martens office was dictated as we stated in our communique, by their government participation. The telephone book (again) and a visit to a few Belgian cities allowed us to decide on Brussels and Ghent.

In Brussels, the garbage cans of the JR foundation told us that there was a concierge, and we knew what floor her apartment was on by the light shining from the windows at night. This was why the bomb we placed was a weak one intended to destroy the offices alone. Without the concierge, we have gained a certain degree of pleasure out of doubling the charges and blowing up the whole building. . .

. . . The NATO targets were selected in the course of very pleasant Sunday outings in the country. The Bierset telecommunications pylons, rising 25 meters in the sky, were not hard to detect. What would really be difficult would be to miss seeing them! As far as the pipelines are concerned, we will offer a fuller explanation, since our attacks gave rise to brilliant 'conclusions' we referred to at the beginning of this documents. . .

. . . Being methodical types and having considered the relative accessibility of the pipeline, we again consulted the top-secret telephone book—where, under 'Ministry of National Defense,' every pumping station in the entire country is listed. We drew up our own list of all the towns these stations were located in, and decided to explore them during long walks in the countryside.

We set out with the idea of staging a direct attack on a particular pumping station, but closer examination revealed how difficult this would be. These facilities are extremely well-protected (military guards, dogs, etc.) and require a large-scale attack. During our walks around these stations, searching for a crack in their armor, we were struck by how often we came across little orange hats set on top of stakes, similar to those out in the countryside that indicate where the gas pipes are.

Those stakes have a telephone number printed on them to call in case of emergency, and the first three digits (016) tipped us off to the fact that Louvain would be where we

would find the NATO pipeline headquarters in Belgium. We verified this (using the telephone book, again), and the number corresponded to the 'La Gerbe d ble' district in Louvain.

We thereupon decided to locate as many of these markers as possible thorough out the country. We would then make a selection and dig down under the stakes to the line, where we would plant our explosives. . .

. . . On the morning of 11 December 1984, the CCC attacked the NATO pipelines. The enormous success of our actions was felt both in Belgium and abroad . . . So much for the 'military secrets' in the hands of the CCC! So much for the pipeline plans we received from the Red Army Faction! . . . Intelligence gathering is nothing to be ashamed of; it is a totally necessary activity. We devote a great deal of our actual work to spying on the economic, political, or military systems of the bourgeoisie."

Reference

Pluchinsky, D., and Alexander, Y. 1992. *Europe's Red Terrorists: The Fighting Communist Organizations*. London: Frank Cass Publishers.

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