

STANDING UP TO TERROR

The bombing of a small Sephardic synagogue in Antwerp recently was only the latest in a series of terror tactics that have confronted the Jewish communities of Western Europe. The bombing, which killed two and injured nearly 100 people, should have provided for a vocal condemnation by governments throughout these countries and a forceful announcement that terror will not be tolerated against the Jewish communities, nor, for that matter, anyone else. Sadly enough, however, it is part of a continuous battle that rages in that part of the world, affecting innocent people removed from the battlefields of the Middle East, where terror has become a means for anti-Zionist campaigns by extremist elements bent on obtaining their desired goals.

The scenario in Western Europe is nothing new. Last August, a bomb blast at Vienna's main synagogue killed two people and injured 18. In October 1980, four persons were killed and 32 injured when a powerful bomb exploded outside the Rue Copernic synagogue in Paris. The perpetrators in both bombings have not been apprehended. And in this small Jewish community of 15,000 that live in Antwerp, the violence has come once again while the memory of another attack still lingers within this one-time peaceful Western European town. In July 1980, terrorists hurled grenades at a bus being boarded by children bound for a Jewish summer camp. A 15-year-old boy was killed.

Yet despite these outrages, the local press and leaders in the international community have generally failed to outwardly scrutinize this reign of terror that seeks to influence foreign policy action by these countries. Specifically, that may include how a government confronts recognition of the PLO. It remains unclear who the culprits are and whether they have any connection with the PLO who, by the way, condemned the attack themselves. But there remains a threat of terror that prevails over the normal functions of everyday life in Jewish communities in this part of the world. It is through these terrorist acts that the perpetrators hope to change the directions of government policies.

The international community must be stern in its direction for Mideast peace, seeking out peaceful elements and rejecting extremists and rejectionists. They must at the same time condemn acts of terror, protest and reassure the Jewish community that all terrorist acts will not be tolerated nor will it change the policies of their respective governments.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (GNYCSJ) said that communications received from Moscow Jewish activists have confirmed that a major purge of their ranks by the authorities is currently underway. The activists characterized the new developments as "very serious" with new investigations and threats of imprisonment by Soviet officials having been undertaken within the past weeks. According to activists the refuseniks most seriously imperiled at the moment are Pavel Abramovich, Natasha Khassina and Yuli Kosharovsky, veterans of the Moscow Jewish community.

EBAN DENOUNCES SAUDI PEACE PLAN

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban declared here that "Every Israeli and every friend of Israel across the world should consider anybody who supports Saudi Arabia's eight-point peace plan for the Middle East 'as a dangerous adversary'."

Eban, a member of the Knesset and foreign policy spokesman for the opposition Labor Party, said on the other hand that the Senate's vote in favor of the Reagan Administration's sale of AWACS Reconnaissance aircraft and other advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia was not a fair test of American attitudes toward Israel.

In remarks prepared for delivery to 800 American Jewish leaders attending an Israel Bond Organization dinner launching the IBO's 1982 campaign, Eban observed that "The AWACS discussion was complex and it should not be assumed that all those who supported the transaction are hostile or indifferent to Israel's vital interests. I regret that plan was ever conceived, but I cannot regard it as a fair testing ground for determining the attitudes of Americans toward Israel," he said. The IBO dinner honored Ira Guilden, a prominent American banker and supporter of Israel.

Eban minced no words in his condemnation of the peace plan first enunciated by Saudi Crown Prince Fahd last August. "The aim and consequence of Prince Fahd's formula is to reduce Israel from a strong and self-reliant democracy to a stunted, impotent, humiliated ghetto, useless to itself, to the Jewish world and to the international community. He ob-

served that "Israelis are deeply divided on many aspects of the Palestine problem, but all of them will join in resisting a plan conceived by a regime which holds

our interests, our national identity and our Jewish legacy in undisguised contempt."

Eban warned that "the tendency to confuse the area with plans such as this conflicts with what

all responsible governments should be attempting to do, they should be trying to give reality and substance to the resumed Camp David negotiations.

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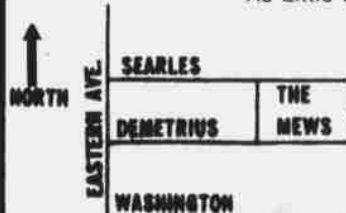


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