

JDL terrorists threaten 'holy war' in Israel

by Nancy Coker and Joseph Brewda

On March 10, more than 40 armed Jewish fanatics allied with Meir Kahane of the terrorist Jewish Defense League were arrested in Jerusalem for attempting to tunnel into and seize the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is the site of the Dome of the Rock mosque, one of the holiest shrines in Islam. It is also the site of the ruins of the Temple of Solomon, and as such has become the fixation of numerous Jewish and Christian fundamentalist cult groups, such as Kahane's, who are seeking to rebuild the Temple in accordance with Biblical prophecy. Kahane, speaking in New York this month, called the Dome of the Rock a "sacrilege" that had to be "destroyed."

An Israeli journalist in West Germany stated, "If Kach [the Israeli branch of the JDL] is not stopped, civil war will occur in a couple of months."

The Mar. 13 *Jerusalem Post* denounced the operation to take over the Temple Mount as "an act of terror by religious nationalist fanatics which could have resulted in a political disaster of international magnitude. The very idea of trying to take over by force the Temple Mount in the heart of Jerusalem on the eve of Friday's Moslem prayers is so literally crazy and objectionable that it defies understanding."

As discussed by Christopher White in his article on page 34, the Temple Mount operation is being coordinated by the highest levels of British intelligence and Freemasonry. In January of this year, *EIR* blew the Temple Mount scandal, focusing in on the efforts of one Terry Reisenhuver, a California-based multi-millionaire and Christian fundamentalist who, by his own testimony, consecrated himself 12 years ago to become the "New Nehemiah" and rebuild the Temple of Solomon on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

EIR's exposé on Reisenhuver was picked up by every major Israeli daily, as well as by Israeli radio and television,

the Hebrew and Yiddish press in the United States, and several Arabic-language publications. The wide exposure of Reisenhuver and his Temple Mount Foundation "caused a bit of an uproar," in the words of one of Reisenhuver's associates. "In fact, it was a bombshell. Stanley Goldfoot, the head of the Temple Mount Foundation in Israel, was on the verge of closing on a deal to purchase land from the Armenian Church in Jerusalem to serve as Temple Mount Foundation headquarters. The Israeli press broke the *EIR* story on Reisenhuver and the Foundation, and the Armenians canceled the deal. Reisenhuver has gone into very low profile since this thing broke."

Over the past months, there has been a very bitter faction fight among different groups within the Armenian Church hierarchy in Jerusalem over whether or not to sell Church land to Israeli buyers. The fight erupted into the Israeli press in early November, just days after reports hit the international press on Henry Kissinger's involvement in a major land-scam project for buying up real estate in the occupied territories. Preliminary indications are that Kissinger is tied to that Armenian faction that wants to make the land deal with the Israelis and play into the Temple Mount scenario.

'A whole new Jew'

Up until a few months ago, the Temple Mount Foundation was looked upon as a harmless albeit misguided group. Now, high-level sources inside the Israeli Army and the Interior Ministry are extremely concerned about Kahane's link to the group. In an interview last November, one of Reisenhuver's closest associates, Doug Krieger, formerly of Tav Evangelical Ministries, admitted, "We are very much in touch with the Gush Emunim," referring to the militant Jew-

ish settlement cult that is known to work closely with Kahane's JDL.

Krieger also gloated about the emergence inside Israel of Jewish fundamentalism, committed to the same irrationalist kookery and extremism as promoted by the Christian fundamentalists. "A whole new Jew is evolving in the Middle East," said Krieger. "Most Western Jews—those Jews who are in the main in the Ashkenazi [European Jewish] communities throughout the world—are going to be so far removed from the Israeli Jew that it is going to be a very hard bridge to cross."

Most of those arrested for attempting to storm the Temple Mount were from the JDL-linked West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba. Their leader is Rabbi Yisrael Ariel, number two on Meir Kahane's 1981 election list and one of the ringleaders of the resistance last April to Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai. At that time, Ariel was arrested for his role in inciting his followers into violent confrontations with Israeli soldiers in the Sinai town of Yamit. Ariel has been again arrested for his role in the Temple Mount affair.

One Ariel associate is Rabbi Dov Lior, head of the Kiryat Arba yeshiva, which, under the protection of the Begin government, combines so-called religious studies with military service. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, Kiryat Arba's "itinerant terrorists . . . have full and free access to all sorts of weapons and military equipment, apparently without any real control."

The JDL and Temple Mount operations are backed by some powerful personages in the Begin government. On March 13 Yuval Ne'eman, Minister of Science and Development and father of Israel's nuclear bomb, called upon the cabinet to institute statutory measures to enable Jews to pray on the Temple Mount. The other ministers overruled Ne'eman and agreed that the status quo regarding the Temple Mount, as worked out in a 1967 agreement between Israel and the Muslim religious trust, or Wakf, that administers the Temple Mount, should not be changed.

According to one source close to Reisenhuver, "Yuval Ne'eman could definitely be considered to be in the Temple Mount group." Over the past year, the Temple Mount Foundation has been deploying its Jewish adherents up to the Temple Mount to pray, in violation of the law. "We like getting arrested," commented one Temple Mount leader. "It's good publicity."

Others behind the Temple Mount affair include Rabbi Goetz, the rabbi of East Jerusalem and the Western Wall who is overseeing secret, ongoing Jewish extremist tunneling activity beneath the Dome of the Rock. Stanley Goldfoot, Temple Mount Foundation head in Israel, on a recent trip to California called for the blowing up of the Dome of the Rock mosque and its replacement with the rebuilt Temple of Solomon. "So what if religious warfare breaks out?" Goldfoot reportedly stated.

Israel's new defense minister, Moshe Arens, is also in on the Temple Mount affair. Like his predecessor Ariel Sharon,

Arens is a rabid expansionist who claims the West Bank and sections of Lebanon and Syria as Israel's God-given land. Arens also advocates threatening Israel's Arab neighbors with nuclear attack.

Arens's recruitment to extremist Zionism began in 1948, when he joined and led the U.S. branch of Betar, the youth group of the terrorist Irgun, then led by Menachem Begin. Among Arens's earliest followers was Betar activist Meir Kahane, who has described Arens as one of his first teachers.

One minister who is none too enthralled with the Temple Mount affair is Interior Minister Yosef Burg. Earlier this month, Burg received a series of death threats, and a plot to assassinate him was reportedly aborted.

Banning the JDL

In response to the terrorist activities of the JDL and related extremists, Israeli Knesset member Yair Tsaban proposed a motion to ban the Kach movement in Israel. "By any accepted test, Kach is a fascist and racist group in ideology, propaganda, and terrorist methods." Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, however, opposes the banning of Kach.

It is not only in Israel that Kahane is being protected. In recent weeks, the JDL has set up an extensive underground apparatus in the United States and Europe. In addition, Israel army veterans who are Kahane loyalists have been deployed into the United States to join JDL "Vengeance Squads."

In February, Kahane appeared on Israeli television in response to charges of his responsibility for the grenade attack on anti-Sharon Peace Now demonstrations, in which one person died. Kahane praised the massacre in Lebanon as "God's will" and called for a war against "anti-Semites" internationally. Among Kahane's targets are the Pope, French President Mitterrand, President Reagan, and *EIR* founder Lyndon LaRouche.

New York City has recently become Kahane's prime base of operations, thanks to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, an admitted supporter of the JDL. On March 11, Kahane arrived in New York, fleeing an Israeli arrest warrant against him for questioning on the Peace Now killing. Morgenthau is so open about his affiliation with the JDL that he agreed to serve as honorary chairman of the JDL-linked PEACE (Prevention of the Emergence of Another Arab Country in Eretz Israel), formed in 1980 to promote Morgenthau's long-time friend Ariel Sharon's political ambitions. PEACE, whose board includes Meir Jolowitz, the U.S. national chairman of the JDL, advocates expulsion of all Arabs from the West Bank.

In recent weeks, violence on the West Bank has hit an all-time high, with roving bands of gun-toting Jewish settlers shooting indiscriminately at young Arab stone-throwers and into Arab homes. The attempted Temple Mount seizure could detonate the West Bank. In response to the incursion into the Temple Mount by the Jewish fundamentalists, thousands of Arabs demonstrated en masse in Jerusalem, while Arab merchants called a general strike.