

## NBC's Interview With Abbas Exposed Terrorist's 'Moral Repugnance', News Anchor Brokaw Tells Sutton Place 'Jewish Town Hall' Audience

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Abul Abbas a forum. NBC never endorsed his acts," Brokaw said, adding:

"We gave our viewers the opportunity to see his venality and his moral bankruptcy. Besides," he added somewhat wryly, "If an NBC camera crew could locate Abbas, couldn't the U.S. State Department have done the same?"

Turning to other foreign policy issues, Mr. Brokaw urged the U.S. government to "pursue, but not prejudice" the Kurt Waldheim story. He termed the former UN Secretary General "a man who has plainly changed his story a number of times" and said that the Justice Department should make a decision on his admission to this country, even if he is elected President of Austria, "after all the evidence has been reviewed."

The network anchor, who has reported on several occasions from the Soviet Union, endorsed Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky's contention that quiet diplomacy must be backed by continuing demonstrations to help bring about a relaxation of Soviet policies regarding the emigration of Jews.

Mr. Brokaw, who shuttled between Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Beirut covering the 1982 hostilities in Lebanon, said that "no country in the world is as astute in dealing with the

press as Israel," adding: "Israeli gets good coverage because they deserve it."

Asked to explain the rise in the political fortunes of Lyndon LaRouche and his followers, Mr. Brokaw termed the ultra-conservative's political philosophy "a disease," adding: "He's a bizarre and dangerous character; a demagogue exploiting paranoia."

Regarding media coverage of LaRouche, as with the Abul Abbas interview, Brokaw reiterated the credo that the best way to deal with a controversial personality is to know more about him. "When the press does its job these people won't thrive," he concluded.

## ADL Blasts NBC

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has criticized the National Broadcasting Company for interviewing Palestinian terrorist Mohammed Abbas. Giving terrorists an opportunity to espouse their causes, the agency said, "further encourages them to continue their acts of violence."

In a letter to Grant A. Tinker, chairman and chief executive officer of NBC, Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director, noted that "making journalistic decisions is difficult, and sometimes in the interest of informing the public, the media is required to take controversial stands." He went on to say that while he was sympathetic to these difficulties, NBC in the Abbas case had "gone significantly beyond informing its viewers" to "unwittingly, become an aide to him."

Deploing the fact that NBC kept secret the whereabouts of Abbas during the interview, Mr.

Perlmutter told NBC that the media does not seek out "child molesters or mass murderers and ask them to determine why it is appropriate for them to do what they do. Surely you wouldn't then keep their whereabouts a secret. Unlike other criminals where attention is a byproduct of the crime, for terrorists it is a motivation for the crime."

Mr. Perlmutter concluded:

"There are many advocates for Palestinian rights who do not have access to the media because they are moderates, i.e., not murderers. The media's reward then for wanton and brutish murder, as distinguished from reasoned advocacy, is to put the murderer on TV.

"The issue is not so much censorship as it is responsibility."

A copy of the letter was sent to Laurence Grossman, president, NBC News.

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