-PLO Terrorists Murder Again

PLO terrorism has struck once again. The Black September - a covert arm of the PLO target: an Italian cruise ship. The result: one Fatah. Also then Arafat denied complicity and elderly American Jew brutally murdered. Fatah. Recently, murders of Israelis have

It was the most recent assault by PLO and Arab/Moslem extremists against American and Western targets in the Middle East. It also is linked to a series of attacks during the last 14 months which have left 23 Israelis killed in 16 separate acts of murder, as well as a number of foiled PLO attempts to commit large-scale atrocities against Israeli civilians from the sea.

As in past cases, PLO terrorist Yasser Arafat has denied any involvement. However, his denials and condemnations ring hallow. In the early seventies, PLO terrorism was waged by

Black September -- a covert arm of the PLO Fatah. Also then Arafat denied complicity and responsibility. Recently, murders of Israelis have been carried out by Force 17, Arafat's personal bodyguard under his command. In the latest incident, the seizure of the Italian ship Achille Lauro was carried out by the Palestine Liberation Front, a faction of the PLO Executive Committee. It is significant that it was al-Abaas who instructed the terrorists to return to Port Said and who, together with Hani al-Hassan (one of Arafat's key advisers) "negotiated" with them.

Israel's policy is to strike at terrorism from wherever it operates. It is for this reason that Israel demolished the PLO terrorist operational headquarters in Tunis. Unfortunately -- except for the United States, which openly expressed its understanding for Israel's legitimate act of self-defense -- many other Western nations and the UN Security Council decided to condemn Israel rather than condemn the terrorists. Significantly, the PLO and its allies are now. Iambasting the American capture of the PLO terrorists as "state terrorism," the same term which they used to describe Israel's operation against the PLO in Tunis.

Capitulation to terrorism and attempts to legitimize the PLO, as reflected in actions taken by several Western European states, will ultimately encourage further terrorism and will not spare them from its vicious brutality. Only by uniting and taking a firm determined stand against terrorism -- as epitomized by Arafat and the PLO - will Western nations find themselves on the road to eradicating this scourge. This can be achieved by sharing information and intelligence, by refusing to deal with terrorists and to cave-in to their demands, by isolating countries who sponsor, aid and abet them, by taking the initiative to outwit and thwart terrorist planning, and ultimately by striking at the terrorists themselves -- as seen in the recent American and Israeli actions.

Between August 1984 and October 1985, twenty-three Israelis were killed in sixteen separate terror attacks:

August 12, 1984 - Body of Israeli soldier found near Mevo Dotan in Samaria. He had been kidnapped, then murdered.

October 22, 1984 - Two Israeli students, Revital Seri and Ron Levy, murdered near Cremisan Monastery in Bethlehem area. (Killer apprehended, tried, and sentenced to life imprisonment.)

February 4, 1985 - Reserve soldier murdered in Ramallah marketplace. (Suspected killers apprehended and charged).

March 31, 1985 - Zalman Abulnik murdered in El-Bireh marketplace.

April 8, 1985 - Body of Israeli soldier found near Beit Aryeh. He had been kidnapped, then murdered.

April 19, 1985 - Taxi driver David Caspi murdered

in Jerusalem. (Suspected killers apprehended and charged).

June 7, 1985 - Reserve soldier kidnapped and shot to death.

June 30, 1985 - Michal Cohen and Meir Ben-Yair murdered near Beit Shemesh. (Suspected killers apprehended and charged).

July 21, 1985 - Two Israeli teachers, Leah Almakayas and Yosef Eliyahu, murdered near Afula. (Suspected killers apprehended and charged).

July 30, 1985 - Albert Buckris murdered in Shechm (Nablus) marketplace.

August 24, 1985 - Andre Alush murdered in Tulkarm marketplace.

September 3, 1985 - Israeli soldier murdered in Hebron Casbah.

September 25, 1985 - Reuven and Ester Paltsur, and Avraham Avneri murdered in port of Larnake, Cyprus (Killers arrested by Cypriot authorities).

October 2, 1985 - Mordechai Suisa and Edna Harari murdered near Beit Shemesh. October 6, 1985 - Body of Haim Falah found near

Kibbutz Sarid.

October 10, 1985 - Bodies of two Israeli sailors,
Zion Abu and Yaacov Abu, found in Barcelona,
Spain.

The recent upsurge in terror attacks has been accompanied by public pronouncements by Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders, calling for more such operations.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat:

Asked whether the stepped up attacks against Israelis in Judea, Samaria and Gaza constituted a new PLO approach, Arafat replied:

"Our people...have the right to use all means in their fight against oppression." (Reuter, Tunis, 3 September 1985).

Abu Jihad, Commander of Fatah armed forces:

"It is our right to continue our struggle with all the means at our disposal...." (Quoted by The Observer, London, 18 August 1985)

"Every step of the way, the Palestinian revolution has moved along two parallel tracks. We fly with two wings: the military struggle and the political struggle. These two wings are attached to one another, and they cannot be separated." (In an interview for Al-Majalla, Saudi Arabia, 17 August 1985)

Nabil Shaath, member of the Fatah Central Committee (one of the candidates for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that is to meet with the Americans):

"There is no point in seeking political solutions only, without continuing the armed struggle." (In an interview for Ash-Shark al-Awsat, Saudi daily published in London, 18 August 1985).

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