

## Israeli crazies activate 'Terror Against Terror'

by an *EIR* Investigative Team

The Cyprus car-bombing in February which killed three leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the bombing of a ship chartered by the PLO to return over 100 Palestinians expelled from the Israeli-occupied territories, have signaled the reactivation of Israel's "Terror Against Terror" apparatus, according to informed Israeli and U.S. intelligence sources. These sources state that both attacks "had TAT footprints all over them."

"The purpose," stated one Israeli source, "was to inflame the PLO, particularly its more radical wing, and generate terrorist attacks against Israelis and Jews around the world. And the more brutal the better. I think that some Israelis were more satisfied with Arafat's statement that the PLO was no longer bound by their agreement not to pursue terrorism, than they were about the success of the mission," the ship bombing.

"Such action by the PLO would then be used to justify Israel's actions in the occupied territories in the world's eyes, and at the same time generate a swing to the right within Israel. These bastards would do anything to sabotage the chance for peace."

Backing up this evaluation, a U.S. intelligence official stated, "While the Cyprus actions were technically efficient, they were politically crude. What this points to is that, while Rafi Eytan probably ran the operation, it was most likely Sharon who made the political decision. It smells of a Sharon operation. Hopefully, like most Sharon operations, this one will come back to haunt him."

The "bastards" being referred to is the faction of former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, and his close associate Rafael "Dirty Rafi" Eytan. Eytan, on Sharon's advice, was appointed Prime Minister Menachem Begin's Adviser on the War against Terrorism; he ran the Terror Against Terror unit, as

an "off-line" intelligence and paramilitary capability. It was ostensibly designed to fight Israel's war against anti-Israeli terrorist networks, outside of Israel. Its method: Run the terrorism yourself.

From the outset, Terror Against Terror was used by a specific grouping within Israel, to conduct operations designed to create a political backlash within Israel in favor of the policy measures demanded by Sharon and Israel's extreme right. They utilized assets among Israeli crazies of the type of Meir Kahane's Jewish Defense League or the Gush Emunim, as well as assets within the most radical Palestinian groups, to launch an anti-Israel or anti-Semitic terrorist act, then generate the desired political blowback.

One such operation was the assassination attempt in London against Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Argov in the spring of 1982. It was the Argov assassination attempt which led to then Prime Minister Menachem Begin's fateful decision to give Sharon the go-ahead for the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

### Why now?

The renewed activation of TAT came within days of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's announcement that he would visit Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, as part of a renewed U.S. peace initiative in the context of the disturbances in the occupied territories. Although most Israelis who are actively pursuing a path toward peace consider Shultz's trip to be a non-event, the trip is being viewed with alarm by Israel's extreme right, whose brutal policies to suppress the disturbances are being attacked daily by most nations of the world.

The brutality is typified by two events that were widely covered in the international press. First, was the arrest of Israeli soldiers who attempted to bury alive four Palestinian

protesters. According to most accounts, the protestors would have died had their neighbors not dug them out with their bare hands.

No sooner had that revelation been confirmed by Israeli military authorities, and two soldiers been arrested, than a group of four U.S. physicians reported that the Israeli Army has been continuing the policy of systematic beatings of demonstrators, many of whom were not threatening to the Israelis. The beatings, according to the physicians, were being administered with the explicit purpose of breaking limbs and causing serious bodily harm. Moreover, due to the lack of competent medical care, many of those beaten, may experience permanent injuries.

It has been believed by all sides in Israel, dove and hawk alike, that so long as the disturbances continue to be relatively nonviolent, world opinion would ultimately force Israel to give up the occupied territories for peace, something that has been anathema to the Israeli right; hence the activation of Terror Against Terror, in a desperate attempt to create a justification for Israeli actions.

### **Political and intelligence warfare**

Many senior political and intelligence figures within Israel have been endorsing the idea of giving up the occupied territories for peace, including former Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Yehoshafat Harkabi, a former head of military intelligence. The latter recently wrote a page-long analysis in the *Jersusalem Post* forum section, stating that ultimately Israel has no choice but to take this course if it expects to survive as a nation. Under the title, "A Policy for the Moment of Truth," Harkabi argues that this should occur sooner rather than later, given demographic changes which will shortly see Israel's Arab population making up 50% of the population, and the damage done to the morality of the Israeli population because of the continued occupation.

This view has begun to find expression even in the conservative Likud bloc and Israel's military. In fact, there is growing discontent within the highest levels of the military over the policies they are being ordered to carry out by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. That discontent is being reflected in the important role now played by Israeli reservists in the growing Peace Now movement.

Leaders of Peace Now have been quick to point out that there is no guarantee of peace in the near future. While Peace Now is growing, they also say that as a result of political polarization, the extreme right is also beginning to grow. In particular, there are indications that the Tehiya Party, the political arm of Geula Cohen's Gush Emunim, the most radical among the settlers of the occupied territories, is experiencing growing support.

There are only two courses toward some kind of peaceful resolution of the current crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The first would be if the United States enforces that peace, threatening to cut off all U.S. aid to Israel if positive action

is not taken. Despite the optimal conditions for such U.S. action, these sources believe that because 1988 is an election year in both the United States and Israel, this is highly unlikely.

The second course is to build Peace Now as a mass-based political movement which presents a political and economic solution to the crisis. This is slowly but surely being pursued, with the backing of actions by the Israeli and U.S. intelligence community.

### **The Pollard and Kalmanowich affairs**

Among the most visible of these actions has been interviews given by Isser Harel, the grand old man of Israeli intelligence, on the subjects of the Jonathan Jay Pollard and Shabtai Kalmanowich spy cases. Harel's raising of *both* cases is important, because even though he makes no direct linkage, France's *Le Monde* and Egypt's *Al Dastour* have run articles which implied that Soviet spy Kalmanowich may have been the courier who took the intelligence Pollard stole from the United States to the Soviets.

For his part Harel characterized the Pollard case as the "worst mistake we ever made," and as "like shooting poison into our own veins." Surprisingly, Harel then laid the blame for this disaster on Foreign Minister and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and his "ruthless and untrammelled ambition," which led him as defense minister under Ben Gurion to "set up his own foreign affairs network in the Defense Ministry . . . the forerunner of Lekem," the unit that deployed Pollard.

Given that Peres is generally identified as the spokesman within the Labor Party for an international peace conference, and that it is well known that Lekem was run by Rafi Eytan, the significance of Harel's remark lies in the fact that Peace Now sees Peres as an impediment to the peace process, for precisely the reason Harel identified, that Peres's personal ambitions are more important to him than peace. In short, there is an effort to push Peres out of the way, so that a more serious grouping can assert themselves as the leadership of the Labor Party.

Sharon and company are not being ignored, however. Israeli sources assert that they will come under a lot of pressure once the Kalmanowich case comes to trial, and with the reactivation of the Pollard case. The latter is heralded by a Feb. 19 front-page article in the *Washington Post* which discusses the search for "Mr. X," the higher level U.S. official involved with Pollard.

In the meantime, the Soviets seem to have taken a wait-and-see attitude on the current Israeli-Palestinian problems. As one Israeli source stated, "Why should they do anything overtly. All they have to do is let the United States fall on its face, let Israel go to hell, and they can pick up the pieces. That, of course, doesn't mean that the Soviets have been inactive. They haven't been overtly active. But don't you think that the fact that Rafi Eytan runs Terror Against Terror, and that he ran Pollard, which was ultimately a Soviet operation, is meaningful? I certainly do."