

TERRORISM - AND THE DAYS OF AWE

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

There comes a time of high drama during the Days of Awe now approaching when we plead: "Our Father, our King, keep far from our country, pestilence, war, and famine." This year, many who raise this prayer will silently and humbly attach an addendum: "Keep far from every country, the deepening scourge of terrorism."

For at the close of these solemn days of meditation and supplication, we who are weary of warfare brought on by the unending excesses of that monarch of terror -- Yasser Arafat, master of deception -- will know anew the full meaning of atonement.

We will find it impressed upon our souls, the lesson the entire world needs desperately now: "For transgressions against God, the Day of Atonement atones; but for transgressions of one human being against another, the Day of Atonement does not atone until they have made peace with one another."

How this relates to the current Mideastern crisis is clear. Had there been no marauding fedayeem dispatched against Israel, had PLO terrorists been curbed and conquered in years past, peace might well have been our happy lot. But the cloud of terror blowing throughout the world from PLO strongholds obliges the victimized to cry out that profound truth, that only those who succeed in making peace have the power to direct transgressors to atonement.

Surely, we have had more than enough of

terror to propel this issue to the top of every nation's agenda. And all too much in the past few months -- the shooting of Pope John Paul II by Mehemet Ali Agca, 23, a Turk reportedly terror-trained in the USSR and Kuwait; the attempt on President Reagan's life by an inexperienced gunman, John Hinckley, the machine gun raid in a restaurant in the Jewish quarter of Paris, resulting in the deaths of six and wounding of 22; the Red Brigade kidnapping of U.S. Brigadier General James Dozier in Italy. And although it is six years since the electrifying rescue of 94 passengers and 12 Air France crewmen by Israeli heroes after PLO hijackers had flown them to Entebbe, that painful episode warrants recall now that France is so heavily burdened with hit-and-run desperadoes.

The French tragedies have brought an earnest promise from President Francois Mitterrand to establish a new search - and - seize command equipped with the best computerized anti-terrorist machinery available. This development follows Israel's discovery that Red Brigade and Baader - Meinhof gunmen have been serving Arafat in Beirut.

Gideon Hausner, who conducted the case against Adolf Eichmann, is currently trying to awaken world capitals to the truth that universal terrorism cannot be stamped out on a country-by-country basis, regardless of the amount of money spent and degree of police action taken. He suggests promoting an international treaty aimed at destroying terrorists everywhere. This plan probably would encounter opposition from politicians in the U.S. always ready to work to prevent passage of international pacts.

For years, American think tanks have designed anti-terrorist programs. Recently the Pentagon has acknowledged existence of its Counter-terrorist Joint Task Force. This

specialized unit apparently evolved from studies made by the Holloway Commission following Washington's ill-starred effort to rescue American hostages in Iran.

As these and other stratagems take root, we have good reason to advocate that added Holy Day entreaty, asking the ruler of all humankind "to keep far from all countries, pestilence, war, famine, and terrorism."

MEADOWS HAS "THE SUNSHINE BOYS"

The Meadows Playhouse on Maryland Parkway near Tropicana presents its opening show for the new season. It's the famous Neil Simon comedy hit "The Sunshine Boys."

Judy Brenner artistic directress of the Playhouse says it will be a milestone in the Meadows presentations. The show business theme of the show about old vaudevillians Willie

Clark and Al Lewis (The Sunshine Boys) will be re-created by Bobby Sargent and Art Engler respectively. Sargent and Engler have indeed more than 85 years experience between them.

The play runs through October 2 and is shown each Tuesday through Saturday at 8 P.M. with a matinee on Saturdays at 2:30 P.M.

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