Meir has named a three-man commission, headed by Gen. (Ret.) Amos Horev, president of the Technion, to investigate the Maalot tragedy. The other members are Moshe Unna, a National Religious Party MK, and former State Attorney Ervin Shimron.

Mrs. Meir told the Knesset that the investigation would cover the preparedness of the various security authorities in view of warnings that terrorist acts were to be expected on May 15; the events that occurred during the terrorist attack and the contacts made with foreign governments in the effort to negotiate and exchange of hostages for imprisoned terrorists.

The commission will not look into the military assault on the school house in Maalot since this is the subject of a special inquiry by the Chief of Staff.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said he was opposed to the inquiry. Dayan revealed he had opposed the abinet's decision to exchange 20 imprisoned terrorists for the safety of the 90 high school students' and their teachers.

"For 16-year-olds you exchange prisoners but not for 17-year-olds?...And what will happen after this?" Dayan said the only way to fight terrorists was to ensure that they did

not escape alive. Likud leader Menachem Beigin demanded a parliamentary inquiry rather than one conducted by the government. He also urged the formation of citizens vigilante squads and the arming of responsible citizens, under proper supervision, to assist the regular forces. Beigin also called for the creation of a special counter-terrorist organization recruited among former Hagana and Irqun underground fighters and from the Shin Bet, Israel's secret intelligence service, to destroy the terrorists.

Meanwhile in response to outcries from

Safad residents, the army has named a special security officer for Safad residents, the army security officer for Safad. Maj. Gen. Rafael Eitan, commander of the northern region, also assigned soldiers to back up police guards and civil defense units stationed at schools and in the central bus terminal in Safad.

In Safad itself, the municipality has suspended three teachers who escaped from the Maalot school building leaving 90 of their students to their fate. They will remain suspended at the request of bereaved parents, until a committee appointed by the Mayor investigates their behavior.

Shlomo Ben-Lulu, headmaster of the high school which the victims attended, has been in seclusion since enraged parents tried to attack him at the mass funeral for the victims. He has admitted that one of the parents begged him to cancel the three-day camping trip because of reports of terrorists.

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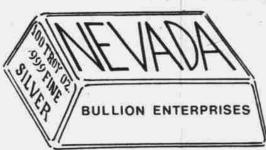
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