

Garelik Says Terrorists Are Growing Peril Here

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

City Council President Sanford D. Garelik asserted yesterday that the city had become the battleground of three or four urban guerrilla organizations and a number of smaller armed terrorist groups.

Among the groups, he included the Black Panthers, the militant Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society and the Young Lords, a new militant organization of youthful Puerto Ricans.

This was the first public assertion linking the Young Lords to armed terrorism. A Young Lords spokesman later denied that members now possessed weapons, but he said the organization was moving toward "armed struggle for liberation."

The total membership of the various groups is "small—in the hundreds," Mr. Garelik said. But he warned that their numbers were growing and that the groups, operating with increasing tactical sophistication, were capable of "great destruction."

Mr. Garelik, former chief inspector of the Police Department and from 1960 to 1962 head of its bureau of special services, which investigates subversive and anarchistic groups, discussed the growing threat of armed, clandestine

Continued on Page 27, Column

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

organizations in an interview at City Hall.

His assessment followed early-morning explosions in three midtown office buildings, the latest in a series of bombings in the city. During the day the police recorded at least 137 bomb threats.

The Police Department declined officially to comment yesterday on the scope of armed terrorist activity in the city, but sources in the department characterized Mr. Garelik's assessment as accurate.

The Council President noted that he had been "keeping in close touch" with police intelligence activities in the area of extremist organizations.

In January, when the Young Lords occupied an East Harlem church to press for a day-care center, they specifically ruled out the presence of weapons.

Pablo (Yoruba) Guzman, described as the minister of information for the Young Lords chapter in New York, said last night that his group possessed no weapons, but he noted that the organization's political platform called for "armed struggle" and added:

'A Terrific Problem'

"The only way to achieve liberation is by picking up guns — and we're moving our people in that direction."

Mr. Garelik, in the interview, said he was not familiar with Revolutionary Force 9, the group that said it had set off yesterday's three blasts here in office buildings.

The Council President said, however, that the main threat of terrorist actions here was posed by anarchists of the ultra-left, and not by right-wing extremists. The activities of neo-Nazi organizations here have been sharply curtailed by the police, Mr. Garelik said.

"What we're dealing with here is a terrific problem," Mr. Garelik said. "These are urban guerrillas, the outgrowth of an era of disrespect for law and the acceptance of a Maoist philosophy of guerrilla warfare."

He characterized the Maoist approach as an effort to destroy society by violence with the aim of rebuilding it in some as yet unspecified way.

Mr. Garelik said that although law-enforcement authorities believed the number of active terrorists was small, "the numbers are no indication of the destruction" they can wreak.

'A Few Can Do It'

Made up primarily of college-aged people working in small, highly organized "cells," Mr. Garelik said, the groups "believe that just a few can do it," and are "really in a position to do it."

"What we're seeing here is international in scope with a few groups here, really an informal coalition of groups," the Council President said.

The recent series of bombings of corporate offices and government buildings in the city constitutes "only one stage of guerrilla warfare," Mr. Garelik said, adding:

"There are others that I wouldn't even care to discuss."

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