

MASSACRE AT MAALOT
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said the terrorists had opened fire on the children trying to escape.

The young victims were high school students from Safed who were on a three-day camping trip and spent the night at the Netiv Meir school building in Maalot. The terrorists seized the building before dawn and demanded that Israel free 20 imprisoned terrorists by 6 p.m. local time or they would blow up the building.

The terrorists had entered Israeli territory, presumably from Lebanon, about midnight and attacked a truck carrying workers, mostly Arabs, home from Kiryat Atta, killing two Arab women. The terrorists, dressed in Israeli army uniforms, entered Maalot sometime after 3 a.m.

They knocked on the doors of several houses announcing in Hebrew they were Israeli police men searching for terrorists. Only one house holder, Yaakov Cohen, 50, opened his door and he was shot to death along with his wife, Fortuna, 40, and their four-year-old son Elie. A year-old-son Yitzhak, was saved and was taken in by neighbors.

The terrorists apparently knew the Netiv Meir school was occupied by the children, aged 14-16. They shot and wounded a monitor who was taking out garbage cans and entered the school firing machine guns. Ten students and two teachers escaped by jumping out of windows. A women army officer, who was accompanying the students, was released by the terrorists to carry their demands to Israeli authorities. Later two students were also released.

The terrorists demanded the release of 20 imprisoned terrorists who were to be flown to Cyprus or other neutral territory and safe passage for them out of Israel. Their list reportedly included Kozo Okamoto, the hired Japanese gunman of the May 30, 1972 Lod Airport Massacre. The Israeli government meeting in a tense emergency session agreed to the terrorist demands.

Information Minister Shimon Peres said the Cabinet reversed Israel's standing refusal to surrender to terrorists because of the large number of children involved. He added

10,000 ATTEND FUNERAL SERVICES

SAVED (WNS) --- More than 10,000 persons converged on Safed as the 20 teen-age students slain in the Netiv Meir school in Maalot were buried.

The victims were laid to rest near the graves of other youthful terrorist victims...the children murdered in a school bus ambush at

Avivim three years ago. The three members of the Cohen family murdered at Maalot and a soldier killed in the assault on the terrorist-held building were buried elsewhere.

The collective funeral service here was officiated by Israel's chief rabbinite. Cries for vengeance and death to

that the government refused another terrorist demand that half of the hostages fly out of the country with them. The terrorists had insisted that the French and Rumanian Ambassadors serve as go-between and that the French envoy identify himself by a code word arranged between terrorist representatives and French officials in Paris.

Mrs. Meir said the code word did not arrive and the government sent troops in when they became convinced the terrorists would carry out their threat to blow up the building. Peres stressed that the government had no intention of tricking the terrorists and had even taken one of the prisoners to Ben Gurion Airport. But French Ambassador Jean Hurly said later that he was not supposed to handle negotiations but serve as a hostage. He said the code word was supposed to reach him from Damascus only after the freed terrorists were safely landed there. He said soldiers in Maalot refused to let him approach the terrorists to try to get an extension of the deadline. But officials in Jerusalem said he would have been shot by the terrorists if he had tried to approach the building.

The attack on Maalot coincided with the 26th anniversary of Israel's independence (May 14-15, 1948). Another attempted terrorist bloodbath was averted in the heart of Jerusalem when police found and disarmed three Katyusha rocket launchers, two of them aimed at the heart of the city and the third at the King David Hotel where Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and his party were staying.

terrorists rang out over the anguished weeping and the chanting of prayers for the dead.

President Ephraim Katzir and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon were forced to leave the scene before finishing their addresses as crowds surged forward. Meanwhile Israeli police chief Shaul Rosolio appointed a committee to investigate all questions pertaining to police involvement in the Maalot events.

JEWISH LEADERS BLAME UN FOR MAALOT

NEW YORK (WNS) - Jewish and non-Jewish leaders in this country and abroad condemned the Arab terrorism at Maalot and urged United Nations action to prevent any further such terrorist acts.

Many American Jewish leaders said the action at Maalot was a direct result of the Security Council's condemnation of Israel for retaliating against the massacre of 18 persons at Kiryat Shemona with out any condemnation of the terrorist acts.

In New York more than 15,000 persons packed Dag Hammarskjold Plaza opposite the UN in a solemn demonstration of mourning for the victims of the massacre at Maalot. The demonstration began as a quiet expression of sorrow but as the day progressed emotions took hold and crowds pushed into the U. N. grounds, shouting "We will not leave" to police

trying to disperse them. Eight demonstrators, who chained themselves to the UN fence, were arrested.

Before the demonstration a delegation from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met with John Scali, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, and reiterated the dismay of the American Jewish community over United States support for the Security Council resolution which condemned Israel.

Earlier some 1000 persons held a prayer vigil outside the Lebanese Consulate in N.Y. Some 1500 demonstrated in Montreal and 800 in Toronto.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that 30 Jewish activists demonstrated outside the Lebanese Embassy in Moscow and several of them were arrested.

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