

WEEK OF TERROR
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ing damage did not raise the threat of sinking of either ship and no one was injured, military spokesmen said. The Hey Droma is used to transport tourists from Eilat to Sharm el Skeik on the tip of the Sinai Peninsula.

Reviewing the military situation, Gen. Dayan said that Israel could defeat the Arabs in another war despite a combined Arab strength that is 60 percent greater in air power and 50 percent more in armor than before the Six-Day War.

The Defense Minister doubted that a major war would erupt in the "very near future" but said that the Arab states were mobilizing their forces and were preparing opinion abroad and at home. He said Israel had also strengthened itself since June, 1967 to prevent escalation leading to new war while dampening the Arab's will to fight by selective counter action.

Gen. Dayan added that in the past seven months Egypt had carried out 13 air attacks, 15 commando raids and one naval mission resulting in 30 Arab casualties, mostly killed, and 49 Israeli casualties of which few were fatalities. Israel, during the same time, launched over 65 air attacks and an unspecified number of ground raids which cost more than 1,000 Egyptian casualties against 20 Israeli casualties.

Gen. Dayan also expressed his support of collective punishment in the occu-

ped areas to combat the increasing number of Israeli Arabs reported taking part.

The Defense Minister said that Israel would not tolerate a "double standard" which saw Arabs in the occupied areas asking for protection against terrorist groups while refusing to give security forces information about the presence and activities of the terrorists.

Israeli officials have acknowledged extending the policy of blowing up the homes and shops of those who had knowledge of the terrorists but did not inform Israeli authorities.

The "neighborhood" or "area" punishment—called collective punishment by many Israelis—has come under attack by Cabinet members and some press who argue that the harsh treatment will only drive more and more Arabs to the commandos and presents a picture of Israel as a cruel occupier to the world when Jerusalem is trying to use public opinion against the terrorists.

The Cabinet has often debated the issue and Golda Meir has issued a denial that collective punishment is official policy to prevent the matter from becoming a major crisis.

Two Israeli civilians were killed in shelling incidents along the canal and the Jordan front near Ashdod Yascov in the northern Beisan Valley. The number of wounded due to regular Army activity and terrorists acts totaled close to 50 Arabs and Jews with two dozen Arabs being injured in a hand grenade incident in Ramallah, a

major West Bank town north of Jerusalem. The situation in the Gaza Strip has deteriorated especially to the point where a curfew is in effect for half the day in some areas. The number of hand grenade and bombing incidents in the area and against civilians north of Gaza has increased, security officials have acknowledged.

It was noted that more Israeli Arabs are now being detained as possible members of terrorist groups and their number is growing as persons charg-

ed with specific acts of terrorism.

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