

Three Israelis Killed

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and Rina Shiratzky, 31, mother of two. All were from Beersheba and worked at the Dimona nuclear plant.

Nine of the wounded were bus passengers; the tenth was a man traveling on the road at the time of the hijacking. The bus was carrying employees of the nuclear facility in Dimona, mostly women, to their jobs from Beersheba.

The bus was packed, but most of the 50 passengers managed to escape unhurt. The terrorists apparently infiltrated the Negev from Egypt. According to an Arabic speaking woman in the bus who conversed with them, they said they were members of Al Fatah, the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yasir Arafat.

But Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who reported on the incident to the Knesset later in the day, identified the hijackers as members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabril, who is reportedly headquartered in Syria. His terrorist group, though considered part of the PLO, is at odds with Arafat.

The only demand the hijackers made to the passengers, and later to the IDF officers, was to speak to representatives of the International Red Cross. The terrorists might have decided by that stage that they wanted to give up.

They started their shooting spree, at about 7 a.m., by seizing a military car at gunpoint from three IDF officers who managed to escape and alert security forces. The terrorists drove the car along the Beersheba-Dimona road, shooting at passing vehicles.

They were stopped by a slow-moving tractor-trailer truck. The Dimona-bound bus was just ahead of the truck. The terrorists abandoned the car and took over the bus. All but about a dozen passengers fled for cover.

The terrorists continued to fire on passing vehicles from the bus. By that time, the entire area was sealed off by troops and border police.

Police in a pursuing car halted the bus by shooting out its tires.

Senior IDF officers approached the disabled vehicle to negotiate with the hijackers, while border police, trained in anti-terrorist tactics, deployed for an assault on the bus. This was carried out at 10:25 local time and lasted less than a minute.

Congregation Ner Tamid News

By Art Gellin

The Rabbi is here! The Temple is humming! Excitement is in the air! Committees are meeting and planning.

Rabbi Sanford Akselrad -- although a newcomer to our city is quickly making his presence known and becoming a moving force in the Las Vegas Jewish Community.

He has accepted the chairmanship of the Holocaust Memorial which will take place on Wednesday, April 13, 1988. Yom Ha Shoa. This event will be hosted by Congregation Ner Tamid. All

The operation was under the overall command of the general in command of the southern region. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and IDF Chief of Staff Dan Shomron rushed to the scene while the operation was still underway.

Rumors of a terrorist attack in the Negev circulated throughout the country, but the public was not aware of what happened until 1:30 p.m., when the news was broadcast during the midday Israel radio newscast. Premier Yitzhak Shamir was kept informed of developments throughout the morning.

In Washington, the State Department deplored the hijacking. Department spokesman Charles Redman said simply, "We condemn this act."

Redman also said he did not know the cause of the undetonated bomb discovered in Jerusalem during Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to Israel.

"Peace has its enemies," Redman said. "Whether or not these kind of incidents are the works of those kinds of people, I really can't say at this point."

In New York, Theodore Mann, national president of the American Jewish Congress, issued a statement saying his organization was "horrified and outraged by the indiscriminate terrorist attack on innocent Israeli bus passengers."

Mann noted that the PLO "has again exposed its true nature as a fundamentally terrorist organization committed to 'armed struggle' against Israel."

The incident kindled memories of the coastal road hijack in 1978, when a gang of seaborne terrorists landed on a beach in Israel, seized and egged bus on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway, which parallels the coast and began firing on passing cars, causing fatalities and injuries. The bus was stormed by IDF troops in the northern outskirts of Tel Aviv, who killed the terrorists, but not before they inflicted heavy casualties among the passengers.

Congregations and temples are combining their efforts and representation is to be expected to join in this memorial service.

April, 1988 marks the observance of the first seder at Congregation Ner Tamid. Families, members as well as all others are invited to celebrate with us on that evening. A well-known caterer will provide a sumptuous dinner in true holiday tradition. Contact the Temple to make your reservation - 733-6292.

The Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Sunday, March 20, 1988 in the parking lot from 8:00 to 3:00 P.M.

Have you heard a new cheery voice when you call the Temple office? The voice goes hand in hand with a smiling face and they belong to Shirley Gellin, the Rabbi's new secretary. Shirley, a former assistant to Congressman R. Ottinger of Westchester, N.Y. - Administrative Assistant at the Library of Presidential Papers in N.Y. and more recently - Secretary in Clark County's Office of Comprehensive Planning. Welcome aboard Shirley!

A Temple choir has been in rehearsal in anticipation of becoming a part of our services. Fifteen voices under the able direction of Martha Olson. They hope to be a major part of Rabbi Sanford Akselrad's installation on Friday night May 6, 1988. Beautification ceremonies at the Temple on Sunday April 10. Members are urged to plant a tree in honor of someone deceased or alive - or to commemorate a notable event. In this way we hope to enhance the outward appearance of the Temple grounds. If you wish to join in this effort please call the Temple office at 733-6292.

Las Vegas To Celebrate Israel's 40th Birthday -- At Inter-Expo

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partake of the day's offerings," Chairman Dr. Neville Pokroy projected.

Tickets are required for entry into the facility and will allow you to participate in the day's activities. A souvenir brochure listing donors will be given to ticket-holders upon entry.

There will be something for everyone at this community-wide celebration in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of Israel. Mark your calendar -- tell your friends! Join us. Plan on arriving early and staying late, because there will be plenty to do and lots to see.

Need further information? Want to volunteer, rent a booth, purchase tickets? Contact the Federation Office at 732-0556 and ask for Community Relations Coordinator Beverly Eisen.

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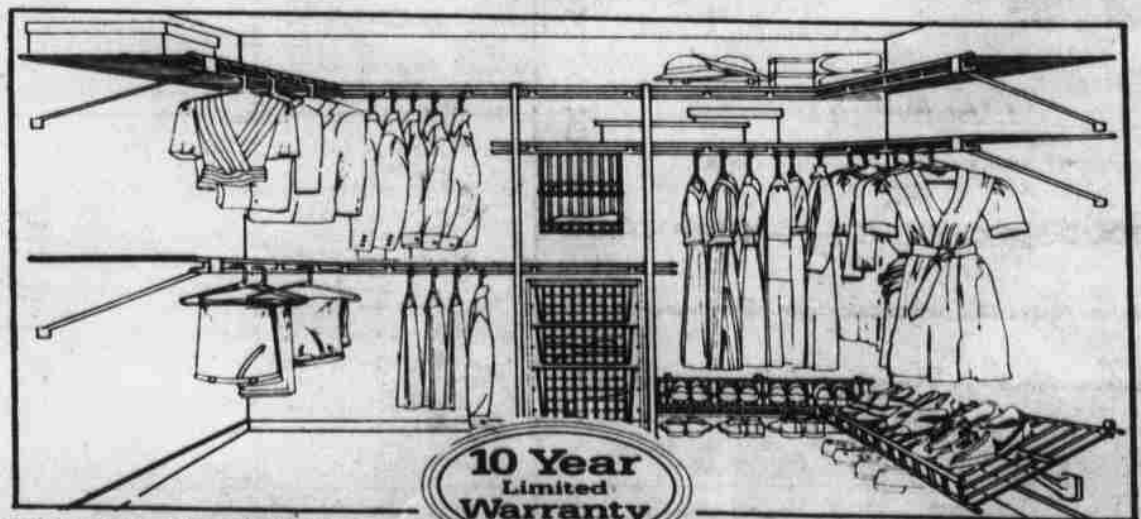
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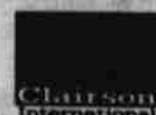
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