

PLO Terrorist Infiltration From Egypt

Last week, a three-man squad of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) terrorist managed to infiltrate across the border between Egyptian Sinai and the Negev Desert of Israel, remain undetected for two days in the central Negev highlands, elude hastily erected police road-blocks, and then chase and hijack a bus carrying civilian passengers. The three then began to execute their hostages; two women and a man were killed before the terrorists were themselves shot to death by the special highly trained police anti-terrorism unit, which had been quickly mobilized and put into action.

The effectiveness of the unit, whose lack was sorely felt in confrontations with similar terrorist actions in previous years, evoked high praise. But the failures of omission and commission which occurred prior to the final shoot-out resulted in severe criticism. There was also concerned comment in the media about the implications the infiltration could have for the nature of the peace with Egypt, and about the further dashing of the hopes of some Israelis of ever being able to negotiate with the PLO, which proudly accepted responsibility for this latest terrorist outrage.

Reuven Pedahzur writes in Ha'aretz (Mar. 9): "The hijacking of the bus may be the item of immediate news but the real implication of what occurred at the Aroer junction is the death of the border of peace concept, which we so looked forward to", a senior army officer told me. It is clear that the Minister of Defense and the army General staff will now have to give some thought -- with both conceptual and operational implications -- to the new situation that has been developing along our border with Egypt over the past five months. Since October 1987 there have been five attempts on the part of Palestinian terrorists to infiltrate or otherwise launch attacks across our border from Egyptian territory. Only last month, one such terrorist band, belonging to Fatah (Yasir Arafat's own faction in the PLO) was caught on its way to carrying out a terrorist action. It has made its way from El Arish in Sinai to the border, and from there to Mitzpe Ramon (in the central Negev) where it was apprehended.

"The rate of such hostile infiltration from Egypt in recent months is a sign of a basic change that has come over what has, since 1979,

VIENNA (JTA) — President Kurt Waldheim apologized for Austrians' Holocaust crimes and called for reconciliation, but insisted that Austria was the first victim of the Third Reich.

been Israel's most peaceful border. Until a year or two ago nearly all such infiltrators could be classified as smugglers, or in the worst cases, (Egyptian) intelligence operatives attempting to collect information. Since October, however, most of the infiltrators have been bent on perpetrating hostile actions.

Sharmir Is Confident Jews, Arabs Will Reach A Peace Settlement

(Continued from page 1)

find it; if not we, then our children."

Shamir said that Israel is "committed to negotiate about the status" of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but it would be unwise to state its positions before talks start.

The Israeli leader repeated his opposition to an international conference. He said that Secretary of State George Shultz, who had been opposed to such a conference, included it in his Middle East peace proposals as a "surrender" to the Arabs who demand such a conference before negotiations are held.

Shamir said that Israel trusts President Reagan and Shultz. "Both of them are good friends of Israel" and will not lead Israel into a trap, he said. But he added, "I don't know who will be the president and the secretary."

Shultz, in an appearance on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," said that those who oppose the international conference appear to be talking about the type of conference sought

by the Soviet Union in the United Nations Security Council, which the United States vetoed.

"We proposed a conference that is not able to impose solutions on the parties, not able to veto any agreements that are made by the parties, but is a vehicle for getting negotiations started," he said.

Shultz also said he understood why Israel was barring television crews from covering the rioting on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that while he favors leaving the areas "open to the press," the television cameras may result in incitement.

"A person sees a camers, so (he) runs out and throws a rock so that person can get beat on," he explained.

President Addresses UJA



President Reagan addressed the Prime Ministers Council of the United Jewish Appeal at the White House. Over 150 Council members listened as the President again confirmed his commitment to Israel's security, Soviet Jewry, and the cause of freedom throughout the world. He said, "The safety and security of the United States and the safety and security of Israel are all part of a larger cause, the cause of human rights for every man, woman, and child on this Earth. And today, as we meet here, let's rededicate ourselves to that cause." The Prime Ministers Council is composed of individuals who have contributed substantially to the National Jewish Coalition, one of the most successful philanthropic organizations in the world. Last year alone it raised over \$720 million to provide humanitarian assistance in 30 countries around the globe, as well as immigration to Israel and social welfare projects there. After President Reagan spoke, members of the group presented the President with a Havdalah set. Martin Stein, Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said he spoke for the whole group when he thanked the President for his commitment to Israel, and to freedom and human rights around the world.

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