

EIR exposé dampens fundamentalist plot

On Jan. 18, 1983, EIR published an exposé by Middle East analyst Nancy Coker on how a group of U.S.-based Christian fundamentalists were working with a network of Israelis to lock Israel into Khomeini-style backwardness and aggression. The story had an explosive effect inside Israel, and was subsequently picked up and elaborated by the Israeli as well as American Jewish media. The Israeli papers Davar, Ma'ariv, Yediot Aharonot, and Kol Ha'ir carried coverage based on the EIR exposé. Israeli radio and television picked up the story. In the United States, the Yiddish weekly Algemeiner Journal and the Hebrew-language weekly Israel Shelanu published articles on the scandal.

The following is a translation from Hebrew of an op-ed that appeared in the Jan. 20 issue of the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot in response to EIR's revelations. Entitled "Playing a Dangerous Game with Fire," the article is authored by Moshe Carmel, former minister of transportation in Israel during the late 1960s and early 1970s. A retired general, during the 1940s, Carmel was also a leading figure in the Haganah, the leading Jewish independence organization.

Shocking news has come to us recently from across the ocean and has stirred our attention and worry, for if this information, which is surely true, becomes manifest, it can cause us grave internal problems and can complicate for us our global entanglements.

The American periodical *Executive Intelligence Review* states that a heterogeneous American organization has as its purpose the rebuilding of the Temple in the area of Har-Habait [the Temple Mount], where the Dome of the Rock mosque stands today.

The headquarters of this so-called organization, they say, is in Jerusalem, and in this general headquarters is located the Temple Mount Foundation, which in 1983 is expected to gather \$100 million for its purposes.

According to the periodical, the members of this organization are Jews and Christians from all over. Heading the organization in the United States is a wealthy businessman from California. And heading the organization in Israel is an ex-Lehi [Stern Gang] man, who, according to the periodical, placed the bomb in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. A

whole wing of the hotel housing the British consulate was destroyed and scores of people were killed.

The heads of this organization are not ready to discuss in detail their plans at this time, says the periodical. But they do not deny that their purpose is to return Har-Habait to Israeli control. They also state that meanwhile they have established a general command post, which is currently working to determine the exact location of the Temple on the Mount in preparation for their future plans.

A representative of this organization in the United States also stated in reference to this matter that it is time to prove to the Arabs who is the real boss in Israel, who owns Har-Habait, and who has the right to it.

It is well known that in the past there were cases of clashes on Har-Habait connected with attempts to pray there, often directly or indirectly linked to famous religious or political figures in Israel. Those incidents did not bring much respect to Israel. And it is very clear that the broad public in Israel, religious and non-religious alike, will reject any new attempts by this crazy American-Israeli organization. It is also to be assumed that the Israeli government understands extremely well all the implications of an action of this type.

Nevertheless, it is time to warn everybody whom this concerns, which means the police, the government of the country, and civic leaders, that this news should not be taken lightly, since many grave consequences can result from an action like this.

This is simply playing a dangerous game with fire. And if we do not stop it on time, it is impossible to know what harm this can bring to Israel, even though this harm is only being done by a small group of crazy fanatics.

We must not forget the holy feelings toward all holy places, especially those located in Jerusalem, felt by people of one religion or another, that can be enflamed by something like this.

Har-Habait and the Dome of the Rock are holy to millions of Muslims in the world. Any type of provocation is able to inflame hostile feelings in the hearts of Muslims, Arabs or non-Arabs, in the streets of the world. Such a provocation, even by individuals, can result in demonstrations of religious fanaticism and can feed negative world opinion against Israel. If the government of Israel does not act now to preempt these crazy actions, it is doubtful that we will be able to do anything to repair the damage.

The image of Israel is already not very good in the world today. Any religious provocations, especially in Har-Habait, if not stopped in time, can hurt even more, and in the worst way, the name of Israel for many generations to come.

In closing, such craziness is not going to strengthen our peace initiatives with our neighbors to the north and to the south.

It is obligatory for all governmental branches, and especially the police and the judicial adviser to the government, to be aware of and to be vigilant against such wild actions, in order to prevent them before it is too late.