Friday, March 28, 1986

Las Vegas Israelite

-Israeli Woman Killed In Cairo

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24, wife of an Embassy official. The wounded were flown to Israel shortly after the shooting and were reported to be in stable condition at the Sheba Government Hospital in Tel Hashomer. They were identified as Esther Yefet, David Droya and Uri Siev.

According to reports from Cairo, the killers were driving in two cars when they ambushed the Israelis' car. Police cordoned off the area and set up road blocks but no arrests had been made.

The Israel pavilion reopened under tightened security. Attendance was reported brisk. It had been visited the day before by Israel's Minister of Tourism, Avraham Sharir, who was on an official visit here as a guest of the Egyptian Tourism Ministry. There were no indications that he had been an intended target.

The attack was the third against Israeli diplomatic officials in the Egyptian capital and the second to result in a fatality. Last August, Albert Atrakchi, an administrative attache at the Embassy, was killed by unknown gunmen while driving through the Maadi section of Cairo. His killers were never found. In June, 1984, Zvi Kedar, also an administrative official, was wounded in the shoulder and hand. The assailants escaped. A little known group calling itself "Egypt's Revolution" claimed credit for all three attacks.

The group sent letters to Western news agencies in Cairo after the shooting stating: "Our Nasserite armed avantgarde today answered back by sending the bodies of some members of Israeli intelligence Mossad to hell." The letter went on to condemn President Hosni Mubarak for "accepting repeated insults directed against the Egyptian people by the American and Israeli governments."

The attack came at a time when the Israeli and

Egyptian governments are attempting to resolve serious issues which have caused tension and strained relations between the two countries since Egypt recalled its Ambassador from Tel Aviv in 1982 in protest against Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

A high-level Israeli delegation is presently in Cairo for the latest in a long series of talks aimed at settling the Taba border dispute and advancing normal relations. Israelis, moreover, are still upset over the incident at Ras Burka in eastern Sinai last October when an Egyptian soldier, Sulieman Khater, suddenly opened fire on a group of Israeli tourists, killing seven, four of them children. Although Khater was sentenced to life imprisonment and subsequently hanged himself, many Israelis are still not satisfied with the report of the Egyptian investigation of the shooting and the delay in providing medical attention to the victims.

Mubarak, himself, is in a delicate position. Two days of rioting in Cairo recently by disaffected police recruits, though quelled, have raised questions about the stability of his regime.

There was no immediate official reaction by the Israel government to the attack in Cairo. But Peres, addressing veteran Labor Party members here, said he was sure Mubarak would do everything possible to find the killers and bring them to justice. He said the real victims of Arab terrorism are the Arab people and their leaders who fear for their lives.

He said that President Mubarak "Must, like us, cut off the arm of violence which is trying to threaten the hope of peace in our region. I am certain, and I hope, that the government of Egypt will take all necessary measures to find the guilty, to bring them to trial, will take the necessary steps so that such acts will not recur in the future. This is its obligation and its responsibility," Peres said.

In Washington, the State Department expressed confidence that the Egyptian government would find and arrest those responsible for the attack on the four Israelis in Cairo. "We strongly deplore this repugnant act and offer our condolences to the family of the woman who was killed," State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said. "We wish speedy recovery for those wounded in the attack. We are fully confident of the Egyptian determination to bring those behind the attack to justice."

Meanwhile in Israel Etti Tal-Or, the Israeli woman killed in the terrorist attack, was laid to rest in the cemetery of her home town of Beersheba. Her body was flown home on the El Al plane which returned tourism Minister Avraham Sharir and the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks in Cairo the day earlier.

Sharir said he had brought with him a personal message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, expressing sorrow and promising to press the investigation into the attack and track down the assailants.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir eulogized the dead woman, who had been a Foreign Ministry staff member.

The three Israelis wounded in the attack -- two male diplomats and the wife of a third diplomat at the Israel Embassy in Cairo -- were reported to be in a satisfactory stable condition at the Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer where Dr. David Kreizler said all three had received satisfactory treatment at the Cairo hospital.



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> Reservations must be secured by April 15th Please call Rabbi Mel at 702/645-6624.