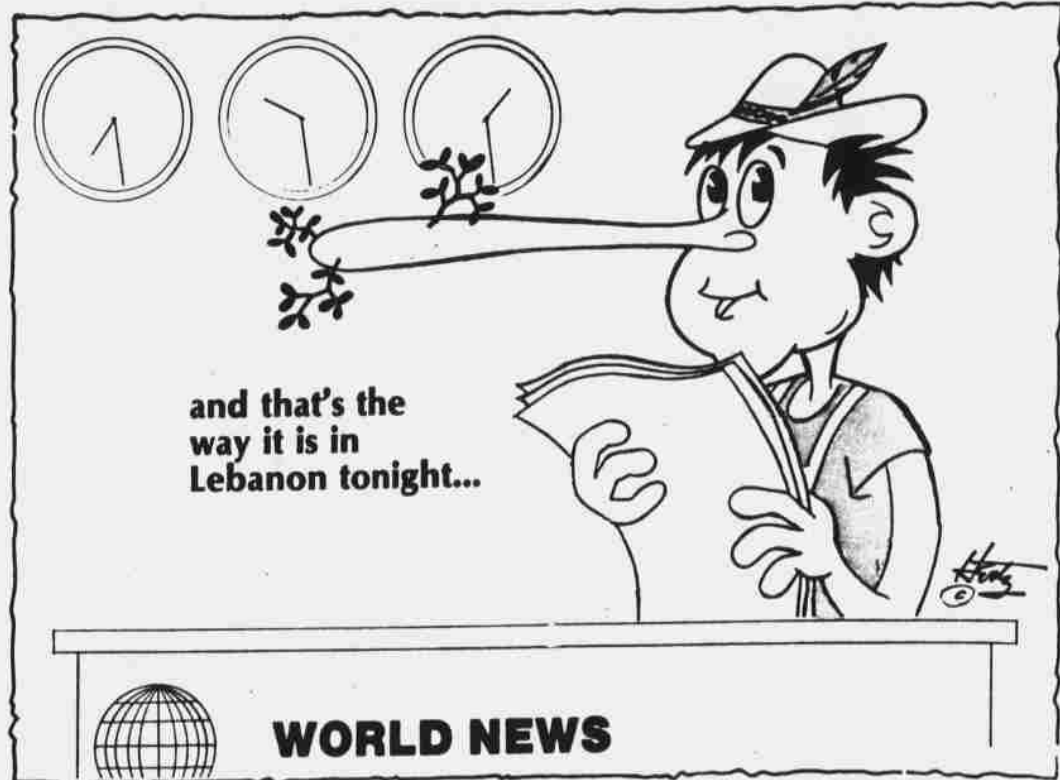


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Judaism and the Beirut Massacre

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

During this holy season in the Jewish calendar -- Yom Kippur followed by Sukkot and Simchat Torah -- the Jewish people throughout the world are unusually sensitive to moral issues. Throughout the entire liturgy of this sacred season, there is emphasis on the sanctity of human life and the unity of the human family, particularly symbolized by the lulav and etrog of the Sukkot festival.

Inevitably, the recent tragedy of the Beirut massacres savagely launched by the Christian militias hovered over this solemn season. At a pre - Yom Kippur press conference, I joined a group of leading rabbis representing the major branches of Judaism, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform.

We met to express our profound moral anguish over the tragic loss of lives of Palestinian civilians. We also condemned the immoral actions of those Phalangists who did the killing.

Our group of rabbis said, "Judaism teaches that murder is the greatest of all sins; the killing of innocents is absolutely forbidden by the Jewish religion."

We welcomed the news that Israel is appointing a high - level investigative committee to establish the facts and determine responsibility. At the same time the rabbis demanded a similar public inquiry into the deaths of tens of thousands of Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian civilians who have been massacred and tortured since 1975 under PLO and Syrian domination. About this bloodbath, the world has been scandalously silent. Therefore, we rabbis rejected the clamorous pre - judgment of Israel as guilty, and solely guilty, as sheer moral hypocrisy.

In this holy season, Jews will repent for their sins, but there is clearly need for massive repentance by a lot of other people too.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Investigation Will Vindicate Israel

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- When all the hidden facts surrounding the Sabra - Shatila massacre are unfolded -- should they emerge from the investigation now instituted by Israel and if the investigation called for by the one-sided 'Special Emergency Session on Palestine' does not obstruct the investigative procedures -- the incredible scenario would possibly make

Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' seem like child's play.

The 'actors' within the conflicting component parts constituting the Levantine 'Denmark' have played and still are playing out their dramatic roles in blood and murder and, with the entry of U.S., French and Italian military elements, there's no telling where it will lead to. The curtain for the last act must still rise.

It is the opinion of this writer, viewing the Lebanese situation from this UN-vantage point, that the investigation instituted by Israel will undoubtedly vindicate the Israeli Defense Forces and at the same time disclose some shocking things surprising the world, especially the critics of the Jewish State. Your correspondent hinted at such a possible disclosure here in this column last week captioned "Arafat's PLO-Incubated Quagmire." In it, we stated, in part:

"Possibly a solution to the mystery of the Beirut tragedy may be found in the sinister scheming of the crafty Arafat whose notoriety as a terrorist was recently made into a virtue by the hand of the pope..."

Let us pause for a moment and take a good look at the horrible events which overtook the camps at the time the Phalangists, with the knowledge of the Israelis, entered Sabra and Shatila and let us ask these questions:

1. What was the actual state of affairs in those camps which for many years had served as PLO training centers for terrorists, many of them still in full control therein after Arafat and the bulk of his PLO contingent were supposed to have left Beirut?

2. Exactly how many of Arafat's heavily armed terrorists were in the camps when the Phalangist units entered and did these PLO terrorists welcome the Phalangists with open arms or did they confront them with heavy fire which was undoubtedly returned and how many innocents were killed in the crossfire?

3. Before the Phalangists entered the camps, why did the pro - PLO, pro - Arafat Moslem Premier, Shafiq Al - Wazzan, refuse to comply with Israel's urgent request to send in to the camps for a mop - up drive the regular Lebanese army? Had he done so, the tragedy would have been avoided. We wonder: was it deliberate on his part not to send in the regular troops? Again: could he have been involved in a conspiracy with the PLO, his bosom friends, in a preconceived scheme, when implemented would implicate the Israelis before the world? Did he, this close friend of Arafat, want the Phalangists to enter the camps in the foreknowledge that a carnage would take place?

Human lives do not mean much to murderers, even the lives of their own kin. Premier Al - Wazzan knew full well the history of the Phalangists. Memories of the civil war were still vivid and now he knew how they felt about the assassination of Amim Gemayel. But Al-Wazzan also knew that his friends the PLO possessed weapons in the camps, nay, that all the inhabitants thereon had weapons. Why then should he agree to send in neutral Lebanese troops. Let the Israeli - supported Phalangists

go in to the ready - made PLO inferno. It was a trap. A gigantic hoax was played on the world.

4. Why did Yassir Arafat rush back to Damascus immediately after the assassination of Amin Gemayel? No doubt to be close to the expected tragedy in the camps.

5. And why did his chief aide, Brig. Saad Sayel, known as Abu Walid -- chief of Beirut's PLO 'Operation Room' who had organized the resistance against Israel during the two - month siege by the Israeli Defense Forces -- return to Lebanon with other PLO commanders within a week after being evacuated from Beirut? What was the purpose?

6. And why was this chief aide of Arafat murdered last week, apparently by his own PLO compatriots? It is believed that his murder was the result of in - fighting within PLO ranks. What did he know about the tragedy in the Sabra-Shatila camps? Was he involved in the conspiracy which prompted the Premier to reject Israel's pleas to send in to the camps Lebanese troops?

These questions must be answered and some of them undoubtedly will be during the investigation. However, let it be hoped that the UN resolution adopted here last week by the 'Special Emergency Session on Palestine,' which "urges the Security Council to investigate...the circumstances and extent of the massacre of Palestinians and other civilians..." will not become a new weapon in the hands of the PLO.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- An average urban family needs 13,000 Shekels (\$750) a month to maintain its standard of living compared to 3,680 Shekels in 1980, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

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A GIRL SHOULD USE WHAT MOTHER NATURE GAVE HER BEFORE FATHER TIME TAKES IT AWAY.