ARE THE UNABOMBER AND AMIL KANZI TERRORISTS?

While views vary widely concerning whether Theodore Kaczynski (the UNABOMBER) and Amil Kanzi (the gunman who killed two CIA employees and wounded two others outside the agency's Langley [Virginia] headquarters) are terrorists, the FBI does not classify the acts committed by these individuals as incidents of terrorism. When the series of deadly bombings perpetrated by the "UNABOMBER" began in the 1970s, the subject's motivations were unclear. It was not known, for example, whether, the subject's targets were chosen randomly or as part of some personal vendetta. Due to the lack of information regarding the subject's motivation, the FBI investigated the case as a criminal, rather than as a terrorism, matter.

Although an attack on vehicles outside the entrance of a U.S. Government facility may raise the specter of terrorist intent, FBI investigation into the January 1993 shooting outside CIA headquarters did not support speculation that the attack was an act of terrorism. Amil Kanzi, the individual ultimately identified as the lone assailant in the shooting, was determined by the FBI to be acting on personal, rather than ideological, motivations.



● **THEODORE KACZYNSKI**



● **AMIL KANZI**

plot to bomb U.S. air carriers transiting the Far East in 1995) had assembled a transnational group of extremists specifically to carry out the bombing. All of these individuals adhered to a virulently anti-Western ideology; most had fought in Afghanistan as *mujahedin* in the successful struggle against the Soviet-backed regime. Likewise, extremists representing various ethnicities formed around Shaykh Omar Abdel Rahman to plot the series of attacks against New York landmarks. Investigation into these two plots revealed basic commonalities among the loosely affiliated groups that were quickly emerging as a significant threat to U.S. and Western interests. These groups are often transnational and multi-ethnic in nature and made up of individuals who fought or trained in Afghanistan or other areas, such as Bosnia; groups/cells may form on an ad hoc basis to carry out a specific operational objective and plan to disperse once this objective is met or when their plots are uncovered by law enforcement. These extremists may receive funding from various sources.