

TERROR IN AUSTRIA

The continued proliferation of terrorism by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Austria has once again brought this group to the forefront of the international terrorist network. Despite PLO funding from Libya and the Soviet Union, PLO training camps in Lebanon for other terrorists organizations and evidence of involvement by the PLO in operations throughout Europe and as far reaching as Latin America -- the strong advocacy by international leaders for PLO participation in autonomy and peace negotiations in the Middle East continues. The scenario provided in recent months in Austria, the first Western nation to recognize the PLO, should serve as an example of the continued terror tactics of this group in full operation in a sovereign nation.

The recent attack on the Israelite Temple

in Vienna, staged during a Bar Mitzvah celebration, by two Arab terrorists resulted in two dead and 18 wounded. The attack on the synagogue was the second in less than a month. Two small bombs exploded in a garden adjacent to the Israel Embassy, slightly injuring a woman. Earlier in August, the PLO's representative to Austria, Ghazi Hussein, was expelled after police said he met with two Palestinian gunmen who tried to smuggle guns into Austria.

The two gunmen who Hussein met at a Vienna airport were in contact with Al Asifa, an extremist splinter of the PLO. A few days later, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat cancelled his trip to Vienna. And last May, Al - Asifa claimed responsibility for the killing of Vienna city councillor Heinz Nittel, president of the Austrian - Israeli Friendship Society. The group later threatened the life of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

The various episodes have shaken the Jewish population of Vienna and were condemned by the Austrian general population as well. A recent straw poll showed that a majority of Austrians are critical of the close ties between Kreisky and the PLO. They fear that these ties would serve to bring terrorism to the country. And it sure has. Kreisky, who has decided to huddle with the PLO and even defended the group after the Vienna synagogue attack, should take heed in the words of Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who criticized the French government after the Rue Copernic

blast last October.

"If the French government gives such support to the PLO, allows it to have an office, sponsors resolutions in its favor, stresses its place in negotiations, isn't an atmosphere created in which an organization dedicated to violence outside France creates an epidemic inside France?" The same can now be said of the Austrian leadership.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Some 24,000 Jews now live in Judaea and Samaria with about 7,000 of them having moved in over the past six months, a period of stepped up building and settlement activity, the World Zionist Organization settlement department's chief, Mattiyahu Drobless, reported to the Zionist General Council, the week of Sept. 7. The half year period now ending had seen the construction of 1,870 homes and in the past 12 months the number of settlements put up in the area was 23 -- giving a total of 82 Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria (20 of them in the Jordan Valley rift), according to Drobless.

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