

TERRORIST MURDERS

(Continued from Page 1)

in Jerusalem, accompanied by Acting Chief of Staff Yitzhak Hafi. About 300 residents demonstrated in the streets of Kiryat Shemona after the massacre to protest alleged lack of security measures. The Upper Galilee town of 15,000 persons has a large immigrant population and has been a frequent target of terrorist attacks from Lebanese territory.

According to accounts, the terrorists infiltrated across the Lebanese border during the night and invaded the town in the early morning. They occupied a school building, empty because of the Passover holiday and began shooting wildly at passers-by.

When security forces rushed to the scene, the terrorists escaped down a hill and occupied a four-story apartment building murdering many of the occupants. According to eyewitnesses, they tossed the bodies of their victims, including children, out of windows.

They had gone through the building systematically opening every apartment and murdering in cold blood the people inside. During that time of the day the men were at work leaving only the women and children at home.

The terrorists barricaded themselves in the top floor of the building firing into the street. Israeli security forces, surrounding the building, fired into the apartment until an explosion tore through the flat, possibly the result of a direct hit.

When Israeli soldiers entered the apartment they found the bodies of the three Arab terrorists sprawled on the floor.

An army spokesman denied an allegation by the terrorist group in Beirut that the terrorists had taken hostages and demanded the release of 100 of their comrades from Israeli prisons. The terrorists made no demands and took no hostages, the spokesman said, adding they left leaflets in Hebrew extolling murder as a way to get back their "stolen lands."

U.S. LEADERS DENOUNCE BRUTAL SLAUGHTER

NEW YORK (WNS) -- American Jewish leaders have denounced the massacre of 18 people in Kiryat Shemona and accused the Arab governments of aiding and sheltering the murderers.

Meanwhile in Wash. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said he "condemns this brutal and senseless slaughter of innocent civilians, particularly the murder of women and children."

In this instance it was particularly regrettable coming at a time when the processes of peace are already in motion.

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called the attack a "butchery" and said that neither the people of Israel nor American Jews would be frightened by it. "The guilt of the Arab gov-

ernments in this frightful deed is plain," he declared, adding that neither Syria nor the other Arab gov'ts "can have their peace and eat it too."

Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, declared that "passive acceptance of Arab terrorism on the part of world opinion has led to yet another outrage against human decency." Mrs. Jacobson called for prompt condemnation by the governments of the world "who must make it clear that such inhuman attacks will no longer be tolerated."

She urged Lebanon to prevent the terrorists from continuing to use its territory to launch such attacks or be prepared to accept responsibility for them.

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, said such acts jeopardize "the chances for permanent peace in the area. If the Arab governments and the moderate Palestinians want peace, let us now hear them speak out against this attack and let us hear from the United Nations..."

Mrs. Rose Matzkin, president of Hadassah, said the "barbarous act" of the terrorists "is an indication of the blind hatred of the Palestinian terrorist group" and their desire to sabotage efforts for peace. "Their activities are known by the Lebanese and Syrian authorities whom we must charge as accomplices for allowing them to operate and encouraging them," Mrs. Matzkin declared.

Mrs. Faye Schenck, chairman of the American Zionist Federation Executive, declared: "As long as these terrorist bands are given safe harbor from which to launch their perfidy and the world accepts their right to exist, there will be no end to this needless tragedy."

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that the murders "ought to put an end to the grotesque notion that the guilt of Arab terrorists can somehow be mitigated by their alleged ideal-

ism. Mrs. Henry Rapaport, president of the Womens League for Conservative Judaism, sent a telegram to the Lebanese Ambassador to the U.S. saying that "Lebanese countenance of such action can only serve to make more

difficult hopes for peace in the Middle East."

Rabbi Irwin M. Blank, president of the Synagogue Council of America, declared that "the incredible inhumanity of the Arab terrorists condemns their cause beyond redemption."

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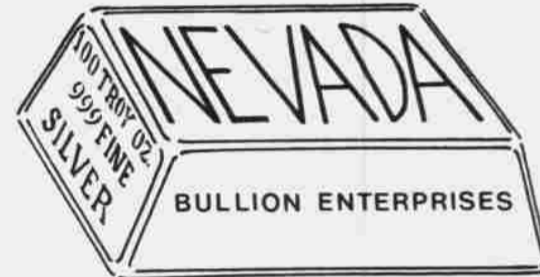
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